

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders in the Middle Greens Area of Morpeth

7th July 2016

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in the Middle Greens Area of Morpeth.

Proposal

- Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) on Goose Hill, Tenter Terrace, Alexandra Road, West Greens, Armstrong Terrace, Burt Terrace and U6114 West Greens/Alexandra Road Back Lane.
- Amendment of the existing traffic regulation order on Goose Hill, Morpeth from No waiting at Any Time restriction (double yellow lines) to timed school keep clear proposed restrictions (yellow Zig Zag Lines)
- Modification of the No waiting at Any Time restriction (double yellow lines) on the north side of Goose Hill, Morpeth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. It is recommended that as a result of the canvass exercise the Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) should **not** be introduced on Goose Hill, Tenter Terrace, Alexandra Road, West Greens, Armstrong Terrace, Burt Terrace and U6114 West Greens/Alexandra Road Back Lane as proposed.
2. It is recommended that due to traffic safety concerns the amendment of the traffic regulation order on Goose Hill, Morpeth from No waiting at any time parking restriction to timed school keep clear proposed parking restrictions and the modification of the No waiting at any time parking restriction on the north side of Goose Hill, Morpeth, should proceed as proposed.
3. It is also recommended to make a Minor Amendment to Traffic Regulation Order to prevent obstructions to School Entrance due to road safety concerns.

Key Issues

1. This area has been subject to indiscriminate parking over a long period of time, causing congestion and traffic safety concerns, primarily at peak school times.
2. Residents experience difficulties in parking in front of their properties.
3. The scheme was proposed and to be funded by Councillors David Bawn and Ian Lindley.
4. Both Councillors Bawn and Lindley are in agreement with the recommendations
5. Safety concerns regarding parents parking directly outside the school causing obstruction and congestion

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BACKGROUND

1. Concerns had been identified to Councillors Bawn and Lindley by residents and the Town Council on a number of occasions with regard to the indiscriminate parking in the area and congestion adjacent to the Goosehill School.
2. It was proposed to introduce Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) in this area on an experimental basis.
3. It was also proposed to amend the existing parking restrictions outside Goose Hill Primary School to encourage parents not to park near the entrance of the school. It was anticipated this would help reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and promote child safety.
4. It was recommended to make an Experimental Order. Making an experimental order as a precursor to a permanent order can have material benefits, as well as being more cost effective and flexible in approach (allowing e.g. for immediate feedback and minor changes) than a permanent or temporary order. This Order was introduced on the 1st December 2015 and became fully operational early 2016.
5. Following initial feedback from residents and businesses it was decided to amend the original proposal to include an element to provide 20 minute parking no return 4 hours, within the RPZ scheme in order to provide a 'drop off' parking facility primarily for parents taking children to and from school and nursery.
6. During the consultation process, the Goose Hill Primary School Headteacher requested that the existing No Waiting At Any Time restriction at the entrance to the school (adjacent to Tenter Terrace) be extended to include the 'bell mouth', together with a supplementary 'Keep Clear' road marking.

This is to combat indiscriminate parking and obstruction of the school entrance, which has for some time caused road safety concerns for the school staff and their pupils. This could be carried out with a minor amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order. In view of the road safety concerns further consultation would not be required and notification would be made via the Traffic Regulation Order legal advertisement. (See Appendix E).

FEEDBACK EXERCISE

7. The original proposals for the experimental order were subject to a feedback exercise, conducted from the 2nd November 2015. This involved the delivery of 100 explanatory letters to residents and 23 statutory bodies, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the explanatory letter (see Appendix A).

8. The feedback exercise was scheduled to run for 12 months but was concluded on 5th April 2016 at the request of Councillors Bawn and Lindley in order to gauge current perspective from residents and road users. Responses were received from 37 consultees, with 2 in favour and 31 against and 4 neither for nor against the proposal. Please note: for the purposes of this exercise duplicate responses from the same residents/business were treated as one response. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.

POST IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTATION

9. At the request of Councillors Bawn and Lindley, the experimental order was the subject of an extensive post implementation consultation exercise, conducted on the 18th April 2016. In order to gauge opinion on the proposals from residents of Middle Greens area both inside and outside the RPZ.
10. 100 letters were delivery to residents of the Middle Greens area, Morpeth, who had been included **INside** the streets covered by the experimental order.
11. 211 letters were delivered to residents of Middle Greens area, Morpeth who lived in streets which were **OUTside** but adjacent to the original experimental order.
12. A plan showing the two areas is attached together with a copy of both canvass letters (**INside**) and (**OUTside**) (see Appendix C).
13. This consultation exercise ended on 6th May 2016
14. From the 100 residents which were **INside** the scheme, responses were received from 27 consultees, with 17 in favour and 10 against the experimental parking restrictions
15. From the 211 residents which were **OUTside** the scheme, responses were received from 53 consultees, with 33 in favour and 20 against the current experimental order 35 wishing to be included in the scheme and 18 against inclusion.
16. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix D

COMMENTS

17. The results of this consultation showed a small majority of residents were in favour of the proposal compared to the number responding. However, both Councillor Bawn and Lindley agreed in view of the small number of responses, that overall there was insufficient support for proceeding with the RPZ and it would be inappropriate to impose the scheme on the vast majority of residents of Middle Greens.

18. Comments indicated rejection of the proposal for a range of reasons including, it would affect church attendance, and unwillingness to pay for a permit and the School needs to resolve the problem instead of the residents being restricted.
19. Councillor Bawn and Lindley were notified of the results of the consultation and confirmed that based on the evidence presented, they do not wish to continue with the experimental traffic regulation order with respect to the Resident Parking Zone element. They do wish to retain the improved parking restrictions at the entrance to Goose Hill Primary School. However, Councillors Bawn, Lindley and officers will continue to monitor the area and take forward information received via the Directory of Requests where appropriate

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. In view of the results of the consultation and the wishes of Councillors Bawn and Lindley it is recommended **not** to proceed with the proposal to introduce a Residents Parking Zone.
21. It is recommended that the School Keep Clear restrictions (Yellow Zig Zag Lines) be made permanent in line with Northumberland County Council policy on road safety outside of schools, together with minor amendments to No Waiting At Any Time restrictions (double yellow lines). Anecdotal evidence suggests these changes are already demonstrating the desired effect of a safer environment for road users and increased traffic flow a peak times.
22. It is also recommended to carry out the minor amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order, to the entrance to the school, as detailed in paragraph 6 of this report.
23. 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

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MORPETH

Appendix Index

Appendix A – Feedback Exercise - Copy of Information Letters

Appendix B – Feedback Exercise - Summary of Responses

Appendix C – Post implementation Consultation - Copy of Consultation Letters

Appendix D - Post implementation Consultation - Summary of Responses

Appendix E – Minor Amendment – Adjacent to Goose Hill Primary School

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Members' Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor David Bawn and Ian Lindley
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	Morpeth Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillors for the area.
Wards	Morpeth North & Morpeth Stobhill

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed 'Resident Parking Zone', the extension School Keep Clear restrictions (Yellow Zig Zag Lines) and minor modification to existing No Waiting At Any Time restrictions (Double Yellow Lines)

Consultation IN

27 Responses
17 For
10 Against
0 Neither for nor against

Consultation OUT (Option 1)

53 Responses
33 For
20 Against
0 Neither for nor against


Consultation OUT (Option 2)

53 Responses
35 For
18 Against
0 Neither for nor against

Decision Taken:

- a) To discontinue and remove the residential parking zone (RPZ) scheme element of the experimental order
- b) To make permanent the amended No waiting At Any Time restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) and the School Keep Clear restrictions (Yellow Zig Zag Lines) as per the experimental order.
- c) To make a Minor Amendment to the existing Traffic Regulation Order at the entrance to Goose Hill Primary School

Signature of Director



Date

12/7/16

Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO135571
Your Ref:
Contact: Terry Luck
Direct Line: 01670 624128
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Monday 2nd November 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders in the Middle Greens Area of Morpeth

Concerns have been raised by residents of Middle Greens area of Morpeth about indiscriminate parking. Local Councillors have also expressed their concerns and have agreed to fund the introduction of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in this area; its aim is to aid traffic flows and allow greater enforcement.

Summary of Restrictions

A summary of the restrictions to be introduced is enclosed, together with a scheme plan. This details; the streets affected, the restriction to be imposed, responsibility for enforcement and further information on the restriction to be introduced

Timescales

Legal Notices will be advertised in the coming weeks, with scheme to be introduced in December 2015.

Prior to the introduction of the Order, Parking Services will write to all households eligible for a Resident Parking Permit, this will be free of charge for the duration of the Experimental Order.

The Experimental Order will be in place for a minimum of 12 months (subject to feedback received).

What is an Experimental Order?

Making an experimental order as a precursor to a permanent order can have material benefits. As well as be a more cost effective and flexible in approach (allowing e.g. for immediate feedback and minor changes) than a permanent or temporary order.

Funding

This experimental scheme is being jointly funded by Cllr. Ian Lindley and Cllr. David Bawn either Councillor can be contacted if you require further information.

Councillor David Bawn 31 Villas St Marys Hospital, Stannington, NE61 6AT Telephone : 01670 789971 or 07947 248220 Email: David.Bawn@northumberland.gov.uk	Councillor: Councillor Ian Lindley 12 Simonside View, Rothbury, NE65 7YQ Telephone : 07833293718 Email: Ian.Lindley@northumberland.gov.uk
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Feedback

Unlike a Permanent Order where a formal consultation is undertaken, the experimental order is, as detailed above a more flexible approach. In this case we would welcome your views and feedback throughout the duration of this experiment. In order to collate information and make an informed decision at the end of this experiment.

Please either email to HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk or write to:

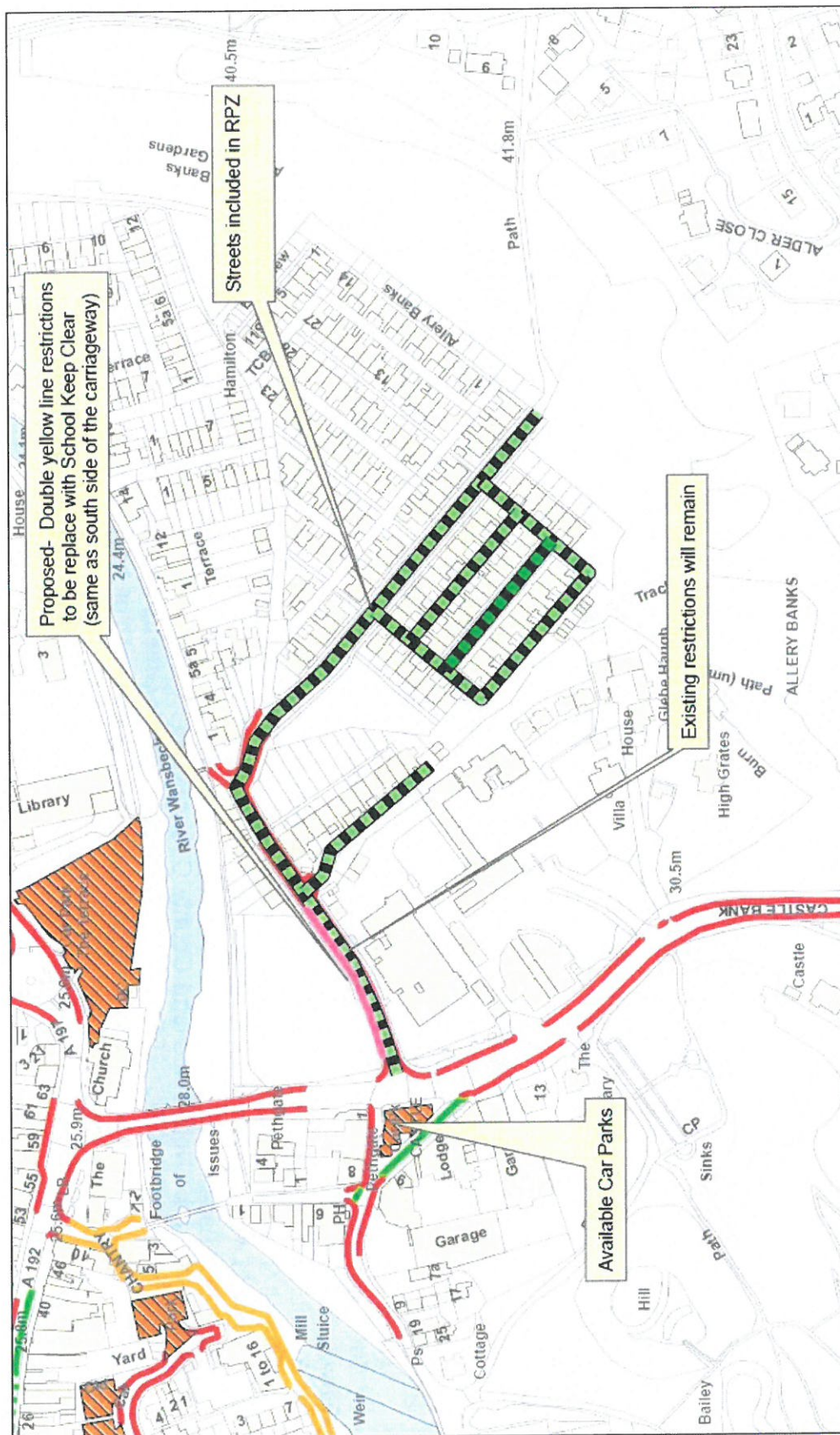
Northumberland County Council, Programme & Production Team, Technical Services, Sustainable Transport (Middle Greens Morpeth Experimental Order 2015), County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments.

Yours faithfully



Terry Luck
Programme Officer



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NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

<p>Northumberland Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 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 on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction in any form is prohibited. Licence No. 100049648 2020.</small></p>	<p>Title: Proposed Experimental Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) Middle Greens Morpeth</p>
	<p>Dm:</p>	<p>Date: Oct 15 Scale: NTS</p>

Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders in the Middle Greens Area of Morpeth – Summary – 01 December 2015

In response to feedback received on the above scheme, Councillor Bawn and Councillor Lindley have requested Council Officers to prepare the following guidance.

Summary of Restrictions

A summary of the restrictions to be introduced is detailed below together with a plan, following initial feedback these include some minor amendments i.e. allow 20 minute limited waiting. This details the streets affected, the restriction to be imposed, responsibility for enforcement and further information on the restriction to be introduced

What is an Experimental Order?

Making an experimental order as a precursor to a permanent order can have material benefits. As well as be a more cost effective and flexible in approach (allowing e.g. for immediate feedback and minor changes) than a permanent or temporary order.

Timescales

1. The Waiting & Loading Restrictions (yellow lines and zig zag lines) will come into force on 1st December 2015. Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) and Limited Waiting will come into force as soon as the signage is in place (this is in the hands of our contractors and likely to be January 2016)
2. Prior to the introduction of the Order, Parking Services will write to all household eligible for a Resident Parking Permit, this will be free of charge for the duration of the Experimental Order.
3. The Experimental Order will be in place for a minimum of 12 months (subject to feedback received).

Review and Feedback

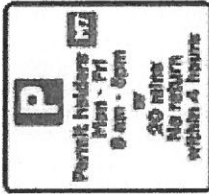

1. A review on the operation, effectiveness and feedback received on the scheme, will take place between Councillors and Council Officers after three months. Enabling sufficient time for the scheme to be in place and operating.
2. We would welcome feedback (both positive and negative) once the scheme is operational, to the following email address: highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk – marking the subject line – **Middle Greens Feedback**

Or in writing to: Northumberland County Council, Local Services & Housing, Technical Services, Traffic Safety Team
County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF - marking the letter – **Middle Greens Feedback**

Please note: all feedback received will be read and consider as part of the review process, however, as you will appreciate it we will be unable to respond to specific questions at this stage.

3. Officers will continue to monitor the scheme and surrounding area throughout this period.

The Restrictions to be introduced

Street/Location	Town	Description of Restriction		Comment
1. Goose Hill Tenter Terrace Alexandra Road West Greens Armstrong Terrace Burt Terrace U6114 West Greens/Alexandra Road Back Lane	Morpeth	Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) And Limited Waiting Parking 20 minutes no return within 4 hours (within the area of the Zone)		<p>a. Signs at the entry and exit to the street would dictate where Resident Permit Parking Zone is in operation</p> <p>b. To enable this scheme to become enforceable, residents will be provided with Resident Parking Permits. This will be free of charge for the duration of the Experimental period. (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. This would allow residents to park within the zone. Full details of the extent of the RPZ are provided on the enclosed plan)</p> <p>c. Enforcement by Northumberland County Council – Parking Services</p> <p>d. Limited Waiting Parking allows road users to stop for a short period. This enables a 'flow' of use, within the area of the Zone (as defined by the signage)</p>
2. Goose Hill	Morpeth	School Keep Clear (No Stopping Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm) (yellow zig- zag lines) And No Waiting at any time (Double Yellow Lines)		<p>a. School Keep Clear restriction to replace existing Double Yellow Lines on the north side of Goose Hill. This will mirror the restriction on the south side of the carriageway. Thereby creating a 'safe zone' where no stopping would be created, providing better visibility to both motorists and pedestrians.</p> <p>b. Minor amendments to existing Double Yellow Lines on the north side of Goose Hill to allow safer parking.</p> <p>c. Enforcement by Northumberland County Council – Parking Services</p>

December 2015

