



Northumberland County Council

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

**PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS
GUIDE POST SQUARE**

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to the existing advisory Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Places and introduce time limited parking to existing parking bays on Olympia Avenue in Guide Post.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) The three Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Places around Guide Post Square (one at Cleasewell Hill, one at Broadway and one at The Square), will each have a Traffic Regulation Order introduced.
- 2) The existing parking bays on Olympia Avenue should remain unrestricted.

Key Issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by LTP.
- 2) Abuse of the advisory Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Place around Guide Post Square results in disabled driver's being unable to park conveniently close to local amenities.
- 3) The scheme is supported by Councillor David Ledger

Report Author

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Background

1. Concerns have been raised by Councillor David Ledger, local residents and Parking Services regarding abuse of the advisory Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Places around Guide Post Square. It has been reported that non-Blue Badge Holders are abusing the advisory Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Places. The introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order will allow enforcement by Northumberland County Council Civil Enforcement Officers. Therefore, it has been proposed that a Traffic Regulation Order be introduced to the existing advisory Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Place at The Square, Broadway and Cleaswell Hill.
2. Councillor Ledger has requested that consideration be given to the introduction of time limited parking bays outside the Healthy Living Centre on Olympia Avenue in order to improve business turnover.

Consultation

3. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 35 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).
4. The consultation exercise concluded on Friday 8th July and responses were received from 8 consultees with three being in favour and 4 against of the proposal, and 1 consultee did not indicate a preference. (See Appendix B).

Comments

5. One consultee indicated how unfair it was that a driver can be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice for over staying in the time limited bays, but if a non-blue badge holder parks in the disabled bay, a Penalty Charge Notice will not be issued.
6. One consultee stated that the 2 hour time limit was not long enough for their clients and if implemented would affect their business.
7. A number of consultees suggested that there was insufficient parking for residents and businesses at present without introducing more parking restrictions

Conclusion

8. 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 who responded did not support the proposals for time limited waiting, but from the comments received, it showed that there was support for the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to the advisory Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Places. It is therefore recommended that the Traffic Regulation Orders for the Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking

Place restriction be introduced, while the existing parking bays on Olympia Avenue will remain unrestricted.

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.

Appendix Index

Appendix A – Copy of Consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses
Appendix C – Agreed Restrictions

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded by LTP
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Place at Guide Post Square
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	Choppington Parish Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the county councillor for the area.
Wards	Choppington

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed parking restriction in Guide Post Square

Consultation

8 Responses

3 For

4 Against

1 Neither

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of three Disabled Blue Badge Holder Parking Places around Guide Post Square (one at Cleasewell Hill, one at Broadway and one at The Square). The existing parking bays on Olymlia Avenue should remain unrestricted.

Signature of Director

D. A. Lowe

Date

28/07/16

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

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• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

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Wednesday 25th May 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Guide Post Square

Representatives of the County Council have been working with Councillor David Ledger to consider the introduction of a new Traffic Regulation Order on the existing advisory disabled parking provision around Guide Post Square. It has been reported that the advisory disabled parking bays are being abused by non-Blue Badge Holders and the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order would allow enforcement of these disabled bays by Northumberland County Council Civil Enforcement Officers. Therefore, it is proposed to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order to the existing advisory disabled parking bays at The Square, Broadway and Cleaswell Hill. Additionally, a request to consider introducing Time Limited Parking, 8am - 6pm, 2 hours, No return within 1 hour, to the existing parking bays outside the Healthy Living Centre on Olympia Avenue has been proposed to assist in improving business turnover in the area.

I am therefore writing formally in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to ask for your comments on the proposals as above and shown on the enclosed plan. The proposal is being considered preserving or improving the amenities in the area.

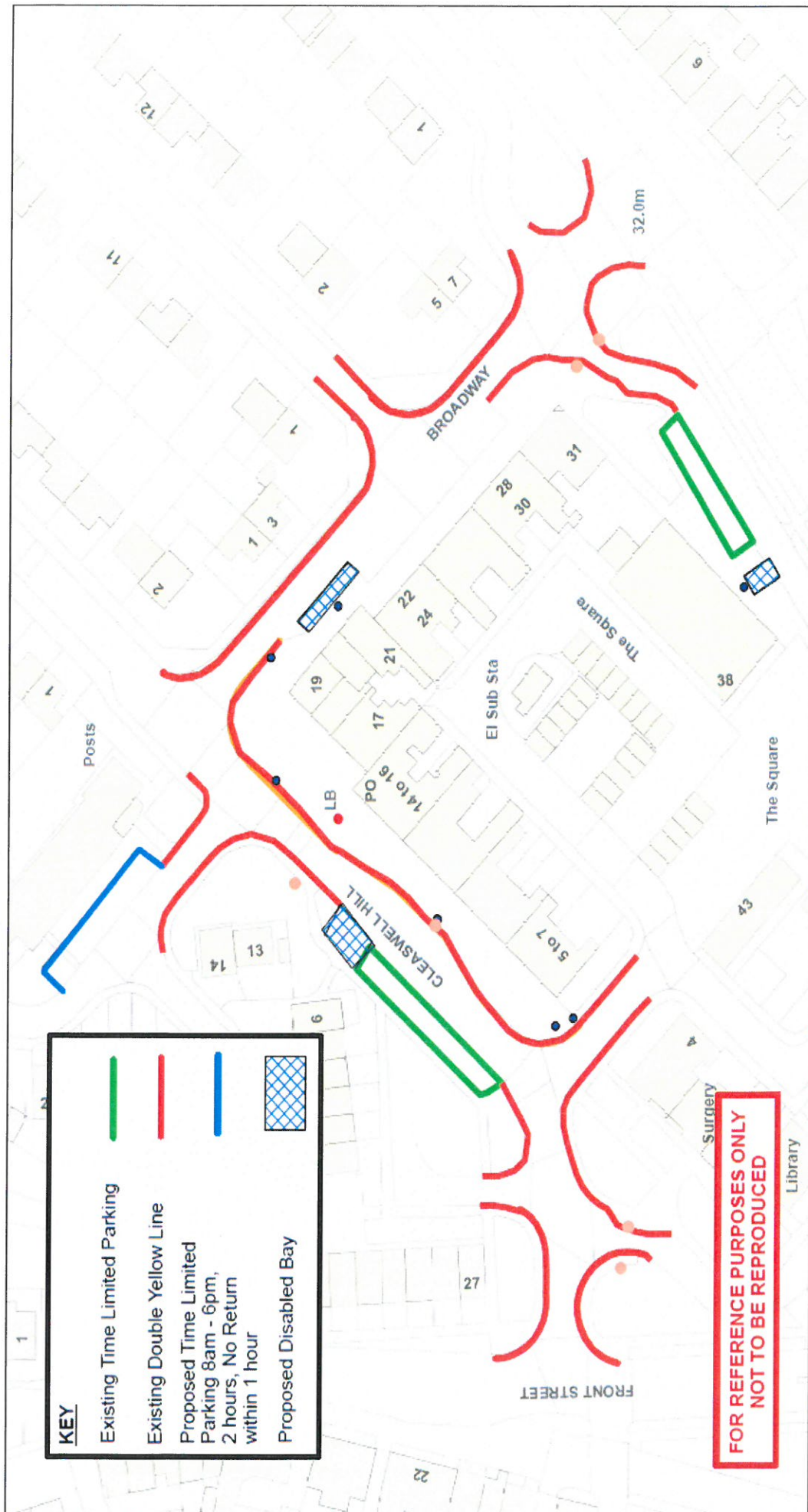
A freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. I would welcome a reply by Friday 8th July 2016. If no comments are received by that date it will be assumed that you do not wish to make any representations regarding the above proposal. Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to all individual comments but staff will be on hand to clarify any queries you may have. You may also wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report and may be available for public inspection.

Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to this consultation online.

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser
Programme Officer (Highway Safety)

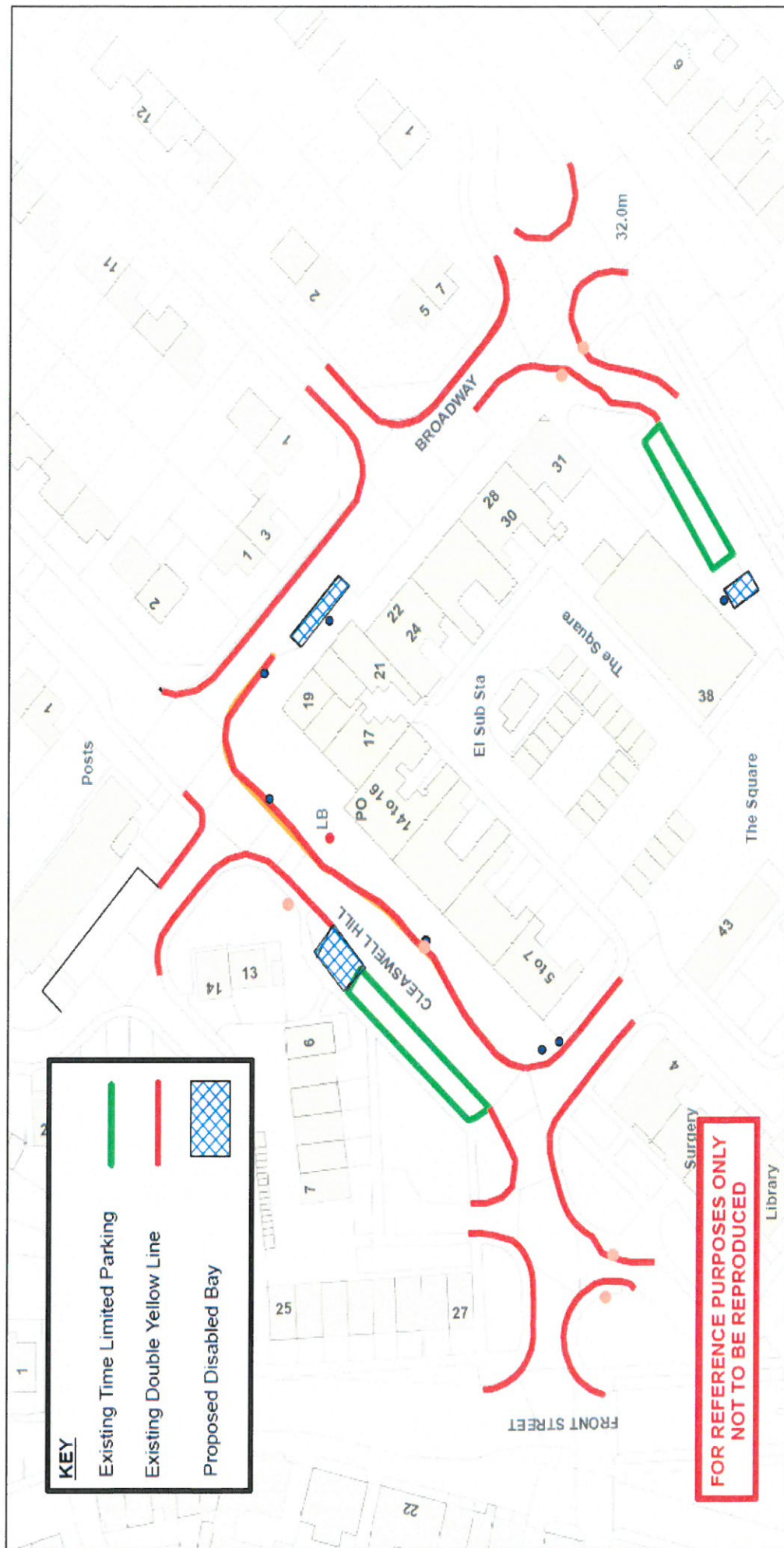


<p>Northumberland Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Newcastle Northumberland NE1 2EF Tel: 01670 533000</p>	<p>Network Management Information System</p> <p><small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey. The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office is not responsible for any errors or omissions. Unauthorised reproduction may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence no. 100046044 (2008).</small></p>	<p>Title: Guide Post Square Proposed Parking Restrictions</p>
	<p>Drm:</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>Scale:</p>

Appendix B - Summary of Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			The restrictions are long overdue for the disabled bays. At present a driver can be penalised for overstay but if they park in a disabled bay we can not do anything about it. Very unfair. The extra limited waiting bays will benefit the shops for turn over of traffic which should only assist the businesses
		1	Thank you for your letter dated 25th May 2016 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposa. 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		
1			
1			We agree to this proposals. Better and bigger signs would be required. More policing of the area is essential. It is no good putting new measures in place with the threat of penalty if no one is there to give out the penalty notice. The appearance of a civil enforcement officer every few weeks for half an hour is no deterrent to the members of the public you are trying to target. We also suggest that parking permits be free to each commercial unit that is trading on the square as we need provision to park as part of our daily work.
	1		Where are people who work on the square supposed to park?
	1		As a resident I don't agree with that is proposed. I am a driver but due to constant damage to my vehicle was forced to give my car up. I do however sometimes hire a car in school holidays etc to take my kids out. Due to the 2 hour restriction and everywhere being double yellow lines I have nowhere else to park expect outside of the healthy living centre as the council will not allow me to have a permit as I am not on the registration documents yet I'm still the one using the hire car and need to park it somewhere when I'm in my home, the council are not considering the residents at all in their proposals and I feel you need to reconsider how this effects them before stopping them from any parking rights altogether.
	1		As a worried business owner I feel the proposed parking restrictions will start affecting the small businesses of Guidepost. Running a Hairdressers some of my clients come for perms and colours which are lengthy treatments up to 2 hours sometimes. Which is worrying for getting them out on time as some of them are elderly and use waking aids. And sometimes these treatments can run over. I also am concerned for my staff where are they meant to park. We work a 8 hour shift and yet it is a 2 hour restriction. I have spoke to all the shops and everyone is saying the same thing it is going to cause problems.
3	4	1	

Appendix C – Agreed Restrictions



<p>Northumberland Northumberland County Council</p>	<p>Network Management Information System</p>	<p>Title: Guide Post Square Proposed Parking Restrictions</p>
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