

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

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### **PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS WANSBECK ROAD, ASHINGTON 18th April 2016**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed parking restrictions on Wansbeck Road in Ashington.

#### **Recommendations**

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

1. It is recommended that the following parking restrictions are introduced on Wansbeck Road in Ashington: - No Waiting at any time (Double Yellow Lines).

#### **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 Lynne Grimshaw

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Report Author

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## **BACKGROUND**

1. Concerns have been identified to Councillor Grimshaw by residents on a number of occasions with regard to the indiscriminate parking in the area
2. It is proposed to introduce "No Waiting at any time" in this area
3. This would help reduce congestion and improve traffic flow

## **CONSULTATION**

4. This proposal was the subject of a consultation exercise, conducted on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 57 residents and 24 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).
5. The consultation exercise ended on 11th March 2016 and responses were received from 27 consultees, with 21 in favour and 4 against and 2 neither for nor against the proposed measures. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.

## **COMMENTS**

6. The results of the consultation demonstrated residents were clearly in favour of the proposal.
7. Councillor Grimshaw was notified of the results of the consultation and confirms she wishes to proceed with the proposal, which will be funded through his allocation in the Members' Local Improvements Programme.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. It is clear from the results of the consultation, there was an encouraging majority support for the proposal to introduce a "No waiting at any time" restrictions on Wansbeck Road Ashington.
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.

## **File References**

S:\Highways\PROJECT\13\HO13 Members Schemes\HO135684\_Wansbeck Road\_  
ASHINGTON\_Grimshaw

## **Appendix Index**

Appendix A – Consultation - Copy of Consultation Letter

Appendix B - Consultation - Summary of Responses

## Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Members' Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor Lynne Grimshaw
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Introduction of Parking Restrictions
Crime & Disorder	Indiscriminate parking and obstruction
Customer Considerations	Scheme is anticipated to improve safety and traffic flow 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	Bothal

## DECISION TAKEN

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

Director of Local Services and Housing

**Subject:**

Proposed "No waiting at any time" parking restriction

**Consultation**

27 Responses  
21 For  
4 Against  
2 Neither for nor against

**Decision Taken:**

Introduce parking restrictions as proposed.

**Signature of Director**



**Date**

28/4/16

## Northumberland County Council

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The Occupier

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Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Proposed 'No Waiting' Restrictions – Wansbeck Road, Ashington**

For some time the parking issues, traffic flow and the poor visibility at junctions caused by indiscriminate parking at school times have concerned many residents of Wansbeck Road. Residents have previously been consulted on various proposals to alleviate these problems, but they have failed to meet with the approval of the majority of residents who responded.

At the request of residents on Wansbeck Road, and with the support of your Local Council Member, Lynne Grimshaw, officers of the County Council are now proposing the introduction of a 'No Waiting At Any Time' restriction on Wansbeck Road and at the junctions with its surrounding streets, details can be found on the attached plan.

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 'No Waiting At Any Time' restriction at Wansbeck Road 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 all 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 11th March 2016**. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

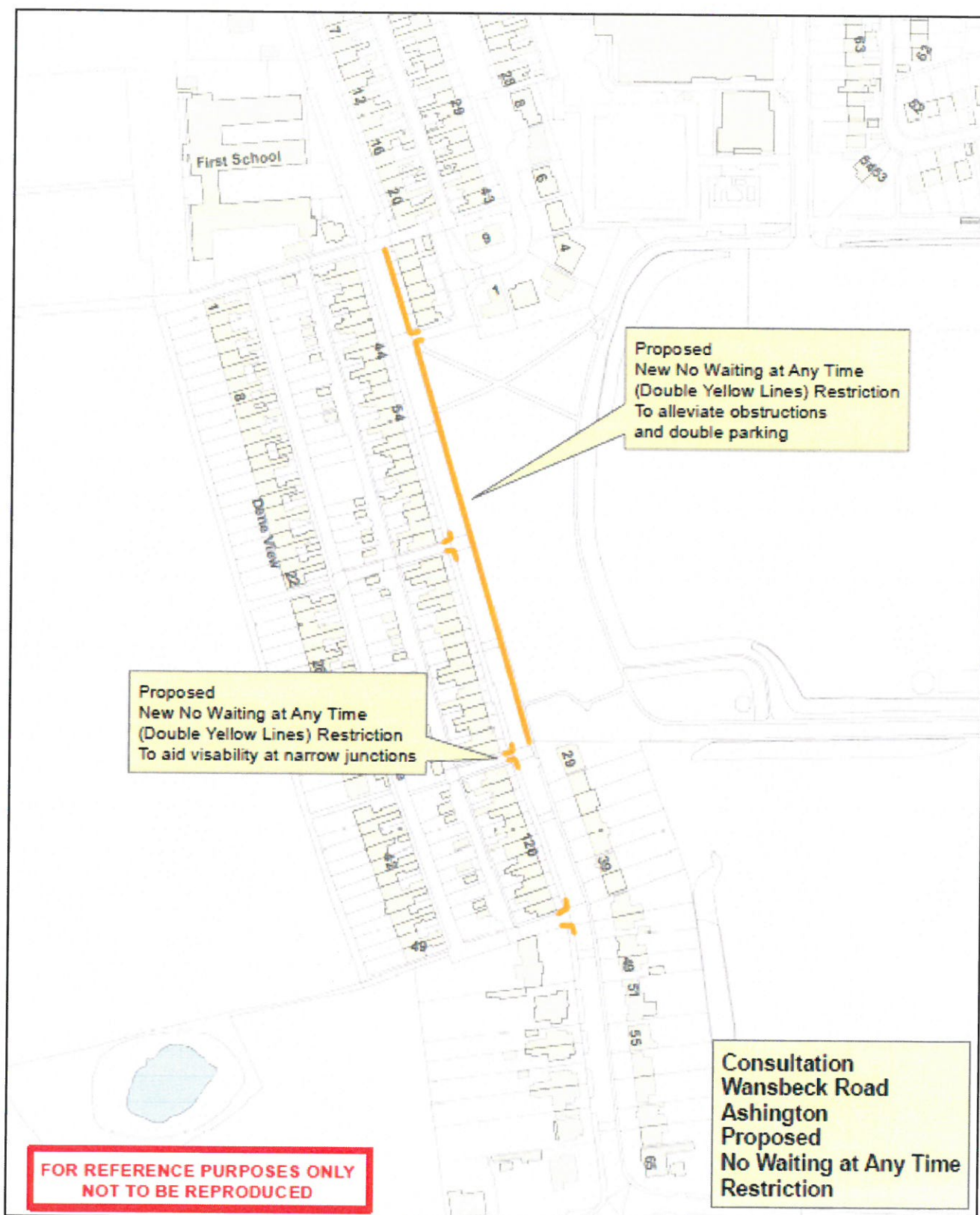
**I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.**

Yours faithfully



Terry Luck  
Programmes Officer





<p><b>NORTHUMBERLAND</b> Northumberland County Council</p>	<p>Network Management Information System</p>			<p>Title:</p>		
<p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 530000</p>	<p>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. Licence no: 100049068 (2009)</p>			<p>Drn:</p>	<p>Date: Feb 2016</p>	<p>Scale:</p>

# APPENDIX B

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			no comments
1			I fully support the introduction of the no waiting restriction on this road. It is long overdue. Pedestrians are unable to use the footpath at school times due to the indiscriminate parking by parents when there is a free car park nearby.
1			It's a accident waiting to happen, it's almost impossible to see at the junctions when I'm trying to get to work, I hope this won't make the back street worse than it already is, a few times I've not been able to get out of the gate as cars have parked up on the path.
	1		I'm in favour of stopping school runs taking over my life twice daily but the parents of such precious commodities will only park in back lanes behind Wansbeck Road and into Dene View. This will push problem from Main Road into personal space of residents and will result in conflicts between 'school runners' and residents when garages / access to homes is blocked. This already happens now! So only if a scheme is in place to stop this happening, will I agree.
		1	As a resident I have some concerns. These are, will the no waiting push cars into the back street where we already get a significant amount of school traffic. On a day off work recently, I returned home at afternoon school time and was unable to even get in the back street! Who will police this? Despite being unable to par in the back street at the present time, school traffic does so because it is not policed. Residents receive verbal abuse on a daily basis from parents in the back street.
1			The sooner the better! Also in the back lane behind the short block of house 23-28 Wansbeck Road should be restricted to residents only (as we cannot park in front of our own homes). This back lane also gets congested at school drop off and pick up times, including people parking in front of residents garage doors!
1			The sooner the better - someone is going to be seriously hurt.
1			
		1	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.
1			We have a genuine concern that this proposal will simply result in those uncaring & persistent offenders will park their vehicles at the back of Wansbeck Road, Dene View, Morven Terrace etc. For this scheme to work properly we need to take another look at implementing a <u>Residents</u> Parking permit scheme. Parents dropping off school children in the area need to make use of the parking facilities of the former Ashington Leisure centre at institute Road End.
1			I have to in principal support these proposals because of the problems with traffic in the mornings and afternoons caused by parking at school drop off & collection times. However I must express some concerns on my own, I live at an end terrace house which will now be subjected to additional yellow lines restriction. it is not practical to park my car at the rear of the property, because of the junction, if these restrictions are to extend to the front of my property then this will seriously affect me. The junction between myself and 108 is often regularly used for parking by allotment holders and the width of the road is not designed for parking. The refuse collection uses this junction and would not be able to collect a bin if cars are parked.
1			none
1			Hopefully with yellow lines in place the inconsiderate car owners will not start ignoring the access only signs and park in the back of Wansbeck Road and Dene View. I would like to think that traffic wardens or the community police could attend the streets to discourage this.
	1		
1			
1			Thank you very much for inviting me to assist in painting the yellow line. I assume any expenses incurred will have 'the gully factor' included. Will it qualify for 'lunch' expenses?
1			
1			We fully support and approve this proposal to alleviate the traffic problem on Wansbeck Road, we hope that this parking restriction will be enforced, as the current 20mph limit is frequently exceeded, and the 'access only' to the rear of Wansbeck Road is frequently disregarded by some of the parents on the 'school run'. Parents should be encouraged to park in the now little used old leisure centre car park in the people's park. Double yellow lines as proposed seems to be the most realistic way to help traffic flow at school times without causing any problems for residents. We hope that this proposal will be approved and implemented as soon as possible.
1			



1		While I can see the advantage of double yellow lines to keep traffic moving along Wansbeck Road it does not solve the problems of the residents of Wansbeck Road and Dene View. School parking and pick up times are a nightmare, which I hope will be eased somewhat by the double yellow lines at the junctions. Exiting at these points has been a nightmare for years, as the 20mph speed limit is totally ignored, as are the signs prohibiting parking in the back lanes. Which may increase when restrictions begin. Many residents believe the only solution is to have wardens on duty issuing tickets, an option that has never been tried. Whatever solution is decided upon, residents need support and assistance before there is a serious accident.
1		
1		It would be good if parents could be encouraged to park in the old leisure centre car park (perhaps a letter from the school). This would greatly alleviate parking around the streets and danger to other drivers and people alike.
1		Regarding the 2 southern entrances/exits to/from rear of Wansbeck Road, opposite No's 29-39, I have noticed during the day and at night. I feel that this is a danger to drivers and pedestrians because there is very little room for two cars to pass never mind larger vehicles and little footpath. This is not related to the school run. Personally I would extend the double yellow lines to all entry/exits to rear of Wansbeck road because it is a dangerous place to park.
1		We did support the 'Residents only' parking proposal however we believe that this would alleviate a lot of the problems and congestion around school times. However, this will only work if it is enforced, as we are under no illusion whatsoever that some parents will continue to park in these areas on the double yellow lines. We would expect that the school would send letters to all parents advising that there is a large mostly vacant car park at the leisure centre now which should be used.
	1	The new no waiting double yellow lines will only push the problem into the back lanes of Wansbeck Road or Dene View and will lead to more confrontation in the back lanes for the residents. I know this is only at school times but these people are just so inconsiderate and don't care where they park. Our back lanes are quite narrow. There is a large telegraph pole in the back lane of Wansbeck Road and they park beside it which in turn stops any other traffic going up or down the lane. The cheek and bad language we get from these people is a disgrace. There is a large car park in the people's park not five minutes' walk away. All traffic coming to Wansbeck School should be made to use that car park.
1		I wholeheartedly agree with the proposals for double yellow lines on Wansbeck Road and the junctions with its surrounding streets. My only concern is where I and 5 other families live. We live in the small block on Wansbeck Road, just down from Wansbeck School opposite side no's 23-28 inclusive. At the back of our houses the parking is absolutely horrendous, people park outside our garages, double gates, preventing us getting our cars out, they park across from us on pavements often bumper to bumper, and when questioned they think they have the right to park there, often hurling abuse back but there are signs up saying access only, but this is totally ignored. This has been going on for the 7 years I have lived here and the council/councillors have known this, so please on your next consultation spare a thought for us, as it is demoralising, especially when you come home from work and can't get parked!
	1	We agree it would be a good idea for restriction at junctions. However, the restrictions opposite our houses are a greater concern. Where do you suppose these cars will be parked? In our back lanes, where there is already illegal parking - sometimes blocking access to our garages. There is an empty car park now the old leisure centre has closed. This is a perfect place for parents taking their children to school and only a short walk to the Wansbeck School. Unless your proposals are patrolled by police or traffic wardens they will be useless and the indiscriminating parking will continue.
21	4	2

