



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR
OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING**

**PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS
BRIDGE STREET, NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA**

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the introduction of a Restricted Parking Zone and a Loading Bay on Bridge Street in Newbiggin-by-the-sea

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) A Restricted Parking Zone is introduced along with Loading Bay on Bridge Street in Newbiggin-by-the-sea.

Key Issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by LTP.
- 2) Civil Enforcement Officers are not permitted to enforce current movement restriction, but will be able to enforce the Restricted Parking Zone and the Loading Bay
- 3) The scheme is supported by Councillor Elizabeth Simpson and Newbiggin Town Council

Report Author

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Background

1. Concerns have been raised by residents, to local Councillor's regarding inconsiderate parking on Bridge Street. It has been reported that unauthorized vehicles are parking in the "No vehicles except for loading" area, which results in delivery vehicles being unable to load and unload, along with the area being obstructed by double parking. At present, the Police are responsible for enforcement of the "Prohibition of Driving, Except for Loading" Traffic Regulation Order, but due to limited resources, this restriction is not enforced as often as it needs to be. Therefore the introduction of a "Restricted Parking Zone" on Bridge Street has been proposed, which Northumberland County Council's Civil Enforcement Officers are responsible for enforcing.

Consultation

2. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 7 residents/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).
3. The consultation exercise concluded on Thursday 15th September and responses were received from 6 consultees with 3 being in favour and 2 against of the proposal, and 1 consultee did not indicate a preference. (See Appendix B).

Comments

4. One consultee indicated that the restriction did not need changing, and the problem was the lack of enforcement. At present Northumberland County Council cannot enforce the current Traffic Regulation Order. The proposed "Restricted Parking Zone" will be enforced by Northumberland County Council's Civil Enforcement Officers who have a dedicated team in the south east area of the county. Therefore, the restrictions will be regularly patrolled and any vehicle witnessed to be in contravention of the proposed Traffic Regulation will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.
5. One consultee stated that additional parking bays should be introduced as a number of elderly customers struggle to walk to the businesses on Bridge Street. There are 2 Blue Badge Holder parking places within 15 metres of Bridge Street that can accommodate approximately 4 vehicles. Additionally, on street parking is available on Front Street and off street parking is available in the Wilkie Terrace Car Park, both of which are within a short walking distance of Bridge Street

Conclusion

6. 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 comments received from the consultation exercise highlighted that the majority of residents/businesses who responded to the consultation did

support proposals for Restricted Parking Zone, so long as it is enforceable. It is therefore recommended that the Traffic Regulation Orders for the Restricted Parking Zone with Loading Bays restrictions be introduced.

7. 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 – Copy of Consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded by LTP
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Shopping Area, inconsiderate parking issues.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will alleviate inconsiderate parking in the area, promoting a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	None
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Newbiggin Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Newbiggin Central and East

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed parking restriction on Bridge Street in Newbiggin-by-the-sea

Consultation

6 Responses
3 For
2 Against
1 Neither

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of a Restricted Parking Zone and a Loading Bay on Bridge Street in Newbiggin-by-the-sea.

Signature of Director



Date

12/10/16

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

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The Occupier

Our Ref: HE163341-18

Your Ref:

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Date: Thursday 4th August 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Bridge Street, Newbiggin-by-the-sea

Concerns have been raised by residents to local Councillor's regarding inconsiderate parking on Bridge Street. It has been reported that unauthorized vehicles are parking in the "No vehicles except for loading" area, which means delivery vehicles are unable to load and unload. In order to alleviate these concerns, it is proposed that Bridge Street becomes a "Restricted Parking Zone" which restricts vehicles from parking on the street except when loading, or unloading in a designated Loading Bay. The proposed restrictions are enforced by Northumberland County Council's Civil Enforcement Officers and any vehicle witnessed to be in contravention of the Traffic Regulation Order will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

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 removal of the "No vehicles except for loading" moving traffic restriction, and the introduction of a "Restricted Parking Zone, No Loading except in signed bays" Traffic Regulation Order, as shown the attached plan. A photograph showing the sign to be introduced is also attached for information.

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 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 Thursday 15th September 2016. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

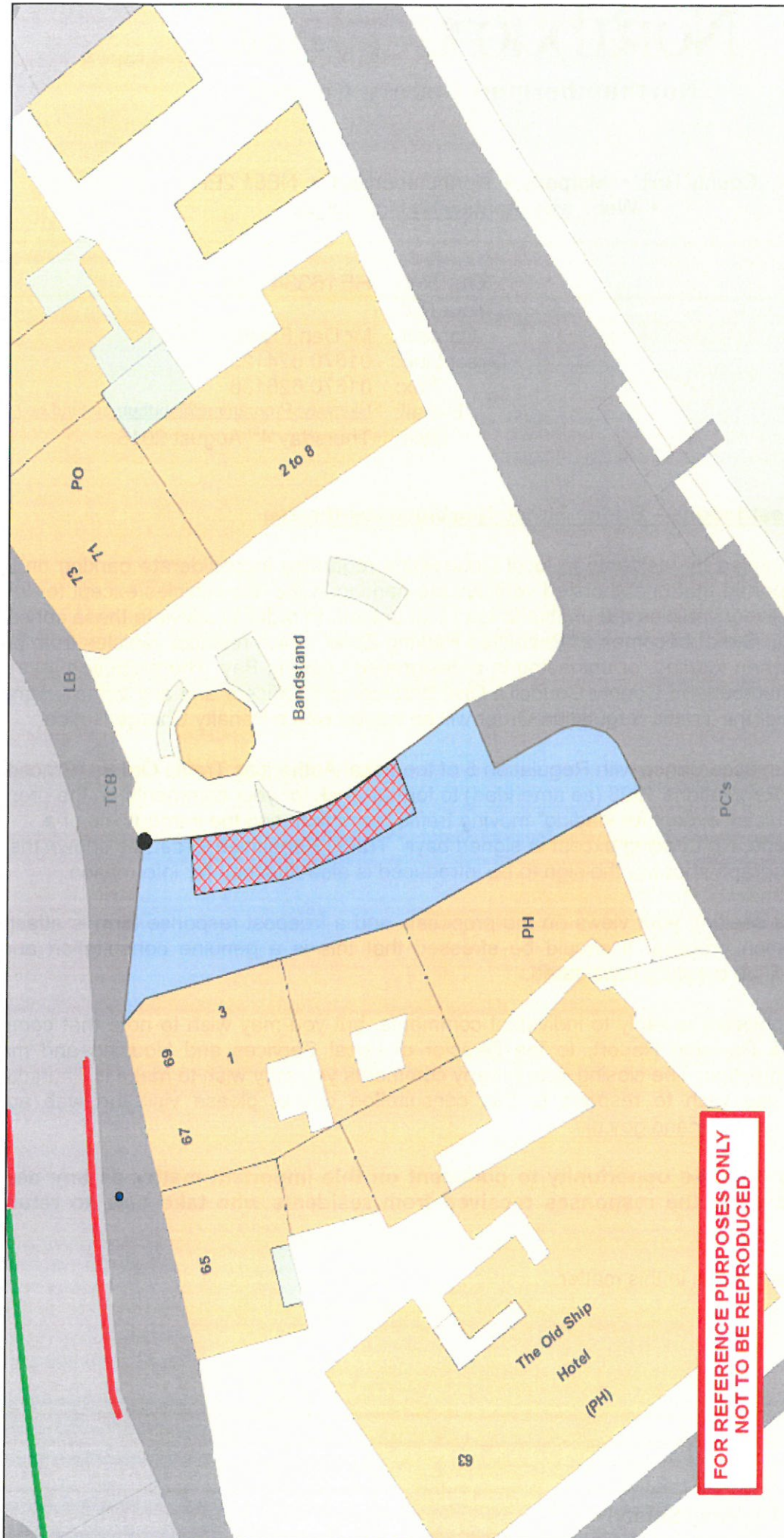
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser
Programme Officer (Highway Safety)



Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

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Network Management Information System

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Title: Bridge Street, Newbiggin
Proposed Restricted Parking Zone

Drn: Date: Scale:

KEY

RPZ Sign

RPZ - No Loading except
in signed bays

Signed Loading Bay

Appendix B - Summary of Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
		1	Thank you for your letter dated 4th August 2016 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as n Emergency Services we recognise and appreciate the need for restrictions to improve road safety. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
1			Every day scores of vehicles from cars to furniture lorries enter and reverse to and from this area creating a serious hazard immediately next to a traffic light road crossing, serious hazard.
1			After many verbal complaints whilst patrolling this area I think these restrictions will help alleviate the current situation which does seem to cause some concern to many local residents
	1		Many of our customers had many problems with the overall parking in newbiggin, many customers are elderly and struggle to get to our salon, the main issue that we witness on a daily basis considering our salon is located directly on bridge street, is the double parking that stops the deliveries, double parking caused by drivers to the 'chisolms bookepers' and the public house 'the coble', cars have often been left overnight, I believe that if we are given designated parking bays on one side of the road and a loading bay and have double yellow no parking lines on the other side this would allow access for deliveries and also increase the limited parking there is for the public, if the public cannot park they will just go elsewhere which would only be detrimental to all businesses in Newbiggin in an already slow time.
	1		we discussed the proposal in committee this week and came to the conclusion that the solution to the problem is NOT by change of legislation but merely requires the "stringent enforcement" of existing law. We at the sailing club DO NOT allow our members to park in Bridge street and are disappointed that " authorities" do not prevent parking by others, often causing us inconvenience, blocking of fire exits, and causing structural damage to our historic building, The old mechanics institute. Indeed we are at present in discussion with insurers re latest damage caused by a delivery vehicle having difficulty reversing. We do need access to our clubhouse for deliveries, etc and to have free use of the ramp to promenade to reach our dinghy park, not always possible. It is our fear that should you introduce the new "loading only" bays they will just become "parking areas" for those who now continue to flaunt the rules. Please note that our clubhouse is office for H.M. Coastguard who may require emergency access 24/7 may we make the following suggestions:- 1) Success will only be achieved by rigorous enforcement, not just change of restriction. 2) CCTV camera is sited on our building, placed there by Northumbria Police /Northumberland C.C., could this not be used to read number plates and issue fines, in the same way as "speed cameras" do? 3) Council employees are regularly up and down the promenade, could their role not be upgraded to allow issue of parking tickets? 4) A more expensive solution would be to site bollards "one vehicle length" in from the road, so as not to cause a traffic hazard, with "key" given to ourselves, The Coble and Bertorelli's, as well as council for emergency vehicles. Ideally these would be mechanically operated by a remote, and sink down into the ground.
1			Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals to solve the ongoing problems associated with traffic and vehicle parking in Bridge Street about which it has expressed concerns for some time. The Town Council considered the new proposals at its meeting and agrees that the creation of a Restricted Parking Zone covering this area and direct enforcement through Penalty Charge Notices should greatly improve safety and access in and around Bridge Street. It welcomes the proposals and has asked if you can advise on the situation regarding horse and traps/carts parked here on occasion and on Disabled Badge Holders who may continue to park here?
3	2	1	

