

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

Proposal to introduce Regulated Disabled / Limited Waiting Parking Bays, Abbey Meadows, Morpeth

20th July 2016

Purpose of report:

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed introduction of 2 regulated (enforceable) Disabled Parking Bays and 4 Limited Waiting Parking Bays (Monday to Saturday 8am to 6 pm 30 Minutes no return 1 hour) at Abbey Meadows, Morpeth.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that in view of the consultation results, that the proposal to introduce 2 regulated (enforceable) Disabled Parking Bays, should be introduced as proposed.
- It is recommended that in view of the consultation results and information received from a petition, that the proposal to introduce 4 Limited Waiting Parking Bays, should **not** be introduced as proposed.

Key issues

1. This area has been subject to parking issues and road safety concerns over a period of time.
2. Scheme is being funded by Councillor Andrew Tebbutt.
3. The scheme will reduce indiscriminate parking in the area.
4. The scheme will support vulnerable members of the community.

Report Author

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BACKGROUND

1. Concerns have been raised by members of the public and visitors to the retail area at Abbey Meadows in Morpeth about the lack of provision for disabled persons and general parking issues surrounding the parade of shops. Councillor Tebbutt has also expressed concerns and requested officers consult residents and businesses on the introduction of regulated parking bays for both disabled and able bodied motorists.
2. It is envisaged the proposed introduction of disabled bays, reserved for blue badge holders only and the introduction of limited time parking bays would address some of the parking issues at peak times and improve the equality of visitor parking near to the retail area.

CONSULTATION

3. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise. This was conducted on the 15 April 2016 and involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 20 residents / businesses and 24 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations and organisations. The consultation exercise ended on 13th May 2016 and responses were received from 6 consultees, with 4 in favour 1 against and 1 neither for nor against the proposals. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.
4. A petition was also received bearing the signatures of 99 members of the public opposing the proposed Time Limited Parking Bays.

COMMENTS

5. Comments indicated an overwhelming rejection of the proposals with the proposed 30 minute parking allowance being the most contentious issue.
6. Councillor Tebbutt was notified of the results of the consultation and petition and confirms that based on the evidence presented, he does not wish to proceed with respect to the 4 Time Limited Parking Bays, element of the proposal. However, Councillor Tebbutt does wish to proceed with the provision of 2 regulated Disabled Bays.
7. Councillor Tebbutt and Officers will continue to monitor the area and take forward information received via the Directory of Requests where appropriate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. In view of the results of the consultation / petition and the wishes of Councillor Tebbutt it is recommended **not** to proceed with the proposal to introduce 4 Limited Waiting Parking Bays at Abbey Meadows, Morpeth.
9. It is recommended that the 2 regulated (enforceable) Disabled Parking Bays be introduced as proposed
10. 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.

File References

File Ref: S:\Highways\PROJECT\16\HO16 Members
Schemes\HO166059_MORPETH_Abbey Meadows_TEBBUTT

Appendix Index

Appendix A – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Members' Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor Andrew Tebbutt
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	Disabled motorists will benefit from the introduction of enforceable parking spaces.
Risk Assessment	Indiscriminate parking and obstruction
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will ensure that only disabled blue badge holders will be able to park in the new disabled bays, promoting a safer environment
Customer Considerations	Visitors to the retail area will benefit from a reduction in inconsiderate parking.
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 Kirkhill

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member and Executive Director:

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed introduction of both regulated Disabled and Limited Time Parking Bays, Abbey Meadows, Morpeth

Consultation:

6 Responses
4 in favour
1 against
1 neither for nor against

Petition:

99 against

Decision Taken:

- To introduce 2 regulated disabled bays as proposed.
- Not to introduce 4 regulated time limited parking bays as proposed.

Signature of Executive Director

D A. Lowe *pp P. Jones.*

Date

23/7/16

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

The Occupier

Our Ref: 2015/071
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr T Luck
Direct Line: 01670 622588

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Friday 15th April 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal Parking Restriction – Abbey Meadows, Morpeth

Residents have raised concerns with Councillor Tebbutt, regarding the existing layout of the parking bays outside the shops at Abbey Meadows, Morpeth. Councillor Tebbutt has requested that officers formally consult residents on the following proposals.

- a. Introduction of 2 Disabled Parking bays (Enforceable)
- b. Introduction of 4 Limited Waiting Parking Bays –
Monday to Saturday 8am to 6 pm 30 Minutes no return 1 hour (Enforceable)

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 proposal to delineate four limited waiting parking bays and two disabled bays at Abbey Meadows, Morpeth as shown on 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 Housing and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Friday 13th May 2016. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

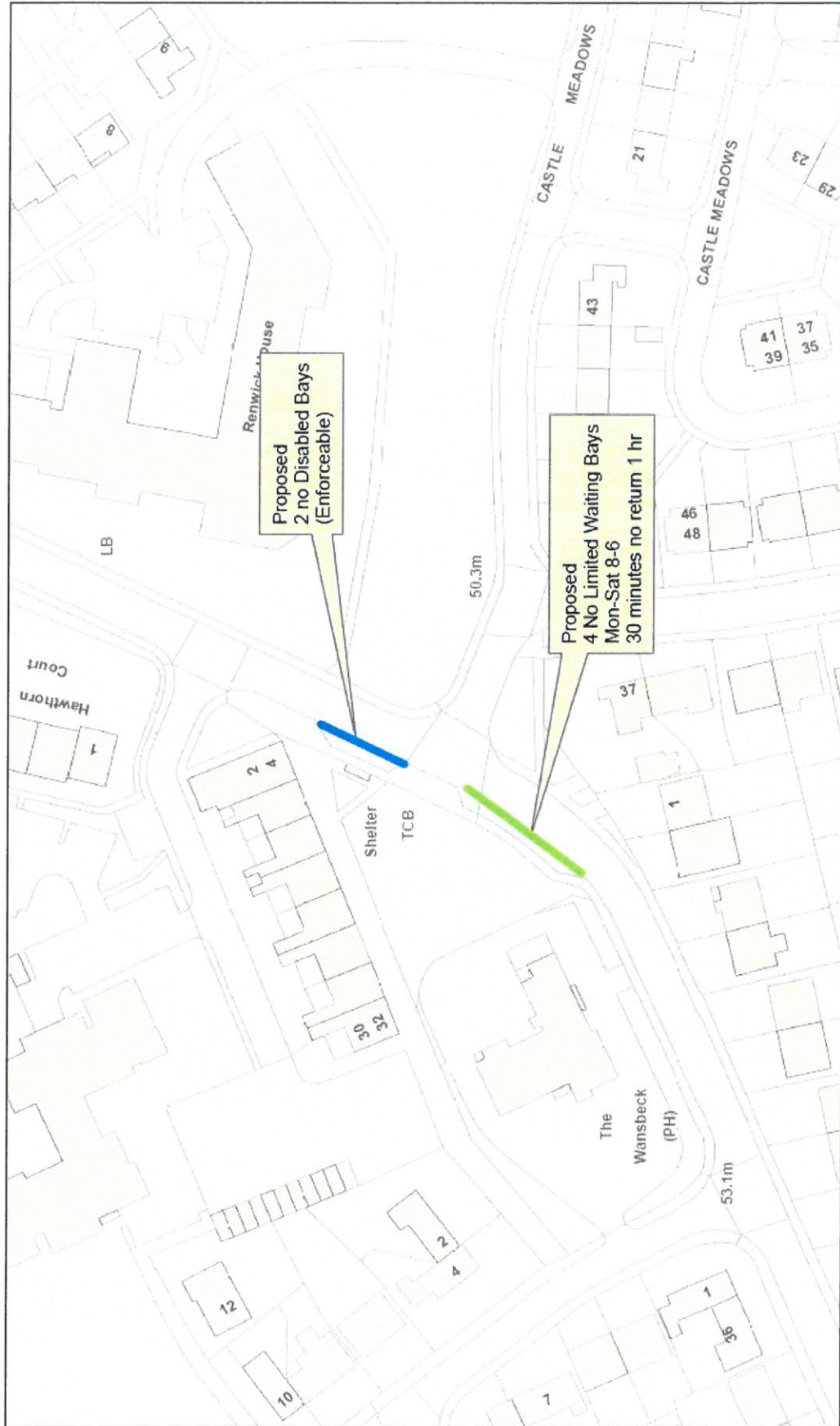
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

Please note, Councillor Tebbutt has requested we assess the current arrangements of the "off street" Car Park to the rear of the shops, including marking out bays & possible regulation to stop inappropriate parking. This may result in a further consultation once the assessment is complete."

Yours faithfully



Terry Luck
Programme Officer



**FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED**

<p>Northumberland Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE31 2EF Tel: 01670 633000</p>	<p>Network Management Information System</p> <p><small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey maps, with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence no. 100049048 (2009).</small></p>	<p>Title: Consultation Proposed Parking Restrictions Abbey Meadows Morpeth</p> <p>Dm:</p> <p>Date: April 2016</p> <p>Scale:</p>
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FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
			<p>I am the salon owner, Classic cuts, on Abbey Meadows precinct. My clients come in on a daily basis for different treatments, some which take up to three hours, 30 minutes as proposed would be not long enough for clients, I agree with the two disabled bays as many of my clients do hold disabled badges, parking is horrendous at school times, and clients do not have an alternative place to park, this would be detrimental to my business. I am writing to strongly object to the proposed parking restriction on Abbey Meadows shopping precinct. I have owned the hairdressing salon on the precinct for over twenty years now, building up a successful business, I have clients travel from as far as Wooler and Alnwick to my salon on a weekly basis, one of the good things being they car park directly outside the salon, with easy access. Over the last 12 months, parking has got a lot harder, mainly due to carers to St Christopher's house. visiting more frequently, I myself struggle to get a space at the back of my premises. Both shops next to me, the chemist and the newsagent, have a delivery van, and personal vehicles, the car park next to the garage, is always full, no matter what time of day you try, possibly with staff from the adjoining businesses. One client in particular travel's from Alnwick every Saturday morning, for a 9:00am appointment, the car park is always full do she parks outside the front of the shops, in one of the four spaces provided. Like most hairdressing salons, most of our services take between 1 hours up to 3 hours!!! So a 30 minute parking restriction would not accommodate the majority of our clients. I feel this would have a detrimental effect on my business, and urge you not to proceed with the proposed time limit, to the parking. Yes I agree there should be restrictions but more to the fact that those spaces should be for the use of the shops on the precinct only, to try and keep the shops trading d providing a community service, that we have done for years.</p>
	1		<p>At school times the traffic is horrendous, but as this is already monitored by a traffic warden, I see no reason to apply a time limit on four spaces, the majority of parents, park along the side of the road, leading up to the school, taking into account the yellow line restrictions, most of these cars are only there a maximum of 15 minutes. I look forward to your reply. P.S. There are already 2 disabled bays outside the chemist shop.</p>
1			<p>A. I only support one disabled bay near to the ramp. B. I support as suggested.</p>
		1	<p>Thank you for your letter dated 15th April 2016 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as 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.</p>
1			<p>The proposal for 4 parking bays seems over enthusiastic - 3 would be more likely. Can signage be discrete?</p>
1			<p>No comment</p>
1			<p>Morpeth Town Council support the parking restrictions, however this should be for up to 3 hours and not restricted to 30 minutes, and the area to the rear of the shops and in the nearby car park should have marked parking spaces.</p>
4	1	1	

