

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

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### PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS POPLAR STREET/SYCAMORE STREET, ASHINGTON 11 February 2016

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding proposed parking restrictions on Poplar Street/Sycamore Street in Ashington.

#### **Recommendations**

##### **It is recommended that:**

1. It is recommended that the following parking restrictions are introduced on Poplar Street/Sycamore Street in Ashington: - Resident Parking Zone (every day – all hours)

#### **Key Issues**

1. This area has been subject to indiscriminate parking over a long period of time, causing congestion and traffic safety concerns.
2. The Scheme is funded and supported by Councillor Thomas Wilson

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Report Author

**Terry Luck - Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)**

(01670) 622588

[Terry.Luck@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Luck@northumberland.gov.uk)

## BACKGROUND

1. Concerns have been identified to Councillor Wilson by residents on a number of occasions with regard to the indiscriminate parking in the area
2. It is proposed to introduce a Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) in this area
3. This would help improve parking for the residents ~~of residents~~ of Poplar Street/Sycamore Street in Ashington.
4. There is an existing car park at the junction of Poplar Street/ First Avenue, which would not be included within the RPZ and could be used by other road users to park.

## CONSULTATION – No 1

5. These proposals were the subject <sup>of</sup> two consultation exercises. The first was conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015. This involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 39 residents and 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).
6. The consultation exercise ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 and responses were received from 11 consultees, with 9 in favour and 3 against the proposal. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.

## CONSULTATION – No 2

1. The second consultation was conducted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015. This involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 39 residents and 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 C).
2. The consultation exercise ended on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and responses were received from 14 consultees, with 12 in favour and 2 against the proposal. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix D.

## **Implications Arising Out of the Report**

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Members' Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor Thomas Wilson
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Introduction of Resident Parking Zone
Crime & Disorder	Indiscriminate parking and obstruction
Customer Considerations	Scheme is anticipated to improve parking provisions for residents in the area
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

## **COMMENTS**

7. The results to the first consultation proved inconclusive. However, anecdotal evidence received by Councillor Wilson following the consultation suggested that residents were in favour of the scheme.
8. Responses against the proposals were predominantly objecting to the small administrative cost associated with every RPZ scheme i.e. cost of permit £15 per year.
9. Councillor Wilson supported Officers recommendation to re-consult in order to canvass opinion.
10. The results of the second consultation demonstrated residents were clearly in favour of the proposal.
11. Councillor Wilson was notified of the results of the consultation and confirms he wishes to proceed with the proposal, which will be funded through his allocation in the Members' Local Improvements Programme.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. Although there were two consultations carried out. It is clear from the results of the second consultation, there was an encouraging majority support for the proposal to introduce a RPZ for the residents of Poplar Street/Sycamore Street Ashington.
13. 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**

S:\Highways\PROJECT\15\HO15 Members  
Schemes\HO155882\_ASHINGTON\_Poplar& Sycamore, Ashington\_WILSON

## **Appendix Index**

Appendix A – Consultation 1 -Copy of Consultation Letter  
Appendix B - Consultation 1 - Summary of Responses  
Appendix C – Consultation 2 -Copy of Consultation Letter  
Appendix D - Consultation 2 - Summary of Responses

## DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):**

Director of Local Services and Housing

**Subject:**

Proposed resident parking zone (RPZ)

**Consultation 1**

12 Responses  
9 For  
3 Against

**Consultation 2**

14 Responses  
12 For  
2 Against

**Decision Taken:**

Introduce parking restrictions as proposed.

**Signature of Director**



**Date**

17/2/16



Our Ref: M/F/2/110/9

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon

Direct Line: 01670 624128

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Proposed Resident Permit Parking Zone – Poplar Street / Sycamore Street,  
Ashington**

Concerns have been raised by residents of Poplar Street and Sycamore Street in Ashington about indiscriminate parking. Councillor Wilson has also expressed his concerns and has agreed to fund the introduction of a Residents Permit Parking Zone at Poplar Street / Sycamore Street, subject to favourable consultation with residents.

Signs at the entry to the street would dictate where Resident Permit Parking is in operation. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for residents and one for visitor parking.

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 introduce a Residents Permit Parking Zone at Poplar Street / Sycamore Street in Ashington 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 may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

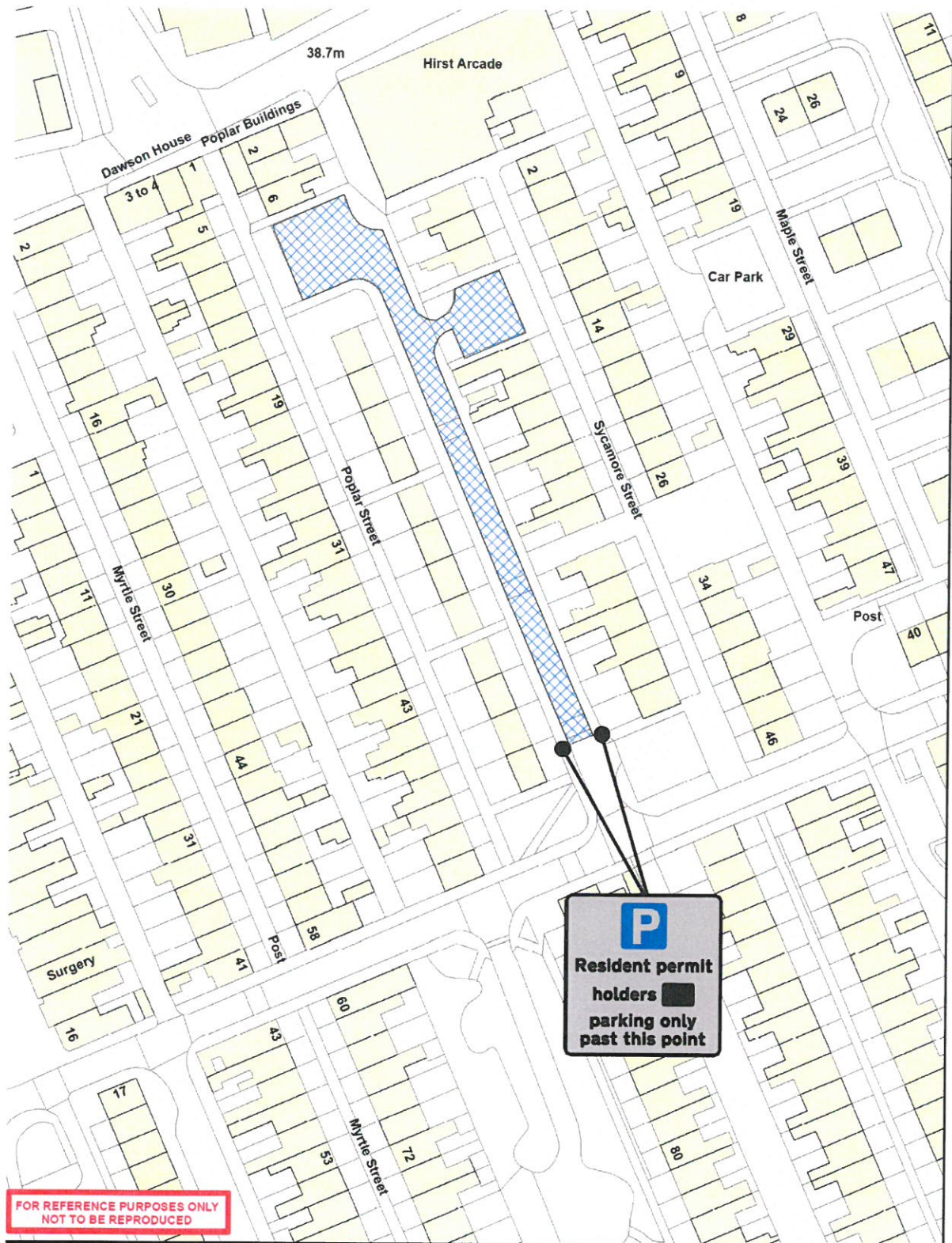
**I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Snowdon', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Neil Snowdon  
**Senior Programme Officer**





**Northumberland**  
Northumberland County Council

Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Borlase  
Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000

# Network Management Information System

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Title:		
Drn:	Date:	Scale:

PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING ZONE,  
POPLAR STREET / SYCAMORE STREET,  
ASHINGTON,

 EXTENTS OF ZONE



## APPENDIX B

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
	1		I object to paying £15 per year to park outside my house and an additional £15 per year for friends and family to do same , when all other parking in Ashington is free . I have not expressed any concerns about indiscriminate parking .
1			I fully support these proposals. They are necessary to alleviate the inconsiderate parking which takes place throughout the day by many shop workers who seem to use this street instead of using the local car parks. Further to our discussion early last week I would like to suggest a no waiting restrictions on the east side radius where this street meets First Avenue. At present there is a black 4*4 which seems to remain on the footpath at this junction most days. On the west side we have a DYL I think this should be extended in a northerly direction to where the proposed resident scheme will begin.
1			I think the prosed permits for residents is a good idea, as the amount of cars parked up the street who are not residents, causes a safety hazard, and sometimes we cant get parked beside our own house.
1			I fully support this as it is getting out of control every time you go out and return home you can't get parked where you live, my partner is registered disabled and when she returns home, I've seen her have to park the car somewhere else and struggle to get up the lane back to home. The Street sign's which are currently in place obviously don't mean anything to people. The shops that are at the side of my house, which are Needle Point, Sorrento Pizza, Bodrum Barbers and the Phone shop all seem to say they are getting permits- NON OF THEM LIVE HERE.
1			Yellow lines are needed around the approach into the street, as this is a severe road hazard when trying to enter or exit the street. Also provision or notices required to stop vehicles parking on pavement beside the car park at entrance to the street which is illegal.
1			As owner of the premises. I and my family have been parking on the street and in the car parks for many years. I was not aware of any parking problems. I therefore do not support the proposal of parking permits as it my make it more difficult for the occupants of the houses/shops to get access to their premises. I also need workment to park nearby at times. I have never encountered any problems parking and was not aware it was causing anyone problems. I am therefore unable to support the proposals as I think ti may make the parking problems worse in someone households appear to have several cars/caravans/vans and they may be unable to park them near to their house.
1			Why should people have to pay to park outside their own home. I feel this is only another money making isea for the council through permit charges and fines. Why not stick a permit area outside councillor Wilson's house. Also get traffic wardens to do a proper job and fine people who park in bus stops, cycle lanes, on yellow lines, right on junctions and both sides of the road restricting traffic (Milburn Road is particularly bad for this.)
1			lived at the above address for 15 years, and have experienced problems parking our vehicles at our own address.im a care home manager who is on call 24 hours a day and on several occasions i have been unable to get car out of yard due to irresponsible car owners parking across our gates on two occasions our vehicles have been damaged by hit and run car owners
1			Would no parking be enforced on the corners at the bottom of Poplar / Sycamore street as cars parked on the corners block view of oncoming traffic ? Will the parking permits exclude large vans from parking in the lane?
1			
1			I would like a meeting to see what is actually going to happen.
1			
9	3	0	

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• Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/F/2/110/9  
Your Ref:  
Contact: Traffic Safety Team  
Direct Line: 01670 624128  
Fax: 01670 626136  
E-mail: [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Letter to Canvass Resident Opinion on Proposed  
Resident Permit Parking Zone – Poplar Street / Sycamore Street, Ashington**

The consultation for the above proposed scheme carried out earlier this year, proved inconclusive. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that there is still a need for the scheme to help alleviate the indiscriminate parking in this area.

**Your Opinion and Decision**

Councillor Wilson has requested I write one final time to canvass resident opinion on this scheme. Please complete the attached freepost response form and return. By Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A final decision on the scheme will be made shortly after this date.

**Resident Parking Zone**

Signs at the entry to the street would dictate where Resident Permit Parking is in operation. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit, equivalent to £1.25 per month). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for residents and one for visitor parking.

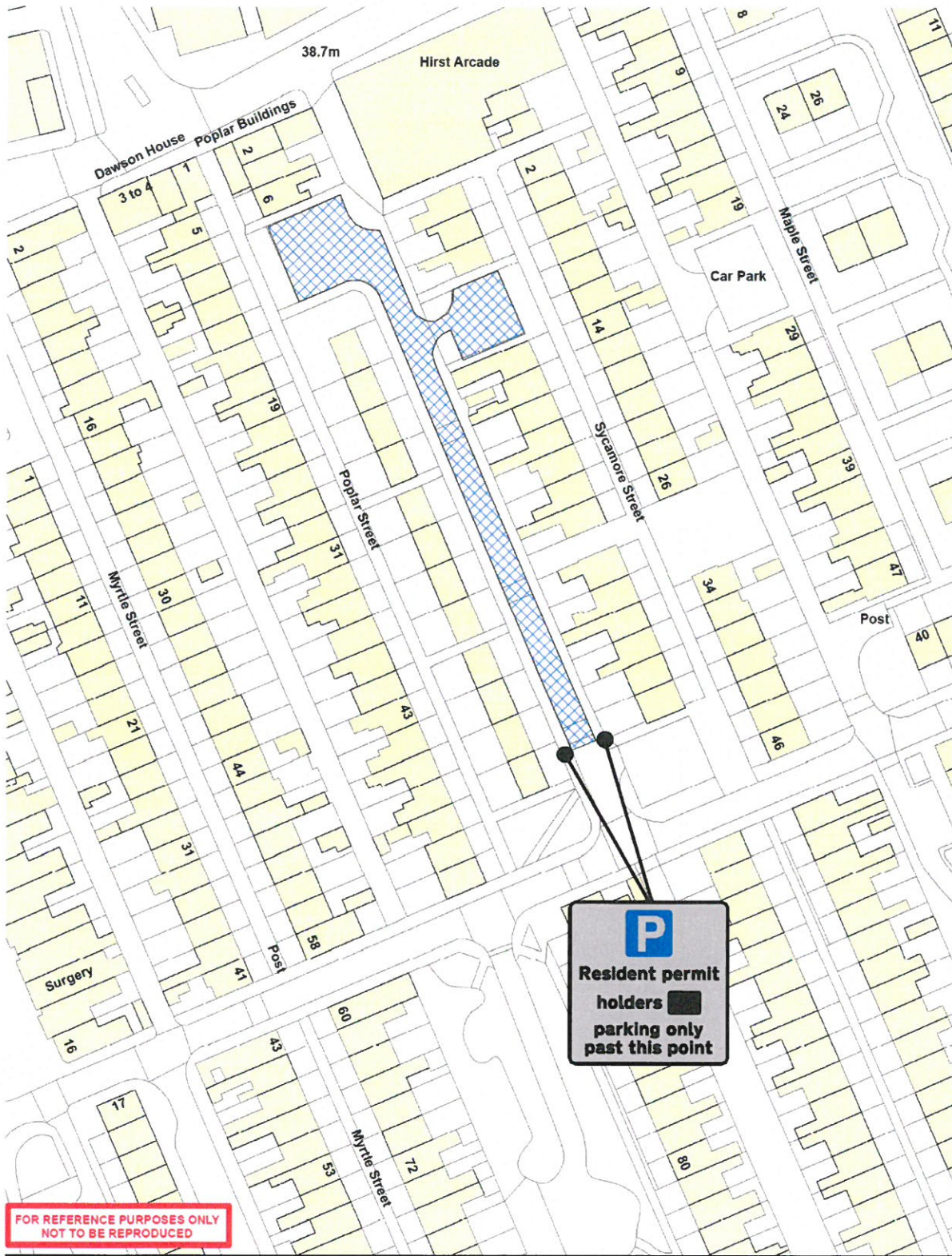
I would urge you to take this final opportunity to respond on this important matter which affects the area where you live.

Yours faithfully



**Traffic Safety Team**





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**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Forpeth  
Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000

**Network Management  
Information System**

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Title:		
Dm:	Date:	Scale:

PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING ZONE,  
POPLAR STREET / SYCAMORE STREET,  
ASHINGTON.

 EXTENTS OF ZONE

# APPENDIX D

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			It would be a good thing for permits as we sometimes can't get parked near our house. Also the man at No 6 at the top of the street has 4 or 5 cars parked in top bay and is always fixing them it's like a garage when he has all his gear out. But I doubt that he will be paying per vehicle.
1			Yes also cars are parking on First avenue on the left of our street and basically we are playing a game of Russian roulette because we can't see other cars coming the view is totally obscure this needs to be sorted.
1			
1			
1			Parking in front of gates mostly at weekends picking children from school the lane is full of cars ask one parent could she move had to go to Doctor told me to **** off said she had the right to park her car was taxed.
1			
1			Parking wardens required to visit street to ensure non abuse.
1			
1			Maybe because you are charging for the permit residents don't want to do it, but this lane is a disgrace with 100's of cars coming up daily and this has went on since these houses were built.
1			The parking outside my house is disgusting, they block peoples cars in their drives without a second thought.
1			This area needs a permit scheme to sort the issues out in this street. At times it is near gridlock with some drivers unable to move out of the street in a safe manner.
1			
	1		This would be detrimental to my business, so I am strongly against residential parking. This would further diminish trading in Ashington.
	1		
12	2	0	