

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED PROVISION OF BOLLARDS – U6528 SYCAMORE STREET / MAPLE STREET BACK LANE, ASHINGTON

Purpose of report:

To consider the results of the canvass exercise, regarding the proposed provision of bollards at Sycamore Street / Maple Street Back Lane in Ashington.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, the bollards should be introduced as proposed.

Key issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by Councillor Wilson.
- 2) The scheme will improve road safety in the area as the road is currently used as a "rat run".
- 3) The bollards will assist in enforcing the existing Traffic Regulation Order, effectively making a "No Through Road" at this location.
- 4) Supported by Local Councillor and the vast majority of residents who responded to the consultation.

Report Author

Neil Snowdon – Senior Programme Officer
(01670) 624128

Neil.Snowdon@northumberland.gov.uk

BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by local residents by way of a petition regarding road safety and the fact that the Sycamore Street / Maple Street Back Lane is used as a "rat-run" by drivers to avoid traffic lights situated in Ashington Town Centre. This is despite the fact that a Prohibition of Driving Traffic Regulation Order is already in place restricting the use of vehicular traffic on the U6528 Sycamore Street/Maple Street Back Lane.
- 2) County Councillor Wilson has also expressed concerns and has agreed to fund the installation of bollards, which will assist in enforcing the existing Traffic Regulation Order, effectively making a "No Through Road" at this location. Signage to indicate this will be sited as necessary. It should be noted that the street will still be open to pedestrian traffic and cyclists.
- 3) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 80 households/businesses, 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).

CONSULTATION

- 4) The consultation exercise ended on 14th January 2015, and responses were received from 35 consultees, with 33 in favour and 2 against the proposals. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix B.
- 5) North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee who responded to the consultation, they supported the proposals, however they indicated that response times may be affected.

IN FAVOUR

- 6) Whilst indicating their support of the proposals on the response form provided, the following comments were made:-
 - Scheme cannot be introduced soon enough.
 - Scheme will significantly improve road safety in the area.

OBJECTIONS

- 7) Whilst objecting to the proposals on the response form provided, the following comments were made:-
 - Proposed bollards will make situation worse for residents who would need to access their properties from Woodhorn Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8) The consultation responses have been discussed with Councillor Wilson, particularly the objections, which have been noted. 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 results of the canvass exercise show that the majority of residents who responded support the proposed bollards. It is therefore recommended that the bollards are introduced as proposed, however, the situation will be monitored with regard to residents living at the north of the bollards who would need to access their properties from Woodhorn Road.

- 9) 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 A – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

File Ref: M/Gen/124/C

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from Councillor Wilson's Local Members Small Schemes Budget
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Residential area, route to schools, speeding traffic and associated visibility issues.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will reduce vehicle speeds and promote a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	Residents will benefit from reduced vehicle speeds, and the route will no longer be used as a rat run. The measures may marginally affect response times of Emergency Services.
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Ashington Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Ashington Central

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member and Executive Director:

Executive Director of Local Services, Barry Rowland
Executive Member, Ian Swithenbank, Streetcare and Environment

Subject:

Proposed Provision of Bollards – Sycamore Street / Maple Street Back Lane, Ashington

Consultation:

35 Responses:
33 For
2 Against

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of the bollards at Sycamore Street / Maple Street as proposed.

Signature of Executive Director



Date

5/8/15

APPENDIX 1 – CONSULTATION LETTER AND PLAN

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

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/GEN/124(F)
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon
Direct Line: 01670 624128
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: Neil.Snowdon@northumberland.gov.uk
Wednesday 3rd December 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Provision of Bollards – U6528 Sycamore Street / Maple Street Back Lane, Ashington

Concerns have been raised by local residents by way of a petition regarding road safety and the fact that the above location is used as a “rat-run” by drivers to avoid traffic lights situated in Ashington Town Centre. This is despite the fact that a Prohibition of Driving Traffic Regulation Order is already in place restricting the use of vehicular traffic on the U6528 Sycamore Street/Maple Street Back Lane.

County Councillor Wilson has also expressed concerns and has agreed to fund the installation of bollards. It is proposed to site the bollards in the vicinity of the gable end of no. 2 Sycamore Street as shown on the attached plan. The bollards will assist in enforcing the existing Traffic Regulation Order, effectively making a “No Through Road” at this location. Signage to indicate this will be sited as necessary. It should be noted that the street will still be open to pedestrian traffic and cyclists.

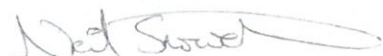
Before implementing the installation of bollards we would like to canvass resident's opinion on this proposal. A freepost response form is attached to facilitate this process.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a 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 Wednesday 14th January 2015. Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to online.

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. If no comments are received by the closing date it will be assumed that you do not wish to make any representations, and are happy with the restrictions currently in place.

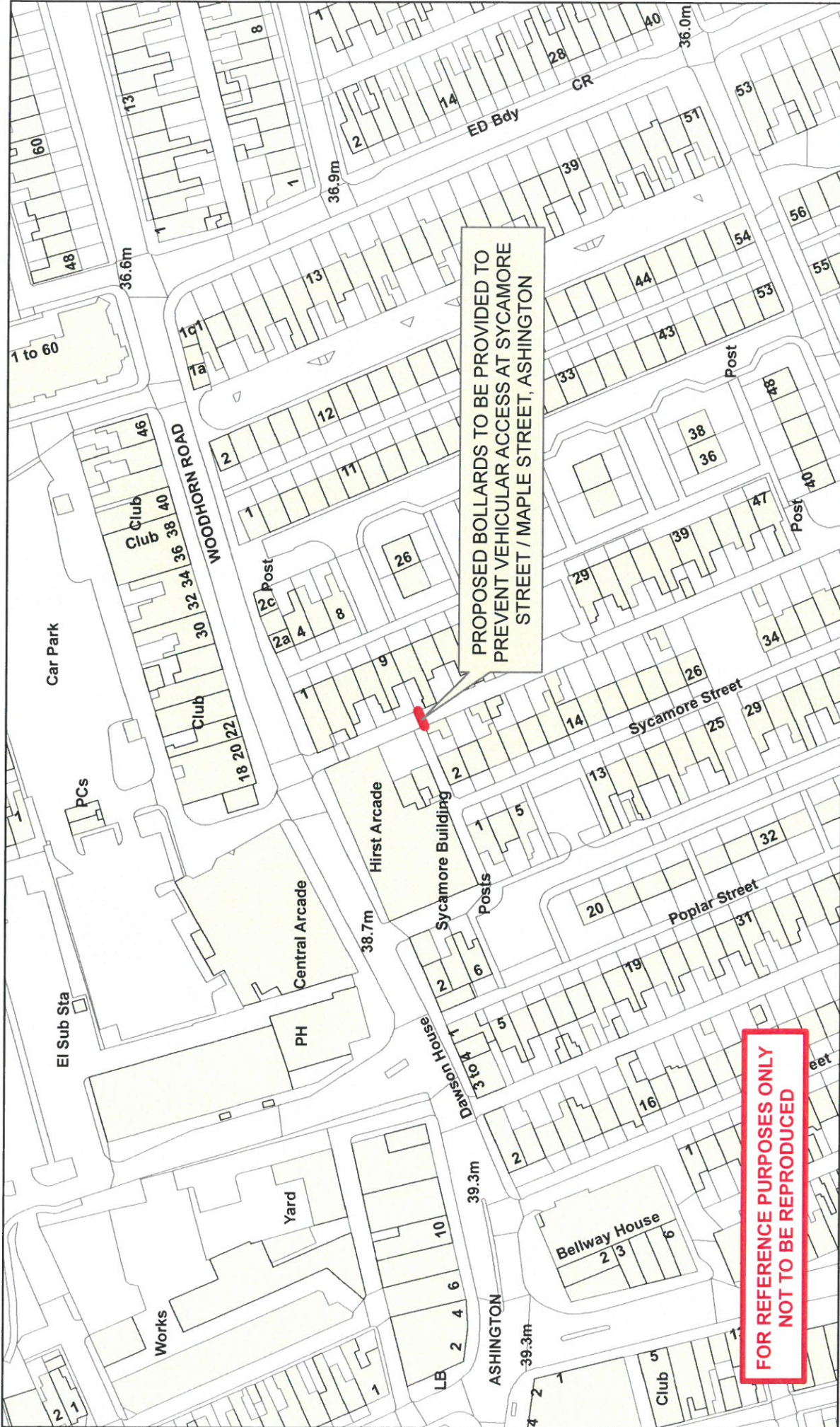
I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Neil Snowdon
Transport Projects Officer





KEY:-

EXTENT OF BOLLARDS

Network Management Information System		Title: PROPOSED PROVISION OF BOLLARDS TO PREVENT VEHICULAR ACCESS AT SYCAMORE STREET / MAPLE STREET, ASHINGTON	
Northumberland County Council Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000		Drn:	Scale:
<small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License no. 100049048 (2009).</small>		Date:	

APPENDIX 2 - COPY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
North East Ambulance Service		1			Thank you for your letter of 3rd December 2014 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.
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			Thank you for putting bollards in the proposed place. It will make our street a more safer place. The street needs to adapt to other changes that have been made at the top of the street. i.e. The bus stop.
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			I am 100% behind the bollards being put up in my lane. People i.e. Taxi drivers and other car users, use the lane as a short cut. With the amount of traffic using the lane it will only be a matter of time until there will be an accident. I am also worried for the safety of my children and grandchildren for the speed that these people go down the lane. If you express yourself to these people all you get is a mouthful of abuse off them. I hope this action is put into place not just for my worries also for others who live within the lane. Many Thanks.
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			I would have thought that a council, passing a prohibition of driving traffic act regulation order, would be wise enough to realise that if there is no enforcement of the above then solving the traffic issue is inept. This is not the first time that action has been sought on traffic control in this street and this being the only street with direct access from woodhorn Road between the Grand corner and Hawthorn road.. It should be of no surprise that it is used as a 'short cut' to avoid the Grand corner debacle. I look forward to seeing this issue solved.
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BG	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			We have been waiting a long time for this to happen. The day we met with the officer and councillor Tommy Wilson proved that motorists do not read road signs. There had to be at least five or more vehicles entered our lane at either end and drove straight through to exit at the opposite end of the lane. Please, please listen to the residents.
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BG	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			This project is long overdue of the safety of the residents. The following property's are empty 5 Maple street, 18-26 Sycamore street. We have attended various meetings, 6 in total with the south east area committee since August 2013 to discuss and put forward the wishes of the residents via a petition for the installation of bollards in the above lane. We as residents feel this is the only solution to the increased traffic using the lane as a rat run. There is a prohibition order in place at both ends of the lane which motorists ignore, so it is the feeling of over 90% of the residents that the installation of bollards is the only solution. Please take note of the concern of the majority of the residents. Thank You.
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			The bollards have been a long time coming they should help reduce the amount of traffic coming down the street. Some quite fast, they may prevent someone getting hit by one of these vehicles.
Sycamore Street	NE63 0BD	1			My son Daniel was run over 8 years ago walking out the gate by someone who does not live in our street. Delivery people and taxis use it as a short cut. As well as making it safer for my kids I realise that it will be a slight inconvenience for me. Being a driver I have to add a short distance to my trip to work, but its a small price to pay.
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			By installing bollards at the top of the lane, this will greatly reduce the flo of traffic through our thoroughfare. No exiting from the top of the lane will make it much safer for motorists including myself and also pedestrians crossing the top of the lane, who often just cross without looking. a couple of times Mothers just push out pushchairs straight into the road without checking and it was just as well that I approphe the exit of the lane with caution.
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			Closing off the top of the lane is long overdue.
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			Are you aware that # 5-7-9 Maple Street have to contend with delivery trucks-vans to Sports Direct plus the bedding shop, also the beauty parlour's staff park outside our houses plus the customers. I have no objection to a bollard, that with a key, for the three houses we can lower, when we have no other option of getting out. We also have to deal with the bus stop backing up traffic, also delivery trucks across the road at Nisa, then you do have a bottle neck. Also the consultation has to go to the POLICE AMBULANCE and FIRE BRIGADE, and garbage pick-up. The other end of Maple street have none of these problems.
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			
Maple street	NE63 0BG	1			