



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS MITFORD ROAD, MORPETH

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding additional parking restrictions on the south side of Mitford Road in Morpeth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) "No Waiting, Mon – Fri, 8:30 - 9:30 and 14:30 – 16:00" parking restrictions (single yellow line) be introduced as proposed.

Key Issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by LTP.
- 2) Local residents and the schools have raised safety issues as a result of vehicles mounting the pavement due to obstructive parking.
- 3) The scheme will improve quality of life for local residents who deal with varying issues of indiscriminate parking on a daily basis.
- 4) Parking will still be permitted on Mitford Road, although it will now be prohibited during peak times. It is anticipated that this will assist in reducing the volume of parked vehicles currently causing obstructions.
- 5) Bollards will be provided at Wansbeck Place to prevent vehicles from driving on the footpath (A video survey has previously been undertaken to confirm that this is a major issue).

Report Author

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BACKGROUND

1. Concerns have been raised by the Morpeth Chantry Middle School, Morpeth Newminster Middle School, local residents, Morpeth Town Council and Cllr Bawn regarding inconsiderate parking on Mitford Road. As such due to the narrow carriageway the two way traffic is severely restricted at peak times. This has led to vehicles mounting to footpath at Wansbeck Place which is clearly unacceptable as it poses a risk to all pedestrians and anyone leaving their property. A video survey has been undertaken to confirm that such behaviour is occurring. As such bollards will be introducing at strategic locations on Wansbeck Place.

CONSULTATION

2. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 22 residents and approximately 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
3. The consultation exercise ended on 15th September 2015 and responses were received from 8 consultees with six in favour and one against the proposals. One consultee did not express any preference. This was from the North East Ambulance Service, who was the only statutory consultee to respond (see Appendix B).

IN FAVOUR

4. Whilst indicating their support for the proposals on the response form provided, the majority of consultees commented that the previously proposed bollards should be introduced at Wansbeck Place.
5. One consultee also requested that a 20mph speed limit be introduced. As the County Council has an ongoing initiative to introduce 20mph speed limit outside all schools within Northumberland over the next five years, such a speed limit will be introduced in due course.

AGAINST

6. One consultee objected to the proposal commenting that the proposal would affect the value of their property. This claim is difficult to prove, and bearing in mind the significant road safety issues at Mitford Road the restrictions will be introduced as proposed.

RECOMENDATIONS

7. From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concerns raised in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. The result of the consultation exercise shows that the majority of residents who responded support the proposals. It is therefore recommended that the proposed parking restrictions be introduced.

8. The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix 1 – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses

Background Papers

File Ref: HE152316-10

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Funded by LTP
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Residential, route to schools, inconsiderate parking issues and vehicles mounting pavement.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will remove inconsiderate parking during peak times promote a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	None
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Morpeth Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Morpeth North

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Executive Director of Local Services

Subject:

Proposed parking restrictions on Mitford Road, Morpeth

Consultation

8 Responses

6 For

1 Against

1 Neither

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of a "No Waiting, Mon – Fri, 8:30 - 9:30 and 14:30 – 1600" parking restriction on the south side of Mitford Road, Morpeth

Signature of Corporate Director



Date

30/10/15

Northumberland

Northumberland County Council

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• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE152316-10

Your Ref:

Contact: Dan Fraser

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Tuesday 4 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Mitford Road – Morpeth

Concerns have been raised by residents and local schools about inconsiderate parking at Mitford Road. It has been reported that inconsiderate parking during peak times is causing obstruction to larger vehicles using the road and is putting road users at risk due to poor visibility. A "No Waiting, Mon – Fri, 8:30 - 9:30 and 14:30 – 1600" parking restriction (single yellow line) is therefore proposed on the south side of the Mitford Road to alleviate these concerns. It is anticipated that the introduction of this restriction will improve road safety by offering reduced congestion and increased visibility during the peak periods of the day.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed introduction of "No Waiting, Mon – Fri, 8:30 - 9:30 and 14:30 – 1600" parking restriction at Mitford Road, as shown the attached plan.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Tuesday 15th September 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

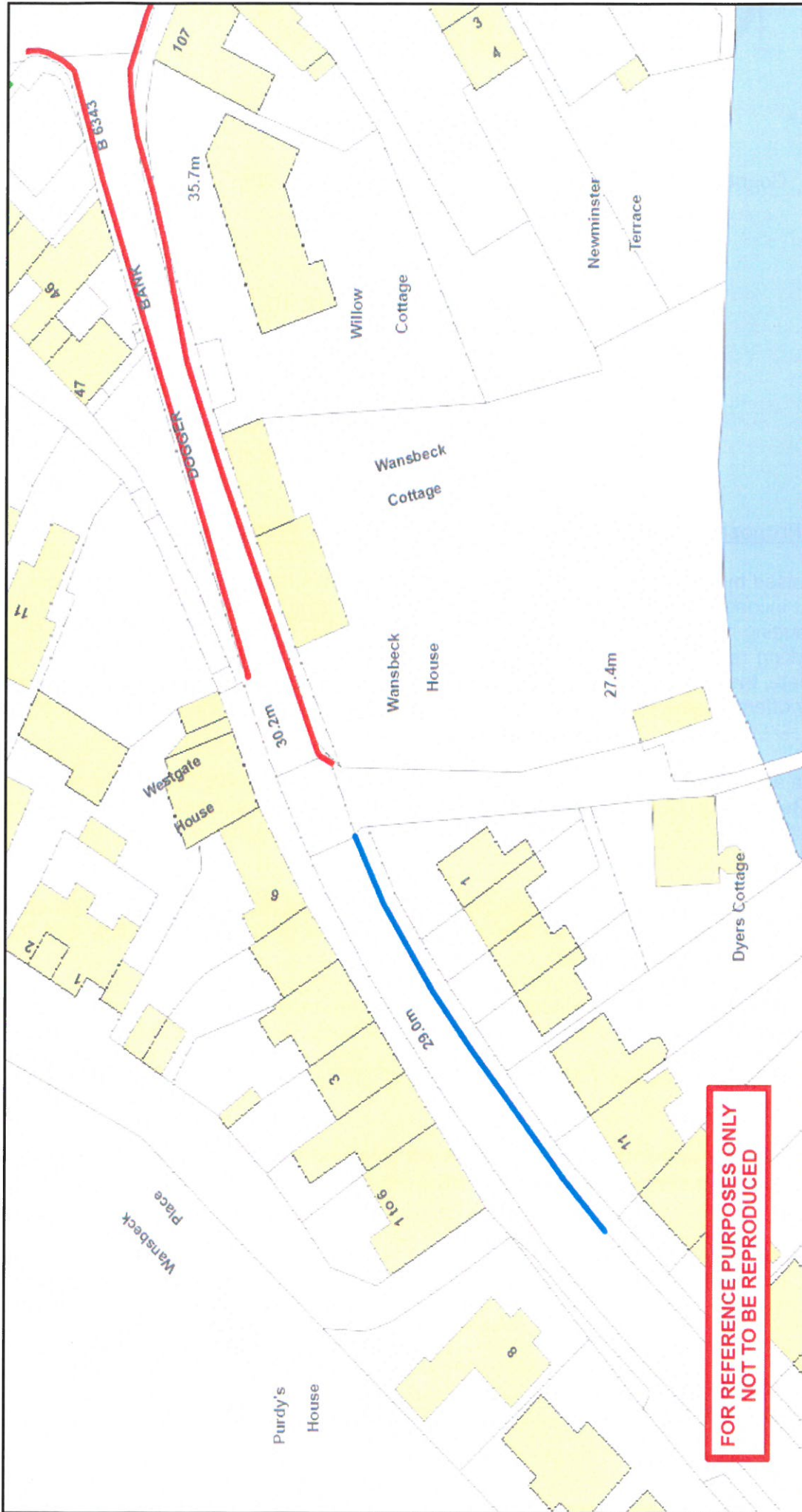
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



Appendix B

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
		1	Thank you for your letter dated 4th August 2015 in which you invite us to offer our commetns 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			This is by far the most sensible suggestion of recent years. We would hope the scheme, once implemented, would be reviewed after a period, to monitor whether it does actually improve matters. N.B. A 20mph limit on the bank and near the schools should still be considered.
1			Thank you Daniel. The restrictions proposed ,are in themselves, totally acceptable and necessary for road and pedestrian safety. However, the proposal in isolation, does not address road and more importantly, pedestrian safety for the remainder of the day. It should be noted that the parking, partially on the pavement, is not attributable to pick up and drop off of school attendees. The area is used all day by non residents of Mitford road. Pedestrian safety will only be addressed by the proposal to install bollards to the north side of Mitford road. Traffic will continue to mount the pavement until bollards are installed
1			Being a resident of Wansbeck Place, we constantly face buses and cars mounting the pavement either to park or passing thru to get past parked cars. The danger of being hit by passing cars as we come out of our front door is very serious. An incident of a bus mounting the pavement has already knocked down a hanging basket and bent the basket !! Imagine it being a human!!! So new restriction "No waiting Mon - Fri times" should apply to both sides of the street (blue lines). further more bollards on Wansbeck Place side would ensure no parking and mounting on pavements. There have been many near misses as kids from school do use the Wansbeck Place pavement after school. Please do consider these points as residents here had to deal with this during term times. There was a consideration of bollards a few months ago. Please revive the proposal. Thank you.
1			I am in favour of the proposed parking restrictions. However I think it will only work if done in conjunction with the previously proposed installation of bollards along Wansbeck Place. Many Thanks.
1			Welcome any measures to ease congestion and improve safety
1			My wife and I congratulate the Council on tackling the problem. The experiment with cones proved to be 100% right and BOLLARDS MUST BE PUT IN. The proposed line on the south side of the road is only an addition. Will it be policed regularly? We can see that non residents park there all day and then go elsewhere. Well done and please ensure that people conform.
	1		After consulting local estate agents and councillors from other regions we are opposed to the proposal of making Mitford Road a no waiting/parking restrictive area, as we have been informed that this will have a detrimental effect to the value of our property. We do however understand that the situation needs to be addressed. Our proposal would be to make Mitford Road a Resident only parking with the agreement to have cars moved between the hours proposed by yourselves. Making Miford road a resident only parking scheme would eliminate the cars that are parked here in the aforementioned hours as these people are not from Mitford Road, they are from local bed and breakfasts and residents of bullers green. Your proposal would only move the problem further down the street and cause congestion closer to the school premises. There is free parking at the Rugby Club which is usually empty, parents and Bullers Green residence could park here without causing a traffic nuisance. Our proposal would mean an additional income for the council from the purchase of permits for the steet, without causing a detrimental effect on the prices of the houses on Mitford Road and therefore not exposing the council to legal actions from residents who suffer depreciation in house value due to your proposal. We would appreciate your comments on this matter and a confirmation of receipt as the website will not let us populate the person responsible box on this form.
6	1	1	

