

Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS RIVERSIDE ROAD, ALNMOUTH

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding additional parking restrictions on the south east side of Riverside Road in Alnmouth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Despite numerous objections, the "No Waiting at Any Time" parking restrictions (double yellow line) are introduced for a further 7 metres on the east side of Riverside Road. This will remove obstruction from the bend and leave enough space to accommodate the Ice Cream Van.

Key Issues

- 1. Scheme being funded by Councillor Heather Cairns.
- 2. The scheme will reduce indiscriminate parking in the area.
- 3. Supported by Councillor Cairns, Alnmouth Parish Council, Parking Services and all local residents who responded to the consultation.
- 4. The scheme will improve quality of life for local residents who deal with varying issues of indiscriminate parking on a daily basis.
- 5. Revised restrictions will not impact on the Ice Cream Van who has been spoken to on site.

Report Author

Dan Fraser - Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)

(01670) 624125

Daniel.Fraser@northumberland.gov.uk

BACKGROUND

1. Concerns have been raised by local residents, Alnmouth Parish Council and Councillor Heather Cairns regarding inconsiderate parking on Riverside Road. As such due to parking on both sides of the carriageway and on the bend, the two way traffic is becoming severely restricted. This has led to vehicles coming head to head once they are committed to diving along Riverside Road, resulting in vehicles reversing considerable lengths, either up or down the street to allow the free flow of traffic to resume. This is clearly unacceptable as it poses a risk to both pedestrians and motorists.

CONSULTATION

- 2. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 8 residents, 1 business 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).
- 3. The consultation exercise ended on 17th November 2015 and responses were received from 51 consultees with 9 in favour and 41 against the proposals. One response did not express any preference. A summary of the responses is attached an appendix B.
- 4. The North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee to respond. They did not indicate a preference for the scheme.

IN FAVOUR

- 5. The nine responses received that supported the proposals were all local residents of which eight reside on Riverside Road.
- 6. A number of consultees commented on the continual need to reverse when traffic comes head to head due to the lack of visibility down the street. This occurrence is also spawning antisocial behaviour when motorists become vexed when trying to negotiate the street. The extension of existing "No Waiting at Any Time" parking restrictions around the bend will improve visibility down the street, allowing motorists to proceed when clear.
- 7. One consultee commented "A very good idea to continue the double yellow lines as long as the parking restrictions are enforced". Northumberland County Council employs a number of Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) who patrol Alnmouth on most days at varying times. If a CEO witnesses a vehicle in contravention of a Traffic Regulation Order, a Penalty Charge notice will be issued.

AGAINST

8. All of the objections stated the same point that the proposed restrictions would put the only Ice Cream Van allowed to trade on street in Alnmouth out of business. After further site visits it has become clear that the parking restrictions do not need to extend as far down Riverside Road as first proposed. The length of the proposed parking restrictions has therefore been revised to remove parking from the bend at the top of Riverside Road,

allowing for clear visibility down the street. This will leave a length of highway approximately 13m where the Ice cream van can trade from.

RECOMENDATIONS

- 9. 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 local residents who responded support the proposals. However, the needs of local businesses also need to be taken into account. It is therefore recommended that the proposed parking restrictions be introduced as shown in Appendix C.
- 10. 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 - Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix B - Summary of Consultation Responses

Appendix C – Revised Plan

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy Consistent with existing policies

Finance and value for money Funded by Councillor Heather Cairns

Human Resources None

Property None

Equalities None

Risk Assessment Residential, inconsiderate parking issues and

visiting tourists.

Crime & Disorder Scheme will remove inconsiderate parking and

promote a safer environment.

Customer Considerations None

Sustainability None

Consultation Alnmouth Parish Council, the emergency

services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.

Wards Alnwick

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):	Director of Local Services and Housing
Subject:	Proposed parking restrictions on Riverside Road in Alnmouth
Consultation	51 Responses 9 In Favour 41 Against 1 Neither
Decision Taken:	To approve the introduction of a "No Waiting at Any Time" parking restriction on the south east side of Riverside road for a further 7 metres
Signature of Director	
Date 29/1/16	
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Northumberland County Council

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

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO155919

Your Ref:

Contact: Dan Fraser

Direct Line: 01670 624125

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland

.gov.uk

Date: Tuesday 6th October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions - Riverside Road

Concerns have been raised by Councillor Heather Cairns regarding parking on and around the junction of Riverside Road. It has been reported that parking around the junction is obstructing sight lines of traffic traveling along Riverside Road which has raised safety concerns. Therefore an extension to the "No Waiting at Any Time" restrictions (double yellow lines) is proposed on the south east side of the road. It is anticipated that the introduction of the restrictions will improve road safety by removing obstructions and improving visibility around the junction.

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 "No Waiting at Any Time" parking restrictions on Riverside Road, 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 Tuesday 17th November 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/.

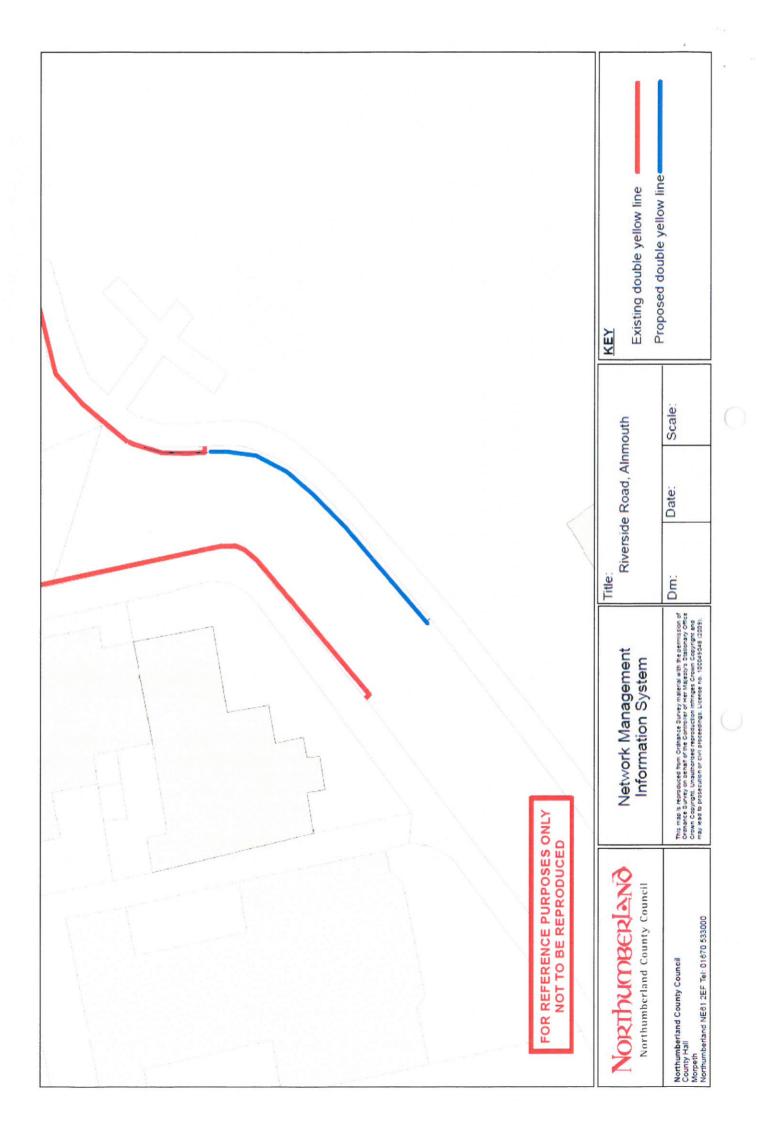
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Dan Fraser

Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



FOR	AGAINS	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
	1		To whom it may concern I received a letter dated Tuesday 6th October 2015, Asking me for my comments on the proposed introduction of "No waiting at any time" parking restrictions on Riverside road Alnmouth Northumberland. First of all I find no link to have input on this on your website, but I would strongly object to this as the area in question is the only area I have a license to trade in Alnmouth in this particular area, this change would put me out of business I pay a large amount of money too NCC each year to trade. The fact that this area specifically covers the area I trade in seems to be another personal attack on me and my business by the parish council. How can I be granted permission to trade in an area and win by appeal only to have the highways dept install double yellow lines in the area and put me out of business. I also not that long ago did a site visit with your highways team and it was agreed this would be the safest place to trade in Alnmouth, yet again I find myself fighting to trade from Alnmouth, I will continue to fight for this and will do everything I can. It is also my intention to go public with this Could I please have a point of contact in your team, If NCC's policy to help small businesses perhaps you would provide a bay for me to park with my ice cream van? Best regards I would strongly object to this, as it would put the only Alnmouth Licensed ice cream van, which can trade on the Highway out of business. This is the only van that can provide a service on the Highway in Alnmouth to local citizens and tourists on the road (and has since feb 2010). I did an onsite visit with highways team- and the licensing tean not so long ago. The New proposal is in the very spot that the highways team has allowed and recommended the van to parkat, which was safe. I also pay a very large licence feee to NCC to operate from this area. I would appreciate if you could please take into account how much this would effect: Local citizens, Tourists and a Business owner and also take into account Aln
		1	Thank you for your letter dated 6th October 2015 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the about 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		I would strongly object to this new proposal. As it would put the only Alnmouth licensed ice cream van, which can trade on the highway out of business. This is the only van that can provide a service on the highway to the local citizens and tourists on the road (and has since Feb 2010) this business owner did an onsite visit with the highways team and the licensing team not so long ago. The new proposal is in the very spot that the highways team has allowed and recommended the van to park at, which was safe, she also pays a very large license fee to Northumberland county Council to operate from this area. I would appreciate if you could please take into account how much this would affect: Local citizens, Tourists and a Business owner and also take into account that Alnmouth runs on tourism.
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1	The extent of this proposal is unnecessary, I use this section regularly and there is no need to extend the no parking all the way down to mirror that of the other side. This is a non-issue that is being pushed by the parish council as an issue to simply force the ice cream van out of Alnmouth for whatever reasons. Please see this for what it really is.	
	Everytime we go up or down Riverside road at busy times we have to reverse or be subjected to abuse from visitors to the area. We need double yellow lines at the top so you have clear view of traffic and space to reverse into.	
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1		We find it difficult to go up and down Riverside Road because of parking on both sides of the road, partially at the top where visabilaty is bad. And we always have to reverse.
	1	I would strongly object to this new proposal. As it would put the only Alnmouth licensed ice cream van, which can trade on the highway out of business. This is the only van that can provide a service on the highway to the local citizens and tourists on the road (and has since Feb 2010) this business owner did an onsite visit with the highways team and the licensing team not so long ago. The new proposal is in the very spot that the highways team has allowed and recommended the van to park at, which was safe, she also pays a very large license fee to Northumberland county Council to operate from this area. I would appreciate if you could please take into account how much this would affect: Local citizens, Tourists and a Business owner and also take into account that Alnmouth runs on tourism. It would also do away with (4 free) parking spaces.

	The safety problem is caused by the fact that drivers are having to negotiate a blind bend on a narrow, steep hill. When vehicles are parked on the top corner, vehicles from Northumberland Street have to swing out, beyond the centre of the road, in order to get round the bend. As the bend is blind, this risks collision with vehicles coming up the hill. Cars, vans, campervans, Winnebagos, delivery lorries and even tourist buses come along Northumberland Street and turn right, down the hill of Riverside Road. When there's parking on both sides, the road becomes so narrow that passing is impossible. As a result, any vehicle coming down the hill has to reverse back up to allow access for any vehicle coming up the hill. In consequence, misjudgement while reversing has already caused damage. So far only cars have been damaged, not children or adults, but pedestrian safety is at risk when vehicles are parked on or near the top bend. When there's more than one vehicle trying to drive down the hill at the same time as more than one vehicle is trying to drive up, neither set of vehicles can reverse and badtempered gridlock ensues. Riverside Road is a very busy road as it provides access not only for all the residents, day tourists and occupants of the holiday homes and B. & B., it also provides access for the park and marina. The marina is popular, with numerous boats moored there. Boat owners visit daily and boats are often towed up or down the hill. The park is extremely popular, being used by both local and visiting families every day. Access downhill to Riverside Road via Garden Tce. is limited by the narrowness of Garden Terrace, which means that no vehicles are allowed to exit via Garden Tce. and therefore all traffic has to leave via the hill of Riverside Road. In addition to the much needed double yellow lines on the left at the top, Riverside Road urgently needs a passing place on the left, half way down the hill, to allow downhill vehicles to move out of the way of uphill vehicles before more vehicles arrive
1	1) During holiday periods and sunny weekends, Riverside Rd. is a very busy road with vehicles parked on both sides of the road and traffic passing up and down to access the properties/boats and park and there is only sufficient room for a single file vehicle to either travel up or down the road. The corner at the top is extremely hazardous. When approaching from Northumberland St. vehicles parked on the corner force the approaching vehicle over to the other side of the road into the direct line of any vehicle coming up. It also prevents the approaching car from seeing if a vehicle is coming up the hill. This point is also a busy crossing point for pedestrians and if vans or the like are parked there, it is dangerous for pedestrians who have to step out before they can see traffic approaching from Northumberland St. There have been 3 vehicular accidents that I know of and I have had several near misses with other vehicles and pedestrians. Your Engineer Mr Paul McKenna visited site on the 19th May 2011 and saw the problem for himself and agreed that it was a dangerous situation. The problem is further exacerbated by vehicles meeting half way down especially if there is more than one in either direction. This has led to frayed tempers and abusive language. The double yellow lines with pavement marks at the top of Riverside Rd. are vital to prevent a more serious accident. A passing place is also required half way down on the South side. 2) Please note that I am commenting on the proposal for double yellow lines from the roundabout to the Wynd on the East side (not as incorrectly shown on the plan). These are required because if vehicles park on both sides of the road at this point, buses, lorries and fire engines would not be able to access the village. This happened recently and buses were unable to get beyond the roundabout.
1	Dangerous corner needs double yellow lines
1	Having lived at our present address for the last 30 years we have seen problems arising from the top corner of Riverside Road due to of course increased traffic and in particular the size of the vehicles these days, making it a serious problem, especially in the summer. There have been some near misses many times as there is not enough room for entrance into Riverside Road when cars are parked on the side overlooking the dunes and Dr. Joy's Garden. Also as there are steps coming up from the dunes and beach also leading up to that corner much used by familes it can be positively dangerous during the summer months. We have asked many times over the last few years for The Parish Council to look at this problem which I know they have, asking for Yellow Lines before we do get a fatal accident and given the popularity of Alnmouth more and more I reckon prevention is better than cure. I really don't understand why this problem is taking so long to solve and as we have another summer to look forward to and no doubt even more cars descending on Riverside Road the safety factor surely must be a consideration in this particular bit of traffic management.
1	A very good idea to continue the double yellow lines as long as the parking restrictions are enforced as currently they do not appear to be on the other side of the road. I regularly see vehicles ignoring the existing double yellows

	Dear Dan, I'm attaching 3 photos which I've just taken at 3.30. pm today, on my way home. In less than one minute, what I photographed showed that: (1) even late in the afternoon at the end of Oct., the road is full of parked cars, with no passing places (2) visitors drift across the road, oblivious to any vehicles coming up or down the hill (3) even a small car has to pull out beyond the centre line in order to negotiate the blind bend when cars are parked on the top corner. I hope that this illustrates what I was trying to say in my email to you dated 22nd Oct. I hope that you received my email & I look forward to your acknowledgement & reply. In the meantime, I've submitted my comments to tinyurl.com/nj999kg. At the moment, the wording of the consultation letter for Riverside Road does not reflect the reality of a blind bend on a steep hill and the consultation plan for The Wynd appears to show the wrong area. The plan appears to show the junction of Marine Road and the road leading to the beach, whereas the problem exists along the stretch of road from the roundabout to Northumberland Street, between the entrance to The Friary driveway and the corner of The Wynd. This is the area of road which the bus could not access when cars were parked on both sides. At present not many people know about the consultation and of those who do know, some have said that they cannot access the tinyurl website, despite several attempts to do so. I do hope that these various issues can be addressed, so that we can all work together to resolve the current traffic and parking problems.
1	I would strongly object to this new proposal. This proposal would remove at least 4 permanent free parking spaces in an area where any parking is already restricted and scarce. This area has been without parking restrictions for many years without any reported accidents or incidents. This proposal would effectively put the only legitimate street trading licensed ice cream van in Alnmouth out of business. This is the only Ice Cream vendor that can provide a service on the highway to the local citizens and tourists on this road (and has since Feb 2010) this business owner did an onsite visit with the highways team and the licensing team not so long ago. The new proposal is in the very spot that the highways team has allowed and recommended the van to park at, which was safe, she also pays a very large license fee to Northumberland County Council to operate from this area. I would appreciate if you could please take into account how much this would affect: Local citizens, Tourists and a Business owner and also take into account that Alnmouth runs on tourism.
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1	I have lived on Riverside Road for 26 years and visited for over 40. In that time the parking has always been a problem but has certainly got worse latterly. When there were 6 individual houses on the road there would be at the most 12 residents vehicles many of which were parked in the yards at the rear of the properties. Following alterations there are now about 15 apartments each with two or more cars, few of which are parked in the yards. The road is frequently full of vehicles parked on both sides from top to bottom making it impossible for cars to pass meaning that one or other must reverse. I have seen several minor accidents during these proceedures. The ridiculous decision to allow an Ice Cream van to park at the top of the road really exacerbates the problem. The owner of the van leaves a vehicle parked in "HER" spot at all times even if she is not trading at the time so that no one else can park there. This corner is always busy and should be kept clear of vehicles at all times by the use of extrended double yellow lines. I also think that the side next to the houses should be restricted to resident only parking with some kind of permit provided for those residents I have been a resident in Riverside Road for over 25 years, the traffic during this time has
	increased in volume and size. When vehicles are parked at the top of Riverside Road, which is on a bend at the top of a hill, the visibility down the hill non existent. Vehicles going down the hill have to go into the middle of the road. Often, infact very often during the busy summer months, there are vehicles coming up the road. This means that someone has to reverse on the hill and round the bend, often with other vehicles backing up behind also having to reverse. The manners of people during the last 25 years have also deterioted and some are often very abusive if they have to reverse. I expect some also find reversing difficult. The view at the top of Riverside Road is one that alot of people like, therefore there are often a lot of pedestrians using that corner admiring the view and not concentrating on the road. A dangerous situation especially when children are involved.
	I known that parking is at a premium in Alnmouth but this is a dangerous corner and I totally agree with the proposal to put parking restrictions at the top of the road. This wil reduce parking in the village but that will be compensated by removing the parking restrictions at the top of Argyle Street.
	I know that there will be objections to the parking restriction from the person who has the ice cream parked there during the summer months. Although she thinks she is doing a service for the village I cannot agree with her. There are many places in the village where ice creams can be purchased. She also admits that her husband parks his car at the top of the road to reserve her parking place. This obviously take up a parking place that could be used by residents or visitors to the village. Could she not park her ice cream van down by the childrens park where the road is not so busy and dangerous.
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Appendix C - Revised Plan