

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

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

PROPOSED ONE WAY SYSTEM, CORBRIDGE MARKET PLACE

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed one-way system in Corbridge Market Place, (see attached consultation plan in appendix A).

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) The proposed one-way system in Corbridge Market Place should be implemented.

Key Issues

- 1) Corbridge Parish Council have raised concerns regarding congestion in the Market Place.
- 2) This congestion is in part caused by vehicles entering the Market Place from the north, not realising that there is a 'no entry' at Middle Street, which means they must turn round and find the correct through route.
- 3) Existing signs at the entrance to the Market Place warning of the 'no entry' ahead are ineffective.
- 4) Public consultation has resulted in a majority in favour of a proposed one-way system.

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. Corbridge Parish Council raised concerns regarding congestion in the Market Place.
2. In response, a study was commissioned to examine the issue and recommend potential solutions. URS consultants were awarded the contract to complete this study
3. Currently the Market Place and its entry from Watling Street carry two-way traffic.
4. The entries from Middle Street and Front Street are one way.
5. Congestion is caused by through traffic attempting to pass through the Market Place then encountering the existing 'no entry' at Middle Street.
6. These vehicles then have to turn round and leave via Watling Street, contributing to congestion.
7. There is an existing sign at the Watling Street entrance warning of the no entry ahead but it is ineffective.
8. The study analysed the congestion problem and its causes and came up with potential solutions which were discussed with Corbridge Parish Council and County Councillor Jean Fearon.
9. These discussions resulted in a preferred solution.
10. This preferred solution is to implement a one-way system from the Market Place into Watling Street. The proposed system will be one-way northbound. (see Appendix B).
11. In order to emphasise the one-way system to southbound traffic, a gateway feature consisting of a build-out with 'No Entry' signage is proposed.
12. This will reinforce the presence of the proposed one way system and be clear and easy to understand by drivers.
13. A Traffic Regulation Order is required to implement the one-way system.

Consultation

1. A scheme was prepared and was the subject of a consultation which concluded on 20th March 2015.
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 Fearon and Corbridge Parish Council. The proposal was also available to view and comment via the Council's website. The consultation plan is attached as Appendix A.
3. 10 responses were returned. 7 (70%) were in favour of the proposal while 3 (30%) were against. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix C.
4. Following the consultation exercise, Corbridge Parish Council held a public exhibition in the Parish Hall on 1st June 2015, to allow residents to view the proposal and give their views.
5. All of the residents who attended the exhibition were in favour of the proposal.

Conclusion

6. In view of the results of the formal consultation and the public exhibition it is recommended that the one way system is implemented.

Background Papers

File Ref: HE141313

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	Corbridge

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s): Barry Rowland: Executive Director of Local Services

Subject: PROPOSED ONE-WAY SYSTEM, CORBRIDGE MARKET PLACE

Consultation 10 Responses
7 For
3 Against
0 Neither

Decision Taken: 1) The proposed one-way system should be implemented.

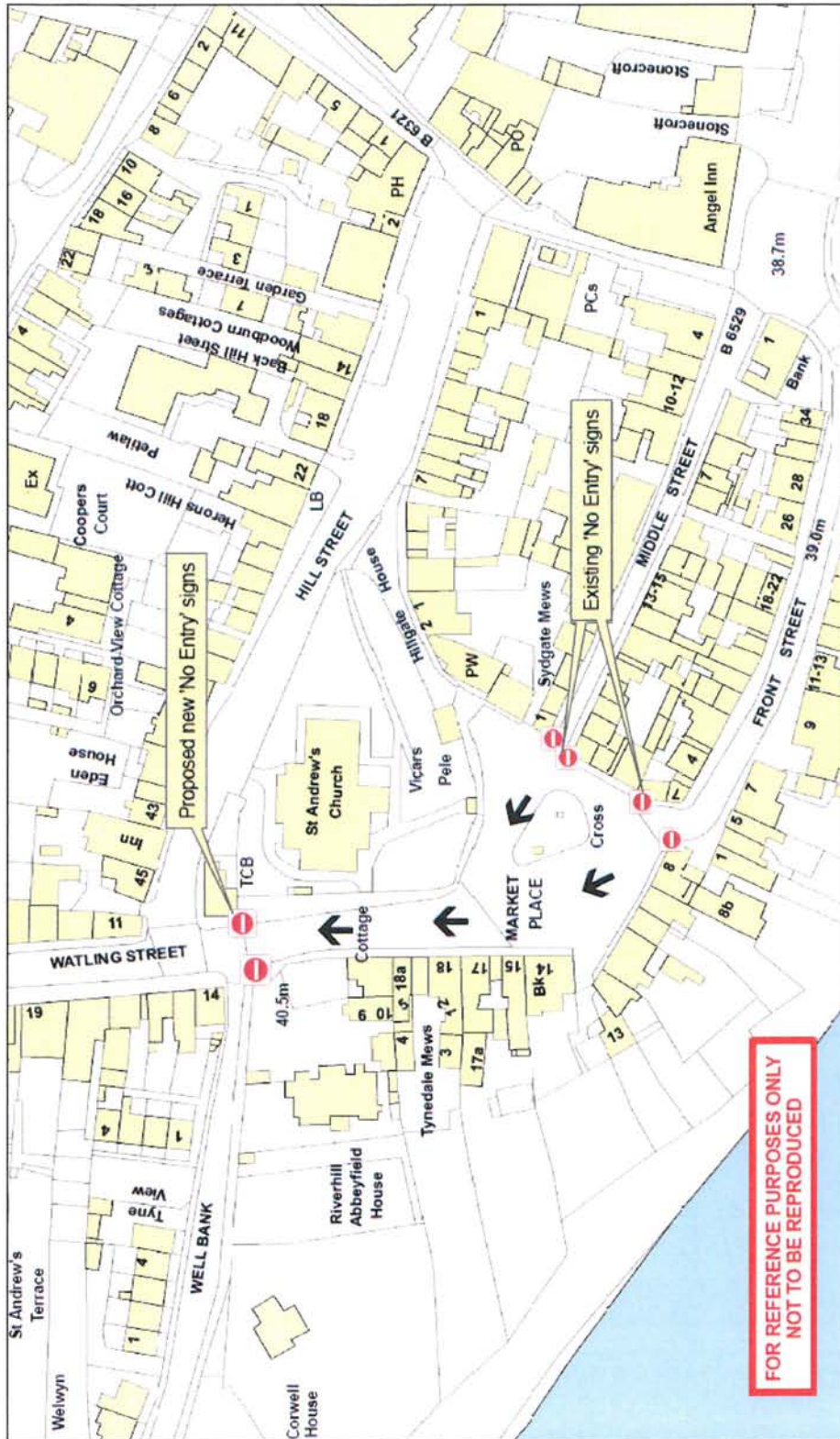
Signature of Corporate Director



Date

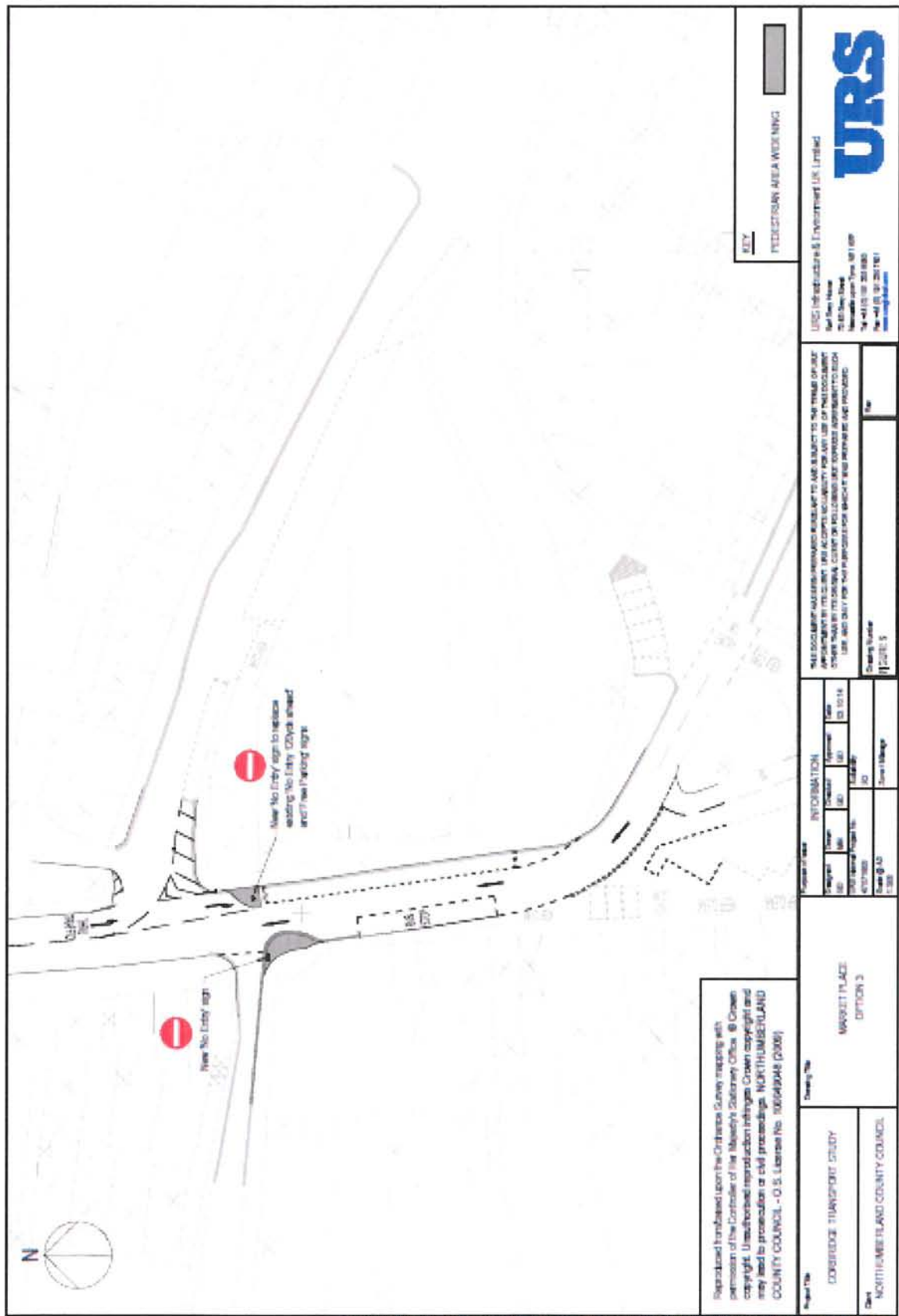
30/6/15

Appendix A – Consultation Plan



<p>Northumberland County Council Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Worship Northumberland NE1 1EF Tel: 01670 655000</p>	<p>Network Management Information System</p> <p><small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Crown. Copyright, unauthorized reproduction amongst Crown Copyright and may need to precede a civil proceedings. License no. 100049348 (2009).</small></p>		
	<p>Title: Proposed extension of one-way system, Corbridge Market Place</p>	<p>Dm: RM</p>	<p>Date: 05.02.15</p>

Appendix B – Preferred Solution



Appendix C – Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	
			Other Relevant Comments
1			
	1		Would the proposed parking charges in the Market Place give sufficient ease through the market square??
1			Good Idea! What will happen on the bit of road between Middle St and Front St i.e. will that be 1 way traffic?
1			Thank you for your letter of 6 th February 2015 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. 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 would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
1			
	1		Whilst I agree that something needs to be done to prevent buses and large HGV's from waiting street I am concerned that a no entry may not be the answer. As I both live and work in the market place I believe I have a stronger interest than most. It would be seriously detrimental for the businesses in the market place if all traffic was prevented from entering the market place visitors may be diverted straight out of the village again once they reach the middle st and B6321 junction. However, if the no entry signs were supported by clear signage bringing traffic back round to the market place VILLAGE CENTRE that would make sense. Hill street may be signed as one way but people STILL drive the wrong way down the street so that needs sorting out too. Are there any other options - access for local traffic (ie residents etc)?
1			
	1		I am writing to express my disagreement to this proposal. In my opinion the problem identified is a minor one and this proposal will cause major inconvenience to motorists entering the village from the north and wishing to visit businesses or shops in the Market Place. Also it will add to traffic using the already congested Hill Street and the notorious junction of Middle Street and Main Street at the Angel Inn. The occasional problem of large vehicles or cars towing caravans becoming stuck in the Market Place is because they have not seen the sign directing them left down Hill Street. This problem could easily be remedied by changing the signs at the Watling Street Hill Street junction. Signs on the Left Hand Side, (LHS), changed to indicate no through road and for all through traffic to turn left, rather than the current warning of a one way system ahead. The signpost indicating routes through the village would be more prominent and less likely to be missed if it was on the LHS of the road rather than its present location on the right. I urge you to reconsider this proposed change.
1			Great Idea! Thank You.
1			At a monthly committee meeting of the Corbridge Village Trust on 3/3/2015, it was agreed that the proposed solution would reduce congestion and occasional gridlock in the Market Place, which is to be welcomed.
7	3	0	

