



Northumberland County Council

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

**PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING, KIRKLEY DRIVE AND
BEECHWOOD PLACE, PONTELAND**

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding proposed residents permit parking in Kirkley Drive and Beechwood Place, Ponteland, (see attached consultation plan in appendix A).

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) Residents permit parking is not provided.

Key Issues

- 1) Ponteland Town Council have been approached by residents complaining about indiscriminate parking, particularly during the school run.
- 2) Parking restrictions are in place on Thornhill Road outside the schools, which leads to parent parking in Kirkley Drive and Beechwood Place.

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. Ponteland Town Council have received complaints from residents about indiscriminate parking in Kirkley Drive and Beechwood Place.
2. The problem is mainly due to parents dropping off and picking up pupils who attend the schools on Thornhill Road.
3. Parking restrictions on Thornhill Road are displacing the parking problem into adjacent streets.
4. Ponteland Town Council and Councillor Richard Dodd formally requested that the County Council consult residents on a permit parking scheme.

Consultation

5. A scheme was prepared and was the subject of a consultation which concluded on 10th March 2015.
6. 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 Dodd, Ponteland Town Council; road user organisations; and other interested parties. The proposal was also available to view and comment via the Council's website. The consultation plan is attached as Appendix A. The consultation letter is attached as Appendix B.
7. 32 responses were returned. 11 (34%) were in favour of the proposal, 19 (60%) against, while 2 (6%) failed to state a preference. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.
8. One statutory consultee responded. The North East Ambulance Service recognised and appreciated the need for the scheme and supported the proposals.
9. Of those against the scheme, many stated that there are no problems outside the school run, which only lasts for a short amount of time.
10. Many respondents also stated they did not wish to pay for a parking permit.

Conclusion

11. In view of the results of the consultation, it is recommended that residents permit parking is not provided in Kirkley Drive and Beechwood Place.

Background Papers

File Ref: RT140033

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	Ponteland North

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Barry Rowland: Executive Director of Local Services

Subject:

PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING, KIRKLEY DRIVE AND BEECHWOOD PLACE, PONTELAND.


Consultation

32 Responses
11 For
19 Against
2 Neither

Decision Taken:

- 1) Residents permit parking is not provided in Kirkley Drive and Beechwood Place, Ponteland.

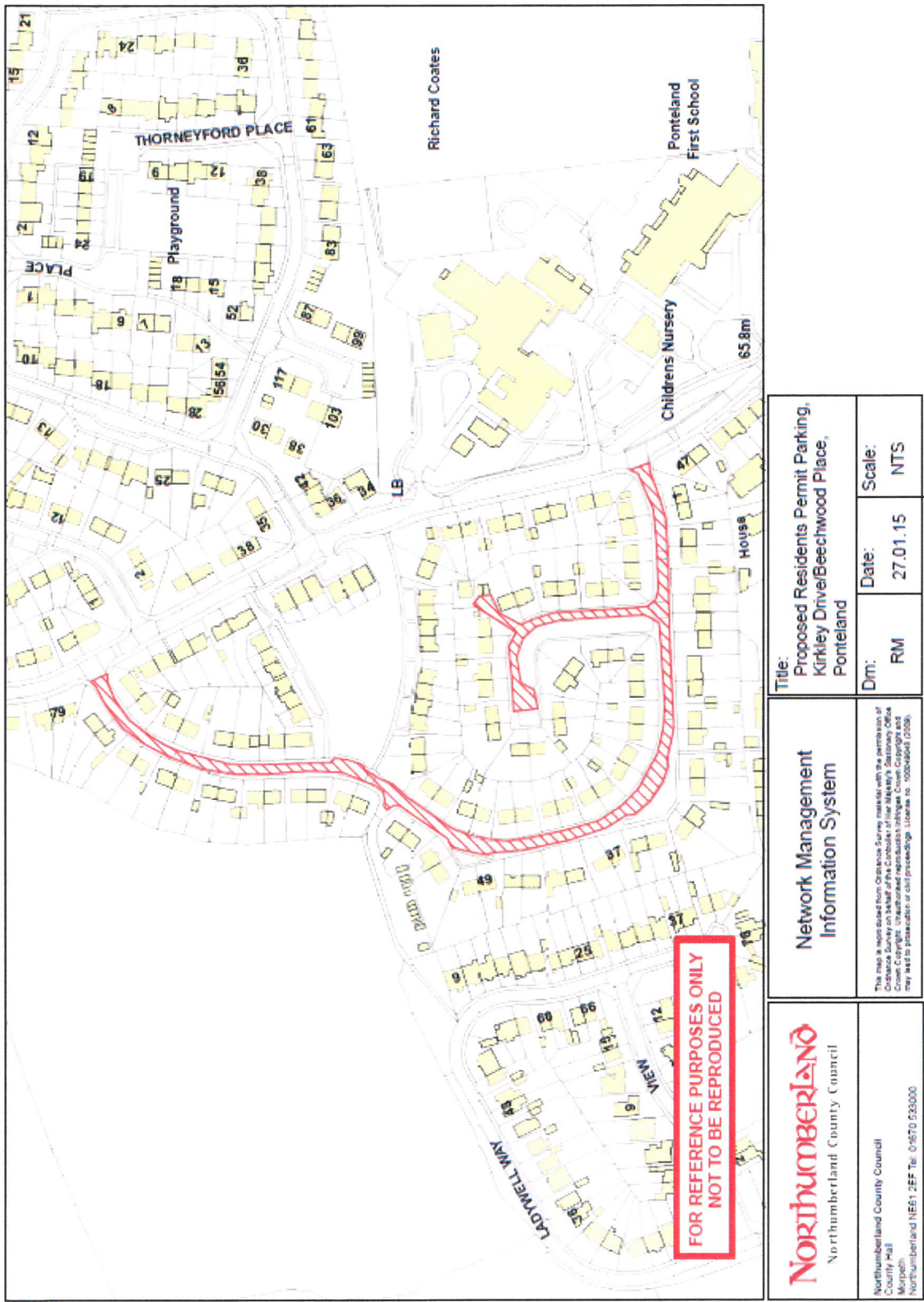
Signature of Corporate Director



Date

30/03/15

Appendix A – Consultation Plan



Appendix B – Consultation Letter

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

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE141320
Your Ref:
Contact: Richard McKenzie
Direct Line: 01670 624099
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Tuesday 27th January 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Proposed 'Resident Permit Parking' – Kirkley Drive/Beechwood Place,
Ponteland**

Concerns have been raised about indiscriminate parking leading to access problems for residents in Kirkley Drive and Beechwood Place. In order to address this, I am writing to you to find out your views on providing 'Residents Permit Parking'.

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 Tuesday 10th March 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>Your Ref: HE141320</p> <p>Morning Richard,</p> <p>Thank you for your correspondence dated 26th January 2015 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. I do appreciate however the need for restrictions to improve road safety.</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		I agree that parking is getting bad along Beechwood Place, but you also need to be aware that parking is considerably worse and very dangerous along Kirkley Drive as shown by my pink highlighter in the enclosed map. This also needs to be addressed urgently. We would also need traffic wardens to patrol the area. The current ones, when they are occasionally there, only patrol Thornhill road. I have mentioned to them several times about the inconsiderate, dangerous and illegal parking along Kirkley Drive and Beechwood Place and they just ignore me - this is very frustrating! Also I don't see why we should have to pay £15 for the scheme, surely our considerable council tax >£1000 / yr. should be used to pay for this. Its disgraceful that you should expect us to pay!
	1		This does not apply to me because I always keep my car in my garage. Probably the only one in Beechwood Place (NOTE - not close) what is needed is to remove some of the grass and make parking places (as in some of the other streets) to keep vehicles off the paths and road. Paint double yellow lines to keep vehicles off the roadside. The biggest problem here is the close proximity of two schools on Thornhill road, but if parking spaces are made this could improve the situation. Firstly though is the disgusting state of the road with pot holes and needs to be re-laid. I definitely object to anyone having to pay £15 per year for a permit (the only road on the estate) What is needed is for someone to come and see the situation on school days from 08:40 - 09:15 am and 3:00 - 3:45 pm - un announced.
1			
	1		Why should the residents of Beechwood Place pay for living there!! You could give us free permits, two per household and double yellow line the street to stop non-permit holders from abusing not only the roadway, but also pavements. This is the problem, school times are a disgrace, I can barely get to my own home sometimes!!! The residents of Beechwood are not to blame therefore should not be punished!! The council caused the problem by building the new primary school next to Coates Endowed. and not ensuring there was sufficient parking / drop off areas.
	1		I would be happy to support the idea of more parking for residents. Would the grass area outside of my house and others e.g. 1,2,5,7 etc. be made into parking bays? If so I would fully support the idea as there is not enough parking for residents and access is limited for emergency services, refuse collection etc. I would be willing to pay for a permit, not only is parking restricted for various services, as mentioned, but there is no parking for visitors. I feel that more parking bays would be beneficial to the residents of Beechwood Place.
	1		On several occasions, our drive has been clocked by someone parking during school pick-up times. Things get particularly bad between 8:45-9:30am and 2:30-3:45pm. Parking will need to be enforced particularly at these times.
	1		We feel Beechwood Place is being unfairly victimised. Why should one street pay for permit parking when all the rest don't. People are parking illegally on corners and on pavements in other areas of Ponteland around the schools "This should be policed." So why pick on Beechwood Place. My husband asked someone to move his van, the reply was F--- off I'll park where the h--- i like. We would like the problem to be solved but we are not prepared to pay to park on our own drive so we have ticked the no box.
		1	<p>Your Ref: HE141320</p> <p>Morning Richard,</p> <p>Thank you for your correspondence dated 27th January 2015 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. I do appreciate however the need for restrictions to improve road safety.</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		I support this proposal but I don't know what the plans are for how it will be enforced? I don't think it will resolve the issue of commercial vehicles (vans) parking in such a way that the street turns into a series of chicanes that I am sure would make it very difficult if not impossible for emergency services to get through.
	1		I would like more information regarding the details of the plan
		1	My Mother who is 90 and disabled lives at 11, Glebe Close Ponteland. These bungalows have no road beside then to park. Sometimes the lay-by on Thornhill Road is full and there is no alternative but to park in the lay-by on Kirkley Drive, as this is the only other lay-by nearby. Also, she has a variety of home helps, all with cars experiencing the same difficulties.
	1		Do I need to buy 2 permits for visiting sons, If so I will pay for them.
	1		
		1	It would be nice to be able to get into Kirkley Drive without having to find the street blocked with parents collecting their children. Also the problems with disabled people not being able to use the path because of cars blocking them.
		1	Parking situation is fine as it is.
		1	Not if £30 a year for 2 permits, when the rest of Ponteland pays nothing. Should be free permits for pensioners.
		1	We do not have any problems parking our cars outside our house, and certainly do not want to pay £30.00 per year to do so. We have experience in North Shields where a lot of the streets have permit parking and have found it very irritating trying to find a place to park.
		1	I refuse to pay £15 to park outside my own house. I park off road and my sons (all have cars) therefore one would have a permit and the other two would be illegally parked. Where I live there are no problems - school parking seems to be the problem - address this and do not punish the residents. We cannot all afford unnecessary extras like this, just because we live in Ponteland does not make us millionaires. I have spoke to a lot of my neighbours and we are all in agreement that you should sort out the school lot!!
		1	I definitely feel that there should be permit parking for transit vans and obvious work vehicles but not for residents cars. The road is difficult to access with large transit vans parked along it. Ensuring these need parking permits might enforce people to park them on their drive ways.
		1	We disagree with the proposal on the grounds that - We don't park on the road, we redesigned our drive to accommodate both our cars but will have to purchase 1 or 2 permits to enable visitors to park - we don't think we should have to do this. Maybe the council could look to redesign their properties front gardens to accommodate their tenants vehicles which would help the parking problems in a number of cases. As it is the residents of Kirkley Drive causing the parking problem with thoughtless parking we don't feel permit parking would solve this problem. If the complaints have been made due to non residents parking at school time, this is only an issue for 15/20 mins morning and night which isn't a major issue - My concern there is the safety of children and parents who walk to school and need to wait on the road around cars. The parking on Kirkley Drive is an issue throughout the day and does need to be addressed however we don't feel permit parking is the answer, possibly look to using the grassed areas being converted to parking bays which would reduce street parking and increase safety of pedestrians having to wait on the road around vans etc.
	1		Excellent idea - may prevent night time obstruction by works vehicles / wagons which block pavements. The area currently occupied by garages / pedestrian access to Ladywell way) will also need to be monitored as late night parking of non-domestic vehicles currently occurs. Each garage is let to residents on the whole estate so their right to access must be protected. will restrictions apply also to weekends?
		1	Due to cost
		1	The council properties in this street already cause obstruction with their many vans parked on the paths making us walk on the road and should you try and enforce payment from these families it will prove most difficult therefore as they do not keep their gardens tidy anyway i feel they should lose their gardens to parking bays. If it was totally necessary to charge for permits each home should get the first free I bought my home in the knowledge that I had free parking outside my door. It would knowck value off my home if I was to sell it with restricted parking. How would this be policed? I think the school should give up some of its field for parking as you cannot build a new school then paint double yellow lines everywhere outside so parents have nowhere to park.

Appendix C

	1	Why should the residents of Kirkley Drive and Beechwood have to pay for parking when the offenders are people from other areas, parking in these streets. That does not make sense, we live here and should not be penalised.
1		I totally support the proposals about permit parking. C??? of the reasons being that when I walk to the doctors I have to step off the footpath because of parked cars, vans and scrapmans wagons. I would also like to mention that I live at 6 Gelebe Close Ponteland and I dont have parking facilities although there is a little pull in space you cant get parked there because of other people leaving their cars and there is a white van parked there permanantly and the person lives on Ashbrooke Drive. We are not part of the resident parking facilities for ????? Cottages.
1		We are in favour of the proposals and would be willing to pay for a permit. However I don't think residents further up the street where parking is not such a problem would be willing to pay. Would permits be required one weekend and evening or just during school times? Free permits, such as the ones used at Kingston Park may also help.
1		Dear Sir I have only voted no on this sheet as I strongly object to being forced to pay £30 per year to park outside my own home. We have lived here over 30 years and the problem has only arose since the relocation of the first School. Even though we will be paying for a warden service it will not and can't be enforced 24/7 which is what we are paying for all layby's will have to be marked permit only as they will be abused by parents who are to lazy to walk their children to school. I feel the first permit should be free to every resident and i would be happy to pay for a second as on principal the scheme is a good Idea if it is enforced properly and fines given out, but I do object to being blackmailed by the council to paying when as a law abiding citizen we have done nothing wrong.
1		I live in the middle of Kirkley Drive and am unaffected by the parking at the end of school times. I do not object to a parking permit scheme BUT I DO object to having to pay for a permit and don't see why 1 permit per household cannot be free of charge. You do not make any money from permits currently so all revenue would be extra income for the council. I have no objection to paying for extra permits(after the free one) should I need one.
1		Why cant residents have one free permit if necessary. Problem is only at school times. How will monitor cars for permits?
11	19	2