

# RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

### **PAUL JONES**

#### PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN ALNMOUTH

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To consider making the experimental parking restrictions in Alnmouth permanent.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the following restrictions are made permanent:-

- Formalised parking bays should remain where parking is permitted.
- Introduce a Mon Sat, 8am 6pm, 2 hour maximum stay, no return within 3 hours limited waiting parking restrictions on the existing short stay bays on Northumberland Street.
- A Traffic Regulation Order relating to the permanent 'No Waiting At Any Time' parking restrictions throughout the village should be introduced.

#### **KEY ISSUES**

Parking and congestion has been a concern in Alnmouth village for many years. The experimental scheme that was introduced in Alnmouth in November 2016 has addressed the following key issues:-

- Inconsiderate parking throughout Alnmouth village which resulted in congestion issues.
- Visitors parking in the village and not using the car park.
- Vehicles parking on footpaths, on junctions and across vehicular accesses.

There is now a permanent one way system and a 20mph speed restriction throughout the village.

An experimental traffic regulation order was in place from November 2016 to November 2017 which has helped to ease the parking concerns. A process to make the two Experimental Orders permanent was undertaken, however due to a technical omission in the process relating to the changes made during the experimental period a further process was required.

Further consultation has been undertaken with the local County Council Members, Parish Council and statutory consultees, including the Chief Constable. It is therefore proposed to make the experimental restrictions permanent.

Alongside these traffic regulation orders an experimental order is also in place for residents parking within Argyle Street. This experimental order will end on 29th December 2018 and feedback from the ongoing consultation will be taken into consideration before any permanent order is made.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 1) The coastal village of Alnmouth is a hugely popular destination to visit and has been for many years. This has led to an ever increasing demand for parking, which in turn has created a number of congestion issues. Back in 2015, a request was made on behalf of local residents by local County Councillors, and Alnmouth Parish Council for the council to investigate potential solutions that would assist in improving these issues.
- 2) Two public consultations were held at Hindmarsh Hall. The first to obtain information on all issues faced by the village, and the second to discuss potential solutions.
- 3) Following the second public consultation it was agreed with elected County Councillors to progress the following:-
  - Experimental No Waiting at Any Time parking restrictions
  - 20 mph speed limit within the village.
  - One way System on Marine Road and Northumberland Street

Both the the 20 mph and the one way system are now permanent.

The Experimental Orders were in place from November 2016 for 12 months.

# CONSULTATION AND AMENDMENT DURING EXPERIMENTAL ORDER PERIOD

- 4) At the beginning of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order period, all residents and businesses in Alnmouth were sent a letter (attached as Appendix A) requesting that feedback be made on all elements of the scheme, with the aim of improving areas of the scheme where necessary.
- 5) Since the introduction of the scheme, a number of parties, including Alnmouth Parish Council, residents, businesses and visitors have provided feedback as requested. A summary of comments received is attached as Appendix B. The following changes were made to the scheme as a result of the feedback received:-
  - Relocation of the disabled bay from the east side of Northumberland Street, outside of the post office to the west side of Northumberland Street outside of Fossil Bank.
  - Two additional parking places were introduced on Northumberland Street outside the Red Lion and number 21.

- In order to facilitate an extension to the bus stop, the disabled bay on Northumberland Street outside the Schooner was moved approximately 10 metres south.
- Introduction of hatching outside Marine House Cottage, on Marine Road to assist in improving visibility.
- Introduction of an additional parking place outside of Nether Grange following discussions with the hotel.
- Introduction of hatching on Marine Road bank to ensure traffic is directed to the level side of the carriageway.
- Give way markings on Peases Lane were moved forward and the parking bays opposite the Marine Road and Peases Lane junction relocated to allow clear visibility to both vehicles and pedestrians. An area marked out for pedestrians was also introduced on the west side of the road at the rear of the bays. This will allow safe passage for pedestrians and link up the footways.
- 10 additional parking places were reintroduced on Riverside Road at locations where it was first thought they would be obstructive to traffic.
- The passing place outside numbers 9 and 10 Riverside Road has been marked out as parking places. The passing place was relocated to the southside of Riverside Road to improve visibility.
- An additional 6m double yellow line has been proposed opposite garage on Argyle Street to ensure residents have room to manoeuvre without obstruction. This line will be introduced when the Traffic Regulation Order is made.

A number of additional suggestions were also made and the following improvements have been implemented:-

- Additional 'No Through Road' signs have been introduced on Riverside Road at the junction of Argyle Street.
- Centre line has been introduced on The Wynd to guide traffic and remove any confusion regarding two way traffic.
- Resurfacing of The Wynd/Marine Road Junction and down Marine Road bank with high friction surface course.
- Introduction of Amphibian Ladders to gullies on Marine Road to support toad migration.

Due to an technical omission which occured in the order making process, there was a need for additional consultation with local County Councillors, Parish Councillors and statutory consultees, including the Chief Constable on the Waiting & Loading and Parking Places proposals before these restrictions were made permanent. This consultation has now been undertaken and there were no objections. It is therefore recommended that the restrictions are now made permanent, as shown in Appendix C

### **PARKING ISSUES**

6) Throughout the consultation we received a number of comments that there is insufficient parking places in Alnmouth. Like many towns and villages in the county, Alnmouth is an old village which was not constructed to facilitate today's traffic volumes and demands for parking. This has proven problematic when looking to introduce additional parking in the village, however, a number of proposals were investigated and spaces were reintroduced where possible.

It is impossible to establish the exact amount of parking places gained, or lost on each street, due to vehicles parking inconsiderately and obstructively before the experimental restrictions were introduced. However, it is estimated that we are now coming close to the number of parking places available on each street before the experimental restrictions were imposed, with the exception of Riverside Road.

Due to the characteristics of Riverside Road a number of restrictions had to be introduced to ensure traffic could flow fluently, and residents could exit their properties without obstruction. Unfortunately this contributed to a loss of parking on the street, where vehicles previously parked. However, traffic movement on Riverside Road has improved to the benefit of residents and visitors.

A number of comments were also received regarding the bay markings. It was suggested that the bay markings should be removed to allow as many cars to park in the unrestricted highway as possible. The reason the bays were introduced was to formalise parking in the unrestricted areas and ensure that vehicles are parking in a manner that is considerate to others using the parking place. If the dividing bay markings were removed, it has the potential to cause further inconsiderate parking by either vehicles leaving excessive space to ensure they can get out of the parking place easily, or vehicles squeezing into a parking place and not leaving adequate space for neighbouring vehicles to exit the parking place. This may also result in increased Penalty Charge Notices being issued when vehicles try to squeeze into a unsuitable parking space and encroach over a double yellow line, or a driveway.

The feedback the council received was discussed at a meeting between Council Officers and Alnmouth Parish Council and it was agreed that the bay markings should remain, but the council should continue to look at

potential additional parking places. Local County Councillors agreed with this suggestion.

## **EXPERIMENTAL RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING**

7) The Resident Permit Parking was introduced on Argyle Street for an experimental period of six months following a consultation with the residents of Argyle Street.

Following feedback received during the initial experiment, an additional experimental order has been introduced consisting of dual restriction which allows Residents Permit Holders to park without a time limit, and non residents to park from 8am to 6pm, all days, 3 hours, no return within 4 hours. These experimental restrictions will be in place until December 2018. And will be the subject of a separate Decision Report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8) It is therefore recommended that:-
  - Formalised parking bays should remain where parking is permitted.
  - Introduce a Mon Sat, 8am 6pm, 2 hour maximum stay, no return within 3 hours limited waiting parking restrictions on the existing short stay bays on Northumberland Street.
  - A Traffic Regulation Order relating to the permanent 'No Waiting At Any Time' parking restrictions throughout the village should be introduced

Plans showing the parking restrictions and bay marking introduced are attached as Appendix C

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 - Consultation Letter

Appendix B – Consultation Responses Appendix A – Site Plans

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

# IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

| Policy:                      | Consists to ill  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              | Consistent with existing policies  |
| Finance and value for money: | Scheme is being financed from LTP  |
| Human Resources:             | None   |
| Property:                    | None   |
| Equalities:                  | None   |
| Risk Assessment:             | Residential and tourist area where vehicles were parking inconsiderately around village, which in turn increased congestion and reduced road safety.     |
| Crime & Disorder:            | Scheme will reduce inconsiderate parking and promote a safer environment and anti-social behaviour.  |
| Customer considerations:     | Residents and visitors will benefit from reduced vehicle obstruction and congestion.   |
| Sustainability:              | None   |
| Consultation:                | Alnmouth Parish Council, the emergency services, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area. |
| Wards:                       | Alnwick  |
|                              | 1 / III WICK   |

# **DECISION TAKEN**

| Title of Executive Member or Officer(s): | Paul Jones: Service Director - Local Services   |
|--|---|
| Subject:                                 | Experimental One Way and Parking Restrictions in Alnmouth.  |
| Consultation:                            | Consultation held with Alnmouth Parish Council and local County Councillors and statutory consultees, including the Northumbria Police Chief Constable.   |
| Decision Taken:                          | To approve the amendments below following the experimental traffic management scheme and additional consultation in Alnmouth  |
|  | <ul> <li>Introduce permanent 'No Waiting At Any Time'<br/>parking restrictions throughout the village where<br/>parking is not permitted and formalised parking<br/>bays where parking is permitted.</li> </ul>     |
|  | <ul> <li>Introduce permanent Time Limited Parking<br/>Restrictions, Mon - Sat, 8am - 6pm, 2 hour<br/>maximum stay, No return within 3, on the<br/>existing short stay bays on Northumberland<br/>Street.</li> </ul> |
|  |   |
| Signature of Director                    | AM.   |
| Date                                     | 29/3/18   |
|  |   |

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Appendix A

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE163311

Your Ref:

Contact: Highways Programmes

Telephone: 0345 600 6400

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Monday 14nd November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders in Alnmouth**

I am writing to update you on the experimental traffic regulation orders that are about to be introduced in Alnmouth.

Concerns have been raised by residents of Alnmouth and local councillors regarding indiscriminate parking and congestion within the village. Local Councillors expressed their concerns and requested that a public consultation be held to allow information to be gathered in an attempt to improve the situation. This prompted two public consultations to be held, where information was gathered and potential solutions were proposed. As a result of feedback obtained from attendees of the public consultation, a scheme has been designed and will be implemented as an experimental Order for 12 months starting on 17 November 2016.

### **Summary of Restrictions**

One Way System – In order to reduce congestion in the village, a one way system is being introduced that restricts traffic movements on Marine Road and Northumberland Street to a clockwise direction.

No Waiting at Any Time Parking Restrictions – Parking on the highway will only be permitted in formalised parking bays in an effort to reduce congestion further. Double yellow lines will be introduced to areas where parking is prohibited.

Time Limited Parking Bays – The existing time limited parking bays on Northumberland Street will remain in place to allow for regular turnover of spaces to aid local businesses.



Associated documents and plans for this scheme can be viewed at the following link. http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Roads/Traffic.aspx#6madeordersamen dments

#### Timescales

Legal notices were posted on site and advertised in the local press on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, with all site works being scheduled for completion by 25th November. These restrictions will remain in place for a 12 month period.

### What is 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.

#### 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. If you wish to make comment on the experimental restrictions within Alnmouth, you can do so by emailing:

HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

or writing to:

Northumberland County Council, Programme & Production Team, Technical Services, Sustainable Transport (Alnmouth Experimental Order 2016), County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF.

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

Yours faithfully

**Highways Programme (Highway Safety)** 





















