

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS WELL CLOSE SQUARE, BERWICK

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding proposed parking restrictions on Well Close Square in Berwick

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Parking restrictions are introduced on Well Close Square as proposed.

Key Issues

1. Scheme being funded by LTP
2. Scheme supported by Councillor Gavin Jones
3. Location has been identified as a problem area by Parking Services
4. Removes vehicular obstruction from crossing point and entrance to the Berwick Infirmary

Report Author

Dan Fraser - Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)
(01670) 624125
Daniel.Fraser@northumberland.gov.uk

BACKGROUND

1. Concerns have been raised by Parking Services about obstructions at crossing points on Well Close Square. It has been reported that vehicles are parking across the dropped kerb crossing on Well Close Square at its junction with the Berwick Infirmary. This is resulting in obstruction to pedestrians wishing to cross the road at the designated crossing point and vehicles entering the Berwick Infirmary. The introduction of the parking restriction will improve road safety and improve visibility by removing obstruction at the crossing point.

CONSULTATION

2. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 15 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).
3. The consultation exercise ended on 20th November 2015 and responses were received from 2 consultees, with one in favour and one consultee did not express a preference. A summary of the responses is attached an appendix B.
4. The North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee that responded and they did not express a preference.

COMMENTS

5. The only comment we received from a resident who was in favour of the proposal stated "Provided it does not have any impact on Hospital services". The new restrictions will improve the access to the hospital by keeping the junction of the hospital and Well Close Square clear.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 result of the consultation exercise shows that the majority of the residents who responded support the proposals. It is therefore recommended that the proposed parking 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

Appendix B - Summary of Responses

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded by the LTP
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Inconsiderate parking issues at crossing point and junction to Hospital.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will remove inconsiderate parking in the area, promoting a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	None
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Berwick Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Berwick North

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed parking restrictions Well Close Square in Berwick

Consultation

2 Responses

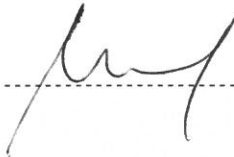
1 For

1 Neither

Decision Taken:

Introduce parking restrictions as proposed.

Signature of Director



Date

28/01/16.

Appendix A –
Copy of
Consultation
Letter

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE152316-08

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Dan Fraser

Direct Line: 01670 624125

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Friday 9th October 2015

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Well Close Square, Berwick

Concerns have been raised by Parking Services about obstructions at crossing points on Well Close Square. It has been reported that vehicles are parking across the dropped kerb crossing point on Well Close Square at its junction with the hospital. This is causing obstruction to pedestrians wishing to cross the road at the designated crossing point. A “No Waiting at Any Time” parking restriction (double yellow line) is therefore proposed on the north side of Well Close Square to alleviate these concerns. It is anticipated the introduction of the restriction will improve road safety by removing obstruction at the crossing point and improving visibility.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed introduction of a “No Waiting at Any Time” parking restriction on Well Close Square, 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 Friday 20th November 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

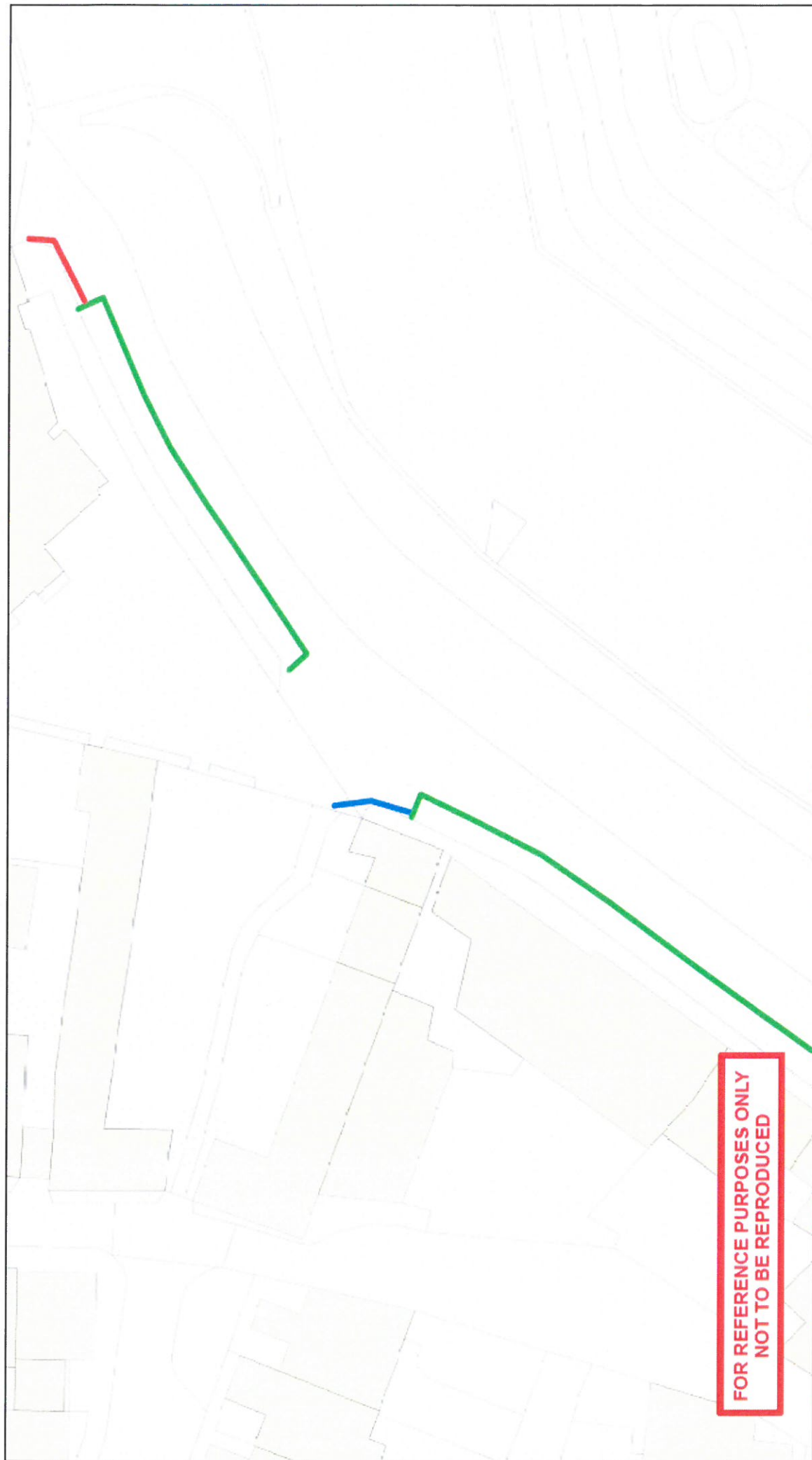
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



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Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

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

**Network Management
Information System**

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Title:
Well Close Square, Berwick
Proposed Parking Restrictions

Drn:

Date:

Scale:

KEY

Existing Bays

Existing "No waiting at
any time" restriction

Proposed "No waiting at
any time" restriction

Appendix B - Summary of Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
		1	Thank you for your letter dated 9th October 2015 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as a 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-patients appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
1			Provided there is no impact to hospital services

