



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES: BARRY ROWLAND**

**PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING,
KINGSGATE, HEXHAM**

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding proposed residents permit parking in Kingsgate, Hexham, (see attached consultation plan in appendix A).

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) Residents permit parking is not provided in Kingsgate, Hexham

Key Issues

- 1) A petition was received requesting residents parking in Kingsgate.
- 2) The West Area Committee resolved that residents should therefore be formally consulted on a permit parking scheme.
- 3) At the time, residents stated that all-day parking occurred, though it is thought that the introduction of free parking has since reduced this.

Report Author

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Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the *Places and Environment Aim* in the Corporate Plan:

Our aim is to maintain and further improve the quality of our towns, villages and countryside and make it easier for residents to access services and high quality, affordable homes and to travel using different modes of transport. To achieve this, we will keep Northumberland clean, green and safe from detrimental impacts of climate change, build more houses to benefit those most in need and provide a convenient, integrated public transport network.

Background

1. A petition was received from 13 residents of Kingsgate, requesting residents parking. The petition was reported to the June 2014 Area Committee.
2. The petition stated that residents are becoming concerned with the volume of parked cars in the street. Kingsgate is a short street of 8 houses which leads onto Kingsgate Terrace.
3. A previous consultation on residents parking resulted in a majority against. However, the proposal included surrounding streets in recognition of the fact that the problem could be displaced.
4. The petition requested that the Council consider introducing residents parking in Kingsgate only. Analysis of the previous consultation responses showed that three replies were received from Kingsgate residents. 2 were in favour of residents parking while one did not state a preference.
5. At the June 2014 Area Committee meeting, it was resolved that the Senior Enforcement Officer arrange surveys to assess any continuing parking problems, with the focus on Kingsgate, from which it might be possible to see if the new free parking regulations had had an impact.
6. Two visits were made to Kingsgate in July by Officers, who found that parking space was available at the time.
7. Subsequently, a further visit was made by a Civil Enforcement Officer on 8th October 2014. The Officer found that the street was quiet with no obvious parking problems.
8. Anecdotal evidence from the Senior Civil Enforcement Officer is that the street is mainly being used by residents and that it is unlikely that non-residents are parking there, especially since free parking was introduced.
9. It would, therefore, appear that the introduction of free parking has improved the situation. However, given that 13 residents of Kingsgate signed the petition requesting residents parking, it was recommended they be consulted on a proposed permit scheme.

Consultation

1. A scheme was prepared and was the subject of a consultation which concluded on 28th December 2014.
2. The consultation exercise involved the delivery of a consultation letter together with a plan showing details of the scheme to residents, statutory consultees; County Councillor Robson, Hexham Town Council; road user organisations; and other interested parties. The proposal was also available to view and comment via the Council's website. A plan showing the scheme is attached as Appendix A. The consultation letter is attached as Appendix B.
3. 5 responses were returned. 2 were in favour of the proposal, 1 against with 3 not stating a preference. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix C.
4. Only three responses were received from residents of Kingsgate. 1 in favour, 1 against and 1 not stating a preference.
5. One statutory consultee responded. The North East Ambulance Service recognised and appreciated the need for the scheme and supported the proposals.
6. Hexham Town Council stated that they had no objections to the proposal.

Conclusion

7. Given that only 2 residents stated a preference, 1 for and 1 against, and the Civil Enforcement Officers view that there appear to be no issues, it is recommended that residents permit parking is not provided.

Background Papers

File Ref: HE141320

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations	None

Sustainability

None

Consultation

The relevant people and organisations were consulted

Wards

Hexham Central with Acomb

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Barry Rowland: Executive Director of Local Services

Subject:

**PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING
KINGSGATE, HEXHAM**

Consultation

5 Responses

2 For

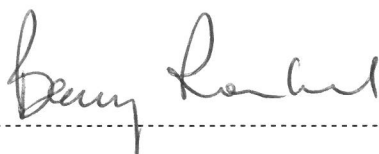
1 Against

2 Neither

Decision Taken:

1) Residents permit parking should not be provided in Kingsgate, Hexham.

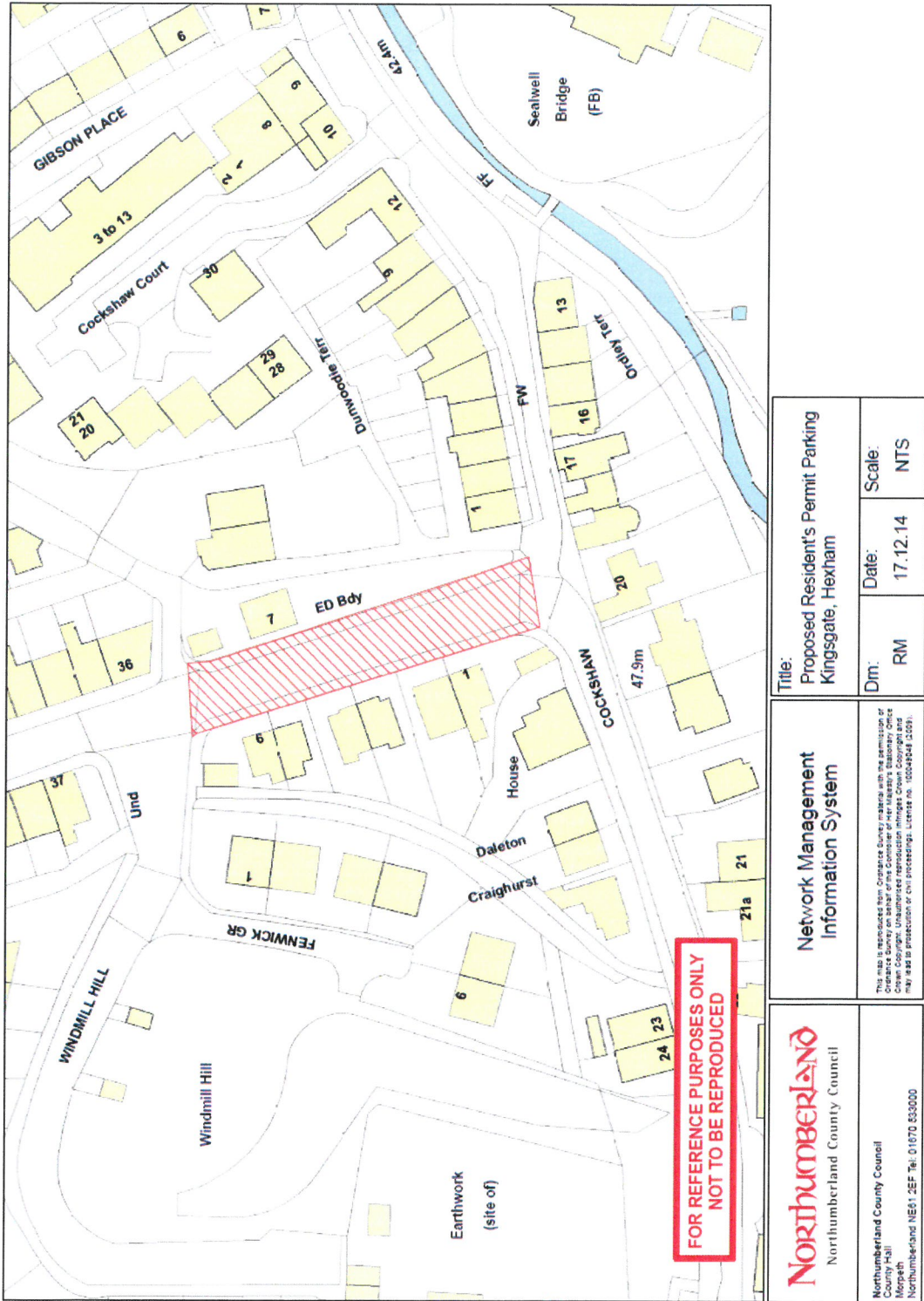
Signature of Corporate Director



Date

22.04.15

Appendix A – Consultation Plan



Appendix B – Consultation Letter

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

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Your Ref:
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Wednesday 17th December 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed 'Resident Permit Parking' – Kingsgate, Hexham

Following the submission of a resident's petition and subsequent discussion at the West Area Committee, I am writing to you to find out your views on providing 'Residents Permit Parking' in Kingsgate. The proposal applies to Kingsgate only, not to Kingsgate Terrace.

To make the scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits, (currently £15 a year per permit). A maximum of 2 permits are available per household.

I am therefore writing formally in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to ask for your comments on the proposals as above and shown on the enclosed plan. The proposal is being considered to improve the amenities of the area.

A free post response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. I would welcome a reply by Wednesday 28th January 2015. If no comments are received by that date it will be assumed that you do not wish to make any representations regarding the above proposal. Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to all individual comments but staff will be on hand to clarify any queries you may have. You may also wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report and may be available for public inspection.

Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to this consultation online.

Yours faithfully



Richard McKenzie
Senior Programmes Officer

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>Thank you for your correspondence dated 17th December 2014 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal.</p> <p>I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patient appointments.</p> <p>I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.</p>
	1		<p>1. As a non-car owner I object to having to pay for friends or family to park outside my house when they visit. 2. The proposal would cause problems for parents dropping off and collecting children from school although it is annoying to have some of these parents parked outside my gate all day while they go shopping. 3. What about the residents of Dunwoodie Terrace who have to park on Kingsgate because the road outside their houses is too narrow for parking? 4. Would it be practical to enforce the scheme - regular visits by Traffic wardens. There are bigger concerns - large potholes, broken kerbstones, blocked drains and illegal parking across corners.</p>
	1		<p>There is insufficient information in this communication to give a definitive answer. Will Kingsgate parking be available only to Kingsgate residents or will it extend to Dunwoodie Terrace and Ordley Terrace? Will it be limited to one side of the street, and if so which side? I would need to have the answers to these questions at least before being able to comment fully.</p>
1			<p>Both myself and my husband are in full support of the proposal for resident only parking on Kingsgate. The problem of people parking with cars and leaving them all day whilst they go to work is intolerable. The problem is then added to by residents of neighbouring streets such as Kingsgate Terrace and Cockshaw, parking their vehicles on Kingsgate! Some residents of these neighbouring streets have two or three cars per household which they park on Kingsgate leaving us residents to drive round looking for alternative spaces. I personally feel that our council tax bills reflect our easy access to Hexham's amenities but overlook the fact that we can't park outside our own homes. When my son was a baby and I had a lot of equipment to carry from my vehicle (pram etc), I would often have to park on Windmill Hill to get to my house, this is very dangerous when you have a baby/toddler to contend with. We also have a lot of school children from the Sele School who use our street as a route to and from school - it is very dangerous for them when cars are parked right up the street and they can't cross safely etc. I dread to think what would happen if an emergency vehicle needed access to any of our residents!! I would just like to add as a final comment that because of the amount of vehicles using Kingsgate as a car park, the kerb stones outside our neighbours are in a deplorable state and have been reported to the council for repair on numerous occasions! They have been like this for over three years now and it was very disappointing last year to see potholes being repaired on Windmill Hill when our kerbs are so disgusting. Please do take my comments on board.</p>
			<p>I have to advise the Town Council has no objections to this proposed 'Residents only parking' changes.</p>
2	1	1	

