



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

PROPOSED ONE WAY SYSTEM, WALTON DRIVE, GUIDE POST

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed introduction of a One Way System in Walton Drive, Guide Post.

Recommendations

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, a one way system should be introduced, however, taking into account feedback received, the point of entry should be via Hillcrest Avenue rather than Ashington Drive.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the 'Stronger Communities and Families' priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2013-2017.

Key Issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by LTP
- 2) The scheme will assist in improving road safety in the area.
- 3) Scheme supported by Councillor Ledger.

Background

- 1) Concerns have been raised by residents about road safety in Walton Drive in Guide Post. This is a result of limited parking in the area which is causing traffic congestion. Councillor Ledger has also been made aware of this matter and has requested that officers consult residents on a proposed One Way System in order to alleviate these concerns.

- 2) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 49 households 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).

Consultation

- 3) The consultation exercise ended on 11th July 2016, and responses were received from 21 consultees, with 17 in favour and 2 against the proposals. Only two statutory consultees responded (North East Ambulance Service and Cycling UK) neither expressed a preference. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix B.

In Favour

- 4) Whilst indicating their support to the proposed scheme, the following comments were made:-
 - Scheme is long over due, however should be entered via Hillcrest Avenue.
 - Traffic calming measures should be provided.
 - Parking provision is the main concern. Verge hardening should be considered, or parking bays marked out on Walton Drive.
- 5) In response to these comments:-
 - Walton Drive is already part of a recently introduced 20mph speed limit, however, a request for physical traffic calming measures will be added to our Directory of Requests Database for consideration in future Local Transport Plan Programmes.
 - Concerns regarding limited parking are sympathised with, the reality is when these properties were built car ownership was not as it is today. Verge hardening and / or the marking out of parking bays may not result in a significant improvement to the current situation, nevertheless these requests will be added to our Directory of Request Database for consideration in future LTP programmes.

Objections

- 6) One of the objections provided a comment. This related to the proposed direction of the one way system. This has been resolved.

Recommendations

- 7) 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 results of the consultation exercise show that the majority of residents who responded support the proposals. It is therefore recommended that the one way system is introduced. However, taking into account feedback received, the point of entry should be via Hillcrest Avenue rather than Ashington Drive.

- 8) 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.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the 2016/17 LTP Programme.
Legal	The necessary Traffic Regulation Order will be prepared.
Human Resources	n/a
Property	n/a
Equalities	n/a
Risk Assessment	Residential area, congestion and associated visibility issues.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will assist in improving congestion issues. One Way system is enforced by the police.
Customer Consideration	Residents will have to adhere to the one way system.
Sustainability	n/a
Consultation	Choppington Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents businesses and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Choppington

Background papers:

None

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed One Way System, Walton Drive, Guide Post

Consultation:

21 responses
17 in favour
2 against
2 neither

Decision Taken:

To introduce a one way system, however, the point of entry should be via Hillcrest Avenue rather than Ashington Drive.

Signature of Director



Date

15/11/16

APPENDIX A – COPY OF CONSULTATION LETTER AND PLAN

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

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE163340-04
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr N Snowdon
Direct Line: 01670 624128
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
9 June 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed One Way System in Walton Drive, Guide Post

Concerns have been raised by residents about road safety at Walton Drive in Guide Post. This is a result of limited parking in the area which is causing traffic congestion. Councillor Ledger has also been made aware of this matter and has requested that officers consult residents on a proposed One Way System in order to alleviate these concerns.

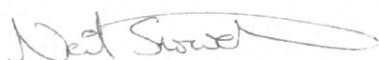
I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposal to introduce a One Way System in Walton Drive in Guide Post as shown on the attached plan. It should be noted that traffic will be permitted to enter Walton Drive from Ashington Drive only. Please be aware that while this scheme will not increase parking provision, it will assist in improving traffic flow.

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.

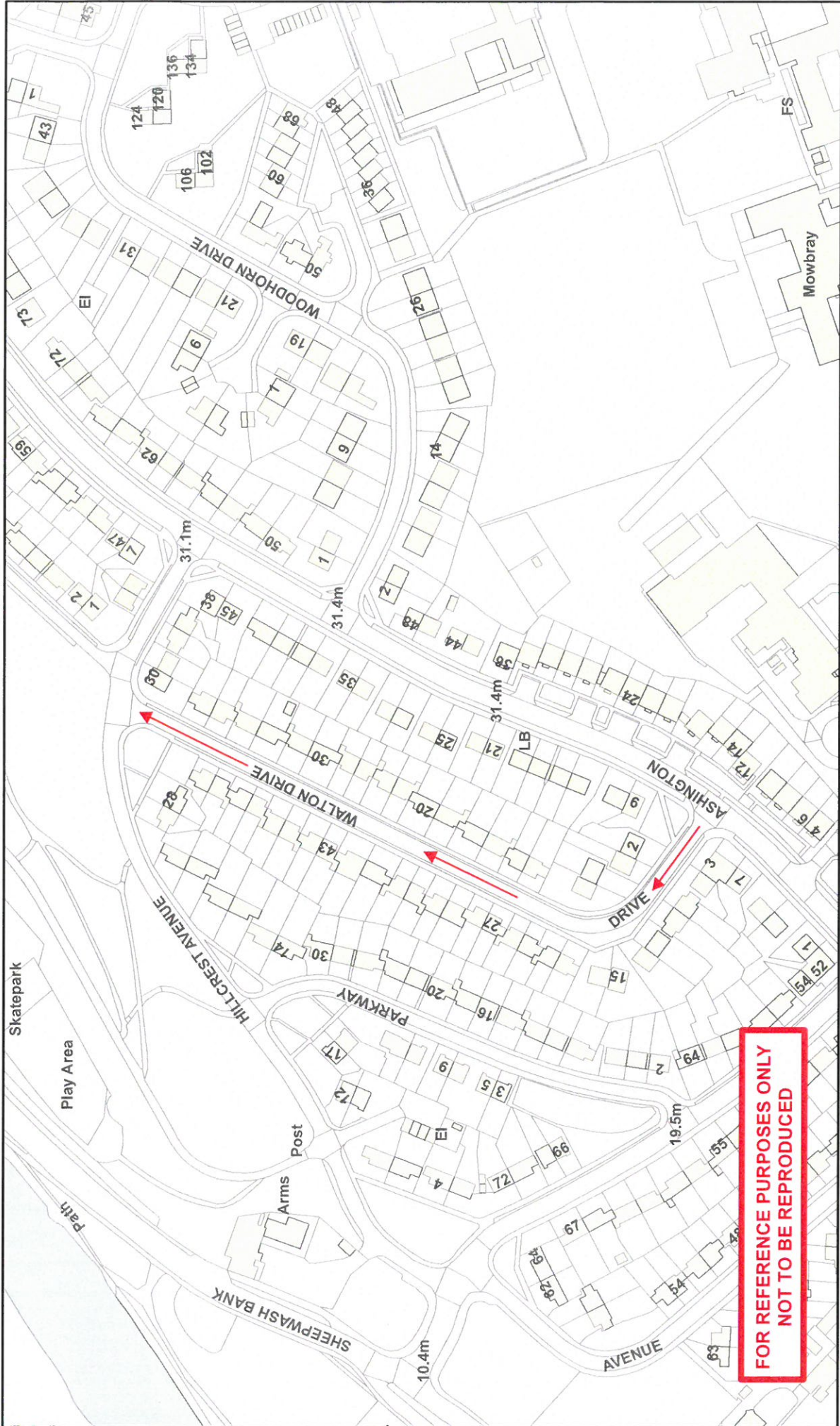
Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Director of Local Services and Housing and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is 11th July 2016. 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



Neil Snowdon
Senior Programme Officer (Highway Safety)



Northumberland

Northumberland County Council

Northumberland County Council

County Hall
Morpeth

Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000

Network Management Information System

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. License no. 100049045 (2009).

Title: Proposed One Way System
Walton Drive, Guide Post

Drm:

Date:

1 June 16

Scale:

1:2,000

KEY:-



PERMITTED DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

APPENDIX B - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AIN	NE IT H ER	Other Relevant Comments
NE Ambulance Service	NE15 8NY			1	Thank you for your letter dated 9th June 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 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.
Cycle UK	NE4 7HP			1	If there is support for the one-way proposal, please can you also consider contra-flow for cyclists. Heather (Cycling UK)
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			I feel it is a very good and safer idea although it would be better if the entrance is at the other end as that is the way the traffic usually goes .also a children playing sign would be good as there are alot of children playing out and cars do come down at quite a speed making it unsafe.i am concerned of the amount of dog excrement left on the grass in the street and have on several occasions me and my children along with other resident have stood in it.it seems to be all over the paths and on the grass ,i do feel the grass does not help as it mainly there and feel maybe paving it would help as it is on apptox 1 metre wide. Thank you
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			I would also support the installation of speed bumps to slow the traffic as children play in the street and often cross the road.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			Strongly agree with the decision to make Walton Drive one way. I also feel the grass triangle at the end on Walton Drive No2. should be made into parking spaces due to the number of cars owned by people in street. I often find myself having to park on either the grass or across the road on Ashington Drive.
Walton Drive		1			
Walton Drive		1			Long over due.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			Could you mark out parking bays on the road so people will park their cars sensible and between the parking bays? Some people who live in the street can not even get parked in the street due to some drivers selfishly dumping their car anywhere in the street rather than allowing another driver to park in front or behind them.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			Is there any funding or grants available to help people to build a drive for their car?
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			I agree with a one way system but I also think there should be more parking for residents as old people have to walk nearly the full street when there parking place has been taken. And I also think it should be for residents only my partner is severely sight impaired and has a bone disease – called (fibre maralger) and can't walk far but when out parking place is took we have to walk sometimes the full street to get to home.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG			1	The proposed direction of travel is the wrong way round. When reverse parking the driver needs to be on the kerb side due to the very small spaces available. Otherwise people will be leaving bigger spaces between the cars, resulting in less parking spaces in the street, making things worse than they are now. If drivers when parked open their doors into the road it will only be a matter of time before someone has their car door taken off by a passing car. I really don't think this plan has been given enough thought.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			It's great idea should have been done years ago.

Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			I am certainly in agreement for the proposed plans but if you are going to do this then can you please please do something about the parking. I am one of only a small handful of residents that are lucky to have a driveway so I am able to park off the street but although this is nice to have I am finding that my driveway is constantly being blocked and when I do ask people to move there vehicles I am constantly suffering from verbal abuse and on more than one occasion I have been physically threatened to the point where the police were called. I have lived at the address for 13 years and have never known it be so bad but it is getting worse week by week to the point now where I am not going out as I know I will not get back on my drive and have to park half way down the street and the abuse that comes with it. What does not help is that certainly at my end of the street is that people now seem to have at least 2-3 cars/vehicles as there are some with very large vans which take up a lot of room maybe there should be a limit on the number of vehicles or make it residents only parking which I would be quite happy to pay for which will also help to help with the road safety
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			Please try to find a way to discourage households with more than two cars from parking their third car on Walton Drive.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			Asked for this a long time ago. Only thing is needs to be the other way round. Come in down hill and out the way you want to come in. The hill is awful to come down than go up the hill. And the end of Walton on to the hill is blind so it would be safer.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG		1		
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			We would also like you to remove the grass next to the path and tarmac it so it takes it easier for us in the street! People don't always pick up after their dogs and we end up standing in the mess left behind so that would also be helpful! Thank You!
		1			Would be helpful if residents with drives either use them or park over the entrance to them as not to take up unnecessary spaces as the street is very congested.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			Would like to see grass areas next to pavement –tarred at this would improve congestion and hopefully stop dog owners using grass as a dog toilet – almost daily dogs foul. Owners do not like mess and residents walk into homes/cars. This is a health issue as children play on the street.
Walton Drive	NE62 5EG	1			I would just like to say that I agree with this but in the winter Hill Crest Avenue is impassible when it is covered in snow and ice.
		17	2	2	