

Appendix B - Summary of Comments

Other Relevant Comments	
<p>Having already expressed my opinion regarding resident parking in Argyle Street, Alnmouth during a meeting held in the Hindmarsh Hall earlier this year, which was a large 'NO'. I now found that this has happened.</p> <p>As I live in Riverside Road I cannot believe that this proposed decision has gone ahead, as of course the result of this is that we now well and truly get the overflow from Argyle Street, given that most of the multiple houses are now let as holiday houses and as each one averages 5 bedrooms with no parking facilities whatsoever without even considering the Argyle Street Flats we now cannot even get our cars near our houses. Before the Experimental Order 2016 was put in place, we at least had a chance to find a place near our house, but as we now see, residents arriving for these complete with luggage, this takes away any chance of reasonable parking as previously. It has always been a problem parking I must admit, but for the most part they were day visitors but now we have cars in situ sometimes without moving for quite a few days - probably once here they travel around together using one car, conveniently parked in Argyle Street outside their holiday home, which of course blocks Riverside Road completely - I assume they are told by the owners of their holiday homes where the 'overflow' car park is, i.e. Riverside Road, as they certainly know which way to go with their luggage, depending on which house they have rented, as they have two options of course. It would appear that to sort this problem out, Riverside Road should also be given the option of having a Residents Parking permit - perhaps one side only to be fair, outside the houses and leave the beach side open to visitors of all sorts. I appreciate not an easy task, but one that seriously affects us now Argyle Street has residents parking. The double yellow lines have not helped either as there is no parking from opposite No. 12 Riverside right down to the park, apart from the couple of marked bays. The plus side of the 'experiment' is the one way system, apart from the dangerous exit onto Marine Road from Peases Gardens.</p> <p>Hoping you take my suggestions into consideration.</p>	
<p>I have received complaints from customers that its difficult to park in the village due to the new parking regime.</p>	
<p>I happened to take a lunch time stroll around the village at 13.34 yesterday and took these pictures.</p>	
<p>It would seem that the Argyle Street parking restrictions are having the desired outcome, restricting parking for residents only, however, it would also seem that those spaces remain vacant during the day to the detriment of parking for others visiting the village.</p>	
<p>Pictures are of Argyle street at 13.34 and of Northumberland street at the same time interval. Argyle street remains largely empty of cars whilst there are no free bays on Northumberland street.</p>	
<p>It would seem to me that if residents parking is to remain in Argyle street, then it would be better if it were a time window when residents are likely to be at home i.e. 6pm to 6am. Precious parking space could be used by visitors during the day.</p>	
<p>I hope this is useful input for your consultation process.</p>	
<p>Good morning</p>	
<p>I gather that there is some opposition to the Argyle Street resident parking scheme. I do not live in Argyle street but am a resident of Alnmouth and I believe that the wishes of then Argyle street residents should be fully recognised.</p>	
<p>I also understand that much of the criticism is based on a feeling that the scheme is unfair as it only benefits one street. I believes that residents elsewhere in the village could benefit from a limited expansion of the scheme in the other main streets of the village.</p>	
<p>This would remove the 'unfairness' and benefit permanent residents of the village that have to unfairly compete with the growing number of holiday makers staying at the growing number of holiday lets and B and Bs etc.</p>	
<p>I am writing to object to the resident permit holder scheme for Argyle Street residents.</p>	
<p>It seems highly unfair for one part of the village to have a parking scheme when the rest of the village residents have to circle the village - 7 times is our record - to park. Often the spaces in Argyle street are empty.</p>	
<p>I think either this scheme should be scrapped or extended to all permanent residents of the village.</p>	
<p>Yours faithfully</p>	

<p>Hail to a great start with the new initiative despite the parish council's perceived lack of consultation. You can be assured that if that council were in charge nothing would happen now or in the future and the village would become totally suffocated in traffic. The efficient way your teams went about creating the one way system has to be applauded. It will surely lead to major improvements when day visitors will be encouraged to go to the beach car parks. Sadly for us residents of Argyle Street we seem to have lost out. No permit parking. No one way system through the street. And although there are small "residents only" signs outside the flats no more prominent signs at the top of the street. In fact no restrictions whatsoever.</p> <p>It does seem ironic that we as a group pointed out how impossible it is becoming for residents in Alnmouth. We were the pioneers. Ambulances not being able to reach patients. Residents not able to leave the village in their cars knowing they would find a space when they returned. The street will continue to be a holiday dumping ground. Northumbria Coast and Country Cottages will continue to put it in their paperwork to send their "overspill" guests to park on Argyle Street as will the other business people who run pubs and guest houses. So the misery here will continue for the quiet majority. Still we did try and I'm sure that the scheme you have introduced will be a success. But going forward you may want to revisit the idea of helping to protect the residents of Argyle Street.</p> <p>This is a response from Marrisse</p> <p>We among many others in Alnmouth are delighted with the work you have carried out and wanted to add our voices against the latest survey initiative which we gather even Alnmouth Parish Council has distanced itself from.</p> <p>My Mother in Law is not "on grid" so I'm sending this on her behalf. Coincidentally I have just walked round the village and seen over 70 (yes 70) empty car parking bays. I'm not incl roads where parking is permitted, but there are no bays. Admittedly many were on Marine Rd and Riverside Rd, but there were still 15 on Northumberland St (excl Disabled). A quiet time of year, but it reinforces the view that the congestion is visitor related and could be solved by Residents Parking Permits, but I doubt that's going to happen given all the Holiday Lets and B&Bs</p> <p>My Mother in Law's comments:-</p> <p>I just wanted to voice my support for the traffic and parking changes that have recently been implemented in Alnmouth. I would in particular like to mention:-</p> <p>The slower speed limit in Marine Road makes it a lot safer for pedestrians.</p> <p>The One Way in Marine Road should end the practice of large lorries turning in the space outside the Seabank complex's garages.</p> <p>Buses no longer race round a blind corner by the Golf Club threatening players as they approach or leave the course as they now travel in the opposite direction.</p> <p>As an OAP I have found that the new parking bays in Northumberland St have increased the spaces between parked cars thus improving visibility and safety when crossing the road.</p> <p>I have often had to walk in the road outside the post office as the bus queue together with the grit bin, seat, A Frames, shop displays etc combine to totally obstruct the pavement. The move of the Bus Stop to the Schooner will alleviate this problem.</p> <p>Now that the Alnmouth trial traffic scheme has had its first real test with the large influx of visitors over the Christmas period I would like to offer you and the Council my observations.</p> <p>Before doing so, however, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for the way in which the consultation process was carried out, which provided the residents of Alnmouth with ample opportunity to consider different proposals for easing traffic congestion and parking in the village.</p> <p>My early impression of the trial scheme is that it has been very effective in addressing some of the problems created by traffic especially during peak holiday periods. In particular, I believe that the one-way system has much improved the flow of traffic through the village, although I would have preferred to have had an anti-clockwise flow maintaining the original bus route.</p> <p>I also feel that the introduction of parking bays has helped to improve the parking situation and has created some much needed discipline, although I think there is scope for providing more bays on Riverside Road.</p> <p>As regards the idea of introducing resident parking in Argyle Street, as a permanent resident, it would obviously have my full support and I look forward to learning the final decision in that regard.</p> <p>One way traffic is faster than two way traffic. Marine Road is more busy than before. Parking on opposite sides alternately doesn't affect law abiding but provides a bit of excitement for the adventurous! Parking outside this house, opposite the door, means a slightly risky exit. Residents and staying visitors need residential permit cards."</p> <p>I am totally unhappy about double yellow lines outside my apartment, 1, Marine Apts, Marine Road, Alnmouth, there are 5 Apts in total and we could usually park outside, more difficult in the summer but with your proposals, impossible. The one way system is a good idea but would like yellow lines removed and the white bays opposite removed. If you persist in this, I would like to apply for a parking permit for one of the bays opposite which I believe we should all be entitled to and signs erected to this effect, as surely owners have more right to park than Day visitors.</p>	
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I'm a resident of Alnmouth and would like to offer personal feedback on the new traffic scheme in the village.

First of all, a big thank you! I was among the original group of residents who approached Alnmouth Parish Council to ask for help with finding solutions to the specific problem of parking within our street.

I have also attached here a document posted through my letterbox from a group opposing the present system and have done so FFI. I am very concerned about this document and will come to my reasons for that concern at the end of this.

I have been extremely impressed by the way NCC, via Gordon Castle in particular, have acted to help with this traffic challenge and endeavoured to achieve the best outcome possible for all – residents, business owners and visitors. The consultation process in my opinion, has been very thorough. I was present at the Hindmarch Hall when various suggested solutions were presented and had the opportunity to speak directly to the NCC staff present, as well as being invited to give written feedback.

In addition I have twice given feedback on the proposal to possibly introduce permit parking to Argyle Street, which I am very much in favour of. I was keen to have the one way system, turning in the direction of the beach parking first. I think it has helped greatly in guiding visitors to the beach car park, rather than parking so readily on our street which is right beside the smaller beach, as well as other residential streets, although there is still quite a lot of parking in Argyle Street by none-residents.

The additional yellow lines have also lessened the available spaces but at the same time made traffic movement much better and allowed emergency access for ambulances/fire engines which was seriously compromised earlier. I think the addition of parking permits which will at least only allow residents to park on the street, would be extremely helpful and ensure that visitors do head to the beach car park first – also offering additional revenue for the village via the small parking fee charged there.

The one way system and 20 mph signs also make it safer, I think, for older residents. Our 91 year old neighbour who is seriously visually impaired, had often been worried by traffic moving too quickly, in both directions and had to step out across a road congested with vehicles manoeuvring forwards and back when parking on either side made it impossible for traffic travelling in both directions to move freely.

I have heard much criticism of the number of signs which have been erected. Personally I don't believe that they have had any detrimental effect whatsoever, certainly compared to the situation we had before the new system, where traffic on the main street was often gridlocked, looking more like a large car park than an attractive tourist village.

In addition I think one more sign is perhaps needed on the turn to The Wynd at the very beginning of the one way system to inform drivers that the first section is in fact two way and that traffic might be approaching from the direction of the beach.

I also think that perhaps a few more parking spaces could be re-instated at the far end of Riverside Road where there doesn't seem to be any real need for double yellow lines by the boating club and play park areas.

On a completely unbiased note – I have spoken to a bus driver of the X18 route who has driven through the village both before and after the traffic changes and he is very positive about the new system.

Equally an ambulance driver who picked up two neighbours regularly at the bottom of our street and had real problems doing so before the changes is much happier as is our carpet cleaner who visited last week and was raving about the new system!

None of the above have any other connection with the village and all spoke spontaneously on the traffic changes, without any input or encouragement from others.

All in all I think it has been a job very well done and carried out very smoothly by the workmen on the ground too. I would still like parking permits in Argyle Street but await the decision based on collective feedback from everyone living on the street.

THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

I admit to being somewhat troubled by this document which was posted through my letterbox.

Obviously I am happy with the changes, so that may be colouring my judgement somewhat, but my concern is that the document is clearly slanted towards giving negative feedback, even stating that the completed docs may be used at a later stage as a collective objection to the new road system if NCC don't do as they (who are they?) want. Bit undemocratic I think.

Given misleading information, ie that local consultation was informal, whereas I believe that the consultation was very thorough.

1. Slanted all of the suggested feedback towards negative comments (One actually has to cross out objections otherwise they will be forwarded to your office as printed – and sorry, can't help it :D but "the extra mileage caused by the one way system" comment is utterly laughable in this tiny village) I can't see any positive suggestions printed to give equal weight to the feedback, though I have outlined just a few positives in the main body of my letter.

2. The people who have sent and are collecting these papers are not named and are not officials. They are clearly against the present system. How can anyone filling in this document who wishes to give positive feedback, be sure that the forms will be forwarded to you given the agenda of the people encouraging negative feedback?

3. There has been ample opportunity for people to give feedback individually to NCC as I am doing here and this offer is ongoing until May 17th. I am confident that my feedback will be given equal attention to everyone else's this way, be it positive or negative. People are allowed to do as they wish of course but I feel that people are being pressured via this document to give negative feedback by others who are not in a position of authority to do so and would request that NCC keep this in mind when making further decisions based on the feedback within these documents.

Sorry for the length of this feedback, but please don't be downhearted by what seems to be a lot of criticism on these changes. I think you've done a fantastic job and so do lots of others, but there is a certain amount of nervousness amongst some to speak out due to the pressure being imposed by negative groups with influence within the village.

<p>Since the one way system was introduced we have noticed a sharp and continued improvement to both traffic flow and an easing of the parking situation in Argye Street.</p> <p>One family (friends of ours) visiting the village again this year told me how much easier it was to drive round the village.</p> <p>One parking attendant on the beach told me that she has been ever so busy now that day visitors are being directed by the road signs down to the beach area. This means an increase in takings for the Burghers</p> <p>Most days now we are able to park in Argye Street and most of the time outside our home at 22.</p> <p>So for us lovely to report a great result.</p> <p>Firstly I wanted to point out that we are thrilled that at last we have been able to parkin our street on most occasions.</p> <p>We think the permit scheme coupled with the new one way system has been a major improvement and seems to have encouraged day visitors to go to the beach parking.</p> <p>It is a view shared by residents in the street though I will encourage them to email or write separately.</p> <p>For now Argye is no longer a dumping ground for the likes of Northumbrian Coast and Country Cottages, Pubs, other guests houses and visitors happy to rob residents of a parking space. The previous situation really made it a nightmare for some residents and also prevented emergency vehicles getting in an out of the street.</p> <p>One neighbour often couldn't return to the street with her terminally ill husband because of the congestion and an ambulance struggled to turn up to attend to another neighbour in her 90's.</p> <p>You may be aware the there is an orchestrated campaign spearheaded by local business and parish councillors to revert back to the old system. It is featured in then new Alnmouth Village Newsletter today which can be seen online.</p> <p>We want to keep the new system and stand up for the many in this village who haven't a voice and who've seen much improvement.</p> <p>I'll copy Gordon Castle in on this for his information.</p>	
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I am a resident of Alnmouth village and note that our monthly newsletter has given a list of addresses to give feedback on the new residents parking permits recently implemented on Argyle Street.

Whilst the word objection was mentioned four times in the piece, the suggestion of making comments specifically approving, the new parking implementation was not. Much information has also been given on contacts for making official, and formal objections. I imagine these contacts welcome a balanced view, therefore I am copying this to all.

BACKGROUND

First let me say that I am a full-time resident of Argyle Street and was one of a group of residents who sought help from Alnmouth Council, as we were facing the ongoing challenge of gridlocked traffic on Argyle Street. The street is quite short, but has four, four storey blocks of flats situated at the top and at least six holiday house rental businesses, possibly more, situated on either side of the road, amongst a range of full time residential properties.

At the very amicable council meeting during which we asked for assistance, we acknowledged that many villagers make an income from holiday home lets and made clear that we didn't want to damage any of their businesses. We obviously welcome visitors to the village, but we had got to a stage in our street where through traffic was often unable to access the route through to Riverside Road, because of:

1. A glut of cars parked at the bottom of the street.
2. Holiday home rentals, none of which are Bed & Breakfast establishments, sometimes having several cars per house filling the available parking space.
3. Day visitors, parking here in high numbers to access the smaller beach in Alnmouth for dog walking/etc.
4. Some holiday home rental & bed & breakfast customers staying in other parts of the village, being directed by owners to park in Argyle Street. Totally legal, but nevertheless adding hugely to the congestion problem.

In the wider village, traffic and parking was, as is now, one of the major talking points amongst all villagers and indeed has been for the years I have been resident. The main street as locals will know, was often jammed with traffic, both parked and moving, meaning cars had to back up to allow others access. I was aware of many acquaintances living in the area who stated that they never came to Alnmouth anymore because of the traffic.

Our street undoubtedly had an issue and so did the rest of the village. We felt solutions had to be found, both for the full time residents of the village and visitors, as Alnmouth becomes ever more popular as a tourist attraction. The consultation process carried out by NCC was extensive and resulted in changes specific to Argyle Street as well as the rest of the village.

CHANGES TO PARKING ARGYLE STREET

At the time of the consultation we had neighbours on either side who required regular emergency visits by ambulance and doctors. The ambulance drivers mentioned their worries about accessing the houses. No doubt fire engines too would have found access impossible because of the concentration of cars at the bottom of the street. For this reason we welcomed double yellow lines starting a few feet from our own home and at other points along Argyle Street and the lane connecting our street and Riverside Road. Obviously this did not help us personally with our parking difficulties, but it did help the more frail members of the community, so a much needed change.

At this stage we had not been offered parking permits, but with the new one way system in place guiding day visitors to the parking on the beach, we felt that a small improvement had already been made. Visitors before this change had often stopped us on the main street, bewildered, having missed the beach turning and asking for directions to get there, so we feel that the one way system in the present direction has been a real improvement. I imagine the revenue from beach parking will have grown as a result, which is of benefit to villagers and visitors alike.

When the parking permits were offered, we happily accepted. In the past, residents of Argyle Street had often been forced to park in other areas of the village, because of the additional parking issues stated above, depriving our village neighbours of parking near their own homes. Though not dedicated spaces, we now usually do find a space to park in our own street. This isn't always the case, but we fully accept that and we are not now parking regularly in neighbouring village streets out of desperation, so are freeing up some space there.

The holiday rental businesses located in Argyle Street, I understand, have also been allocated permits in a similar number to the full time residents. This I think is fair and ensures that the businesses in our street have not suffered in any way because of the introduction of permits. None are Bed & Breakfast establishments, so none have need for several permits.

Incidentally the newsletter mentions that only residents in Argyle Street have permits, but many of the holiday rental owners have never been resident. They are property owners operating as businesses and are benefiting from the parking permit allocations.

During the first week of implementing the permit scheme, there was some criticism from other residents, particularly those living in Riverside Road, that Argyle Street had a number of empty spaces and yet no spaces were free in Riverside Road. I believe this was because the non-resident holiday home owners had not at that point obtained permits for their customers. That situation seems to have been rectified now, as the parking spaces available at any given time are largely in keeping with other streets in the rest of the village.

Incidentally the whole new traffic system seems to have largely benefited the village in my opinion. I work from home and walk around the village every day, seeing spaces available in all streets and often a large number of potential parking spaces free in Pease Lane and Alnwood in particular.

At the recent Alnmouth Arts Festival, which the newsletter states was the best attended ever, I happened to meet several visitors who mentioned that they much preferred the one way system, saying that the place looked much more like a real village now, rather than one big car park and the roads in the village are in a much improved condition too.

Going forward, it might be an idea to try permit parking for all villagers who don't have their own dedicated parking spaces after a similar very thorough consultation. There are also areas in the village where some yellow lines could be replaced with additional parking spaces.

All in all, I think Northumberland County Council and particularly Gordon Castle, have done a really good job. Locals came with a very real problem, were listened to and a very thorough consultation was carried out before implementing changes. I have, of course, no knowledge of consultations which may or may not have been carried out re parking, involving residents of other specific streets within the village.

Some people may be shy about coming forward to give positive comments, as they fear pressure from some very vocal members of the community who are strongly against the changes made, but I have heard plenty of locals quietly saying how much better the traffic situation is within the village.

In seaside villages such as ours it is important to get a balance between keeping the area a vibrant tourist destination and keeping the village alive with real village residents. I think the parking in Argyle Street as well as other traffic flow changes, will have a positive effect on both going forward.

<p>With regard to the parking situation, not only in Argyll Street, but across the whole village, thinking about residents parking is a good idea. I have several times come out of the house to run an errand, to come back unable to park, not only in close to my house, but in the entire village – admittedly at weekends, bank holidays and during the holiday periods we have had so far so since this scheme was put in place.</p> <p>This can only get worse in the coming months as we enter the summer holiday period and something that must be given greater consideration than it currently is.</p> <p>Whilst I understand the need for visitors, the use of the beach car park must be used more efficiently, with parking not for the day but time limited, bringing more income from the car park, but also allowing for a turnover of those visiting for the day. Also for those holidaying in the village – clearly if they cannot park in the village, let alone close to where they are staying I doubt they will be quick to return unless they have the assurance of parking from a residents pass. I also believe the village would benefit from the use of the car park across the bridge by the school should be used as an overflow for visitors during busy summer months.</p> <p>It is surely worth considering making Alnmouth residents only parking in the summer in any event to reduce traffic into the village.</p>
<p>I would like to support the new residents parking scheme in Alnmouth which seems to be working well. My husband and I have 2 cars. We still encounter a few problems when friends and family visit, but it is nevertheless a great improvement in everyday life.</p>
<p>I also attend a couple of morning classes in Hindmarsh Hall with people who come into Alnmouth by car and, now that everyone understands the Village parking scheme, they do not have problems parking in appropriate areas.</p>
<p>Thank you and my husband and I hope the scheme continues.</p>
<p>The problem for residents in Northumberland St and the lanes running off it is (Prospect Place, Grosvenor Terrace, L'vaine Terrace etc with no parking) is that N St is swamped with visitors staying or visiting the pubs, B&Bs, Air BnBs etc. Essentially every parking space is needed to accommodate visitors. This causes friction. The Argyll scheme (which I think is a good thing) annoys N St residents and businesses as they can see spaces during the day whilst N St is packed. Again I think that the spaces show it is working as Argyll residents can come back and park after work or when ever, but there is a case for arguing that it is unfair for N St residents</p>
<p>I was under the impression that to have a scheme whereby residents of N St and the adjacent lanes had permits then it would have to involve all of the street at all times. If there is more flexibility then would it be possible to look at Residents parking for say half the Street or just in the evenings?? I don't want businesses and holiday lets to squash the residents. I think it is fairer to expect visitors to park round the corner than residents.</p>
<p>I don't want to compare Alnmouth to Venice or Barcelona, but I sense that, like Venice & Barcelona residents are starting to get a little tired of being swamped by cars and visitors virtually every weekend in the summer and increasingly even out of school holidays.</p>
<p>A brief note to provide my full support for the current experiment, both for the one-way system and for the parking arrangements. These arrangements have worked very well since they began, including the recent improvements, and I hope they will continue on a permanent basis.</p>
<p>You may be aware of an additional problem now occurring on the entry road between the bridge and the memorial roundabout caused by car parking; this happens particularly during the tourist season and special events being held, or starting/terminating in Alnmouth. Buses, wagons and ordinary traffic can suffer blockage and major delay - along the curved section in particular, there being no passing place.</p>
<p>Like many coastal villages, Alnmouth is very short of parking areas to accommodate large increases in traffic and I urge your department to now focus attention to the provision of new parking - west of the bridge on the flood plain fields seems a likely choice area.</p>
<p>I will be supporting the view that the current experimental arrangements be made permanent since they have proved most successful.</p>

<p>I would just like to say how great all the new traffic regulations have been in Alnmouth.</p> <p>The one way system has been a great success and the parking bays and additional double yellow lines have made the village look much neater. The civil enforcement officers have been doing a sterling job!</p> <p>It also feels a lot safer walking around as all cars now have to pass the way to the car park and there has been no gridlock or road rage or cars mounting the pavements to get through the village!</p> <p>The bus service also has no trouble coming through the village now although extending the double yellow lines after the roundabout when leaving the village would be beneficial to all!</p> <p>I would also like to say that the introduction of resident parking permits on Argyle Street, whilst not making any difference to the number of visitors, has dramatically improved the lives of the residents. (Even with the opposing views and comments from other people in the village!) We now have no fear of leaving at any time of day even when the village is heaving with visitors as we know we can park somewhere near our properties when we return. Also, when we have spoken to visitors staying in the five rental properties in Argyle Street, they are also very happy they can now park when returning from days out.</p> <p>Alnmouth is a lovely place to visit but it is now also a wonderful place to LIVE once more.</p> <p>Thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues have done so far and it has always been a pleasure communicating with you.</p> <p>As a resident on Argyle Street I fully agree with the parking scheme. I feel I should be entitled to a c/parking space. By having this scheme, it has not driven any visitors away. Would it not be possible to make the beach car park free, visitors come to walk along the beach and walk into the village to so. Surely by doing this it would bring more visitors and keep businesses happy by making the residents happy by having guaranteed parking. Surely the one resident at the bottom of Argyle street who advised there are parking during the day, I bet she/he has her own parking space, however if she/he didn't have her own parking space and had to park on Argyle street she would be arguing for the other side as all the business owners who have their own guaranteed parking spaces and doesn't have to worry about parking.</p> <p>We wish to compliment NCC on the one way system in our village and hope that it continues after the expiration of the 12 month traffic experiment.</p> <p>As a resident on Riverside Road would it be possible to adopt a residents parking scheme on the houses side of the road similar to what as been done on Argyle Street?</p> <p>Or alternatively be given a parking permit for Argyle Street which covers the lane linking Argyle Street to Riverside Road which we live very close to.</p> <p>The scheme has been in operation for six months. In my view, and the majority of Argyle St residents it has been a great success.</p> <p>Not only can we park when we come home from work etc, but during the day also, it has stopped the influx of cars from the holiday flats in Percy cottages, Victoria cottages and Riverside.</p> <p>I hope the scheme continues.</p> <p>We are a resident of Argyle Street write with regard to the recently introduced residents parking scheme.</p> <p>We are very much in support of the continuation of the scheme. Prior to it's introduction we were frequently unable to park anywhere close to our residence and this was proving quite a challenge on occasions. Since it's introduction we have always been able to park our car close to the house.</p> <p>We understand the pressures on parking in the village as a whole and are sympathetic to the needs of retailers, guest houses and users of holiday lets who wish to access the village. It is clear that over the last couple of years the village economy has flourished with refurbished and new businesses. This growth does not seem to have been affected by the introduction of the parking scheme and balancing the needs of residents and visitors is an important part of the health of the village. Day visitors are increasingly being encouraged to use the beach car park and the marked bays on the waterfront roads. The one way system will have helped access overall. To remove the scheme that has been introduced would in our view be a retrograde step. The fact of some empty spaces in the street during the day is actually evidence that the scheme is working as it means residents can return to the street and park. The village has to accept it cannot readily accommodate more parking in it's centre during the summer months and other repeat holiday periods and other long term strategies, including possibly additional resident only parking arrangements are required. Short term parking and disabled parking in limited areas and a focus on visitors parking in the car park or even introducing a park and ride scheme at very peak times (as is done on certain event days) is the only practical alternative to a free for all which would leave residents unable to park.</p> <p>Parking schemes such as these are normal in many urban areas and a feature of modern life. Other residents in the village will be sympathetic to this and we would support their efforts to extend the scheme if they wished to do so.</p> <p>We believe those running businesses should look to a new way of serving customers without seeking to have parking in a residential village primarily focussed on their customers (and therefore their) needs.</p> <p>My contribution would be to say that tension seems to be between residents wanting to park after work which is an absolute nightmare in the rest of the village, and allowing daytime users access.</p> <p>Why not limit the residents-only restriction from 4pm-8am, and widen that across the village? Holidays rentals etc could have a pass each as is currently done in Argyle Street, and that way the villagers proper are shown the respect they deserve for paying council tax etc in the area.</p> <p>Currently the situation is fantastic in Argyle Street. As a flat resident, I can chose from Northumberland Street parking, residents zones, AND the pre built parking around the flat. But that's actually very unfair - xxxx literally does three circles of the village many days and before I moved in here so did I. This needs to be more fairly spread across the resident villagers.</p> <p>We need the permit parking as we cant get parked when we come home at night. All the people from the hotels and holiday homes [some of the holiday lets have three or more cars] park there and there is just not enough spaces for the for the residents. There may be spaces during the day as people are at work or on other business but when they come home the street is full. If there was some way to let day visitors park during the day till about six it would help but I don't know if that is feasible.</p>
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<p>I would just like to say how great all the new traffic regulations have been in Alnmouth.</p> <p>The one way system has been a great success and the parking bays and additional double yellow lines have made the village look much neater. The civil enforcement officers have been doing a sterling job!</p> <p>It also feels a lot safer walking around as all cars now have to pass the way to the car park and there has been no gridlock or road rage or cars mounting the pavements to get through the village!</p> <p>The bus service also has no trouble coming through the village now although extending the double yellow lines after the roundabout when leaving the village would be beneficial to all!</p> <p>I would also like to say that the introduction of resident parking permits on Argyle Street, whilst not making any difference to the number of visitors, has dramatically improved the lives of the residents. (Even with the opposing views and comments from other people in the village!) We now have no fear of leaving at any time of day even when the village is heaving with visitors as we know we can park somewhere near our properties when we return. Also, when we have spoken to visitors staying in the five rental properties in Argyle Street, they are also very happy they can now park when returning from days out.</p> <p>Alnmouth is a lovely place to visit but it is now also a wonderful place to LIVE once more.</p> <p>Thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues have done so far and it has always been a pleasure communicating with you.</p> <p>Many thanks once again</p> <p>As it's been six months since the traffic changes in Alnmouth were introduced we would like to say that the residents of Argyle Street continue to be thrilled with the improvements to the quality of their lives.</p> <p>As you'll recall the street was previously a complete dumping ground for day visitors.</p> <p>One resident struggled to return with medicine for her dying husband and ambulances were unable to reach another elderly neighbour needing to be taken to hospital.</p> <p>Holiday companies and local businesses also recommended that their guests leave their cars in Argyle Street if no other spaces were available.</p> <p>The permits also have eased the problems of the holiday homes in the street which often attracted up to six visiting cars at a time.</p> <p>So well done all round to you and your team and a particular nod to our Warden who's done a brilliant job despite the insults heading his way.</p> <p>Now we hear of some new "hybrid" plan allowing visitors to park between 9 and 6 which frankly will mean that we are all back to square one.</p> <p>We understand the aggressive lobbying from certain business folk and parish councillors (often the same people)</p> <p>The County Council have been great throughout this process. We hope you won't let us down now.</p>	
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<p>As far as Argyle St 'Resident Permit' scheme, I believe this is accomplishing the intended goal. I have not met any resident of this street who has had any real negative response. The exception being during the summer season and the few properties that have been sub-divided into flats and there for entitled to more than the standard two (2) resident permits. Only on the rare occasion have I observed every parking space occupied. By all accounts it is actually late in the evening (sometime after 1800 hrs) that is the biggest issue of people parking without permits.</p> <p>I have had people who frequent the village, who don't actually live in the village, complain that they "come into the village for shopping and what not and frustrated to see spaces they can not park in". I have tried to reason with them that the purpose of the scheme was to attempt to allow residents of the street priority access to parking outside their own front door. They come back with things such as why is this scheme not in place for folk who live elsewhere in the village.</p> <p>During the off-season, parking in Riverside Road is rarely utilized to anywhere near it's full potential. Even during the peak season, it is rare that all spaces are occupied. What it generally boils down to is the fact that a significant portion of the driving public are not prepared to walk a reasonable distance to their intended destination. It hardly takes 5 minutes to walk to any location from one side of the village to the other.</p> <p>Perhaps Northumberland St, Alnmouth, could offer a similar scheme to that of Bailiffgate, Alnwick. Where bays are limited time parking or Resident Permit. No need for a parking clock. Maybe "Resident Permit Holders or 2 hours free no return for 3 hours". This would give time for folk to have a bite to eat and check out the extremely limited gift shops. There have been one or two voiced concerns on Riverside Road which there could be a view to doing the same perhaps '4 hours no return for 5 hours' to allow folk a more leisurely walk along the beach and what not. Just a thought.</p> <p>I am aware that we are not going to be able to please everyone but if we can at least give most people a portion of what they want it will show that we are committed to providing a mutually beneficial compromise.</p> <p>I really like the new parking scheme and the one way system in Alnmouth, having been a regular visitor to the village for 10+ years. Makes such a difference, and ultimately it's the residents who live there and rightly have their interests represented, not just businesses that make a fortune from tourism.</p> <p>I think it could be extended in other parts of Alnmouth, so that Argyle Street isn't unfairly used, but it should definitely stay on that road (by the way, I don't live on that road.)</p>	<p>As far as Argyle St 'Resident Permit' scheme, I believe this is accomplishing the intended goal. I have not met any resident of this street who has had any real negative response. The exception being during the summer season and the few properties that have been sub-divided into flats and there for entitled to more than the standard two (2) resident permits. Only on the rare occasion have I observed every parking space occupied. 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<p>Just though I would drop you an email with a couple of comments on the current parking scheme within Alnmouth. I have been a resident of Argyle Street in Alnmouth for the last xx years and for the last xx I have been a car owner/driver. Personally I must say what a huge improvement it has made to the street and I DO HOPE THAT IT CONTINUES!!</p> <p>In the past it had become increasingly difficult to find a parking space outside of my house, or even just in the street where I live due to the increased number of holiday homes and houses that are rented out throughout the year. I don't think there is a week that goes by without houses being vacated by one or more groups/families whilst another arrives shortly afterwards. Sometimes these groups brought 4 cars to the same house and therefore parking became rather scarce. Not being able to find a car parking space in, or close to home, did make it difficult when returning home with 6 or 7 bags of food shopping and then having to circle the village a couple of time (have done this many times :-)) in order to find a space to park, followed by a couple of trips between the house and car in order transfer the shopping.</p> <p>Anyway, I just wanted to say that since the residential parking scheme was introduced in Argyle Street, I am no longer worried that when I arrive home after work in the evening, especially now the dark nights are here, that I will need to park a distance away from my door. I do travel down to Newcastle every day so tend to get back anytime between 5 and 7. It is the same at weekends - I used to be of the opinion that, if at all possible, I would not bother moving my car, due to the worry that I would never be able to find a space upon my return. Now I know that parking within the area is not guaranteed and I understand that, but I have to say that during the summer, just past, parking within the area around Argyle Street has been greatly improved. Cars were sometimes parked opposite junctions or squeezed in blocking pavements, all of which caused other road users stress. I can recall a number of times large delivery lorries having to reverse up our street because they could not turn the corner at the bottom due to cars being parked without due care - and got forlorn if emergency vehicles could not get access due to bad parking. So having the marked bays in place has improved this area.</p> <p>I must admit there are still times when non-residential cars do park in the "residential only area" and these tend to sneak in late in the day, when I presume they think the traffic warden will no longer be around - so maybe this needs to be looked at i.e. whether sometimes someone could do a patrol later in the evening or early in the morning to catch those at fault.</p> <p>BUT overall I would say it has been a great success and, as I have already stated, as a long term resident of Argyle Street I do hope the trial is adopted and it becomes the norm.</p> <p>The only other point I would raise is about the "one way" scheme in operation, and this is that I would like to see those vehicles leaving the beach car park, and driving up the road, having to turn left at the top junction of Maine Road and just follow the one way system from there. Just last week I witnessed a near collision where a car turned right at the top, against the one way traffic flow, and nearly collided with a van going down the Wynd.</p> <p>If you need any further information or clarification then please let me know.</p> <p>I just want wanted to add my support to the parking scheme trial which is working very well in terms of being able to park near or outside my own property. Prior to the scheme this was not the case. I very much hope the scheme will become permanent as I do not believe it is detriment to the wider village.</p> <p>Many thanks</p>	
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I am writing further to the Alnmouth Council meeting on Tuesday 14th November.

Around 20 Argyle Street residents and permit holders with Riverside Road addresses were present. We had read notices in The Northumberland Gazette stating that temporary traffic orders, including those within our own street, were to be discussed and we wished to be involved in the conversation about Argyle Street.

During the parking experiments throughout the village and within our own street, I have been extremely happy with the consultation process carried out by NCC, who listened to our concerns about parking in Argyle Street and then instigated the whole process of a new traffic system in Alnmouth. I and many other residents throughout the village have been very pleased indeed with the outcome.

During this time, NCC have spoken with us directly. However, many of us in Argyle Street, rightly or wrongly, perceive that a number of the members of Alnmouth Parish Council, whilst claiming to act for the good of all of the villagers, are personally biased against not only parking permits in Argyle Street, but the whole new traffic system, because the Parish Council have a separate issue of anger with regards to communication between themselves and NCC.

Our concern is that Alnmouth Parish Council, unlike NCC, have not instigated an open council meeting, inviting locals to discuss the issues. Nor have they invited locals to approach individual councillors with their concerns. Therefore how can they claim to be acting on the villagers' behalf? Are there any records of conversations, or written communications with local individuals proving that a majority of residents are -

A) Unhappy with Permit parking in Argyle Street?

B) Unhappy with the new traffic system?

During this time Alnmouth Parish Council have, via the newsletter (July) advised locals on how to protest about the new parking system in Argyle Street. Giving links to do so. No encouragement accompanied this for locals to comment positively about the permits. The word "objection" was printed four times in the piece.

Many of us living in Argyle Street feel that because of the reasons stated Alnmouth Parish Council's feedback to NCC does not accurately reflect the true feelings of all of the village and specifically the residents of Argyle Street. It is we have had everyday experience of the parking issues before permits were introduced, have responded directly to NCC with feedback on the scheme (on record as a majority wanting the permits) and turned out in force on Tuesday night to explain the reasons why we are still very much in favour of parking permits.

In addition to this, it is a fact that Alnmouth ALWAYS has some free parking spaces – even during village events. Streets such as Alnmouth ALWAYS has some free parking for residents or specific parking spots for the bungalows, but the rest of the street is absolutely free of cars. This was the case even when Northumberland Street was closed for resurfacing. There are other streets which also regularly have lots of free space.

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ARGYLE STREET – WHY OUR STREET HAS A UNIQUE PARKING ISSUE, RESOLVED WITH GREAT SUCCESS BY THE USE OF PARKING PERMITS.

❑ Argyle Street sits only a few metres away from The Little Beach. It is a relatively short street, but has four, four storey blocks of flats within it, five full time holiday let businesses, further part time holiday let businesses and several residential units. Argyle Street probably has the highest permanent residential percentage in any road in the village and none of the properties has parking provision other than on the street.

❑ Being so close to the Little Beach, the street was often full of day visitors walking dogs etc. This blocked parking for residents, yet ample parking provision is available for day visitors on the main beach, from which day visitors can walk anywhere in the village. Parking in the main car park also brings in vital revenue to maintain certain facilities within the village.

❑ Before parking permits were introduced, the full time businesses in our street, which are holiday lets, had four and sometimes five vehicles per house using the street space for parking. This prevented residents from being able to park in the street. Now the full time businesses have the same parking permit provision as residents. We are happy with this and would argue that this actually supports the businesses in our street, ensuring that their clients have a chance of parking near the businesses.

❑ Criticism has been levelled at the fact that Argyle Street has empty parking spaces available. Sometimes it does have some free spaces. This is a sign that the permit parking is working. Sometimes it is also still absolutely full of cars. The times when our street has spaces are the times that several other streets also have available spaces

<p>I live in Alnmouth and would like to register my support for the recent Traffic and Parking changes in the village.</p> <p>The one way system works well and has improved traffic flow.</p> <p>The Argyle Street Residents Parking Scheme should be retained as it is a great help to the people who live in that street. I hear that some in the village feel that it is unfair, but if similar permit schemes are introduced throughout the village then it would no longer be unfair or divisive. People complain that they can't park to attend events in the Hindmarsh Hall. The Hall has no parking, so why should nearby residents be the ones to provide parking for it?</p> <p>The Parish Council should pay more attention to the interests of Residents not only Holiday Visitors and those businesses that benefit from them.</p> <p>As a regular visitor to the village I just wanted to say I have welcomed the new changes to the road network. We rarely experience problems with traffic like we used to. We often visit friends in Argyle Street and the residents parking system is a fantastic idea. I think it would be a good idea to extend this system into other areas of the village, to be fair to other residents in Alnmouth.</p>	
<p>I have lived in Alnmouth for many years. I would like to record my view that the new one way system works very well and has improved the flow of traffic around the village and makes it easier for me to cross the road.</p> <p>I would also like to express my support for the residents of Argyle Street and their wish to retain the Residents Parking Scheme. I do not live in Argyle Street, but appreciate their frustration as the ever increasing number of visitors to the village make had made it extremely difficult to park near to where they live. Those that feel it is unfair for one street to have such a scheme should encourage the authorities to implement a similar scheme elsewhere in the village. Those who live in Grosvenor Terr., Prospect Place, Osborne Terrace, Lovaine etc should also benefit from similar protection by the installation of a small number of Resident Permit parking spaces in Marine Road, Riverside and at the northern end of Northumberland Street.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that those wishing to attend events at Hindmarsh Hall find it difficult to park close by, but that is a function of the Hall having no dedicated parking spaces what so ever. It should not be the responsibility of nearby residential streets to provide a carpark for the Hall.</p>	
<p>Hello and firstly I would like to say that the new one-way system in Alnmouth seems to be working well and I have not heard too many people saying otherwise, so thank you for that.</p> <p>I attended the November meeting of the Alnmouth Parish Council when the Argyle Street Resident Parking Scheme was discussed. (I have say that I had not previously appreciated what 'poor relations' Argyle Street residents were!!) The discussion was contentious and I did not feel that the PC were objectively representing the Alnmouth residents overall – there was definitely a 'them and us' atmosphere with most of the PC members taking the 'them' stance which was evident in their body language. The NCC representative and the County Councillor had a tough time! Anyway, moving on, objectively, I would like to formally state a case for the retention of the Argyle Street Resident Parking Scheme by listing the following points:</p> <p>There are over 35 residences/homes/holiday homes in Argyle Street within a fairly short stretch of street ie. it is a street mainly of terraced houses with no garages, driveways or personal parking of any sort and it includes 3 blocks of flats, which I believe makes it is the most congested residential area in Alnmouth. (I am the exception on the gable end where the front garden has been converted into a parking bay for a small car so, I think it is easier for me to adopt a more unbiased attitude. It is the only house in the street where this arrangement is possible.) Many other homes amongst the nooks and crannies of Alnmouth have managed to create invaluable personal parking, but that is almost impossible in Argyle Street.</p> <p>Argyle Street is a 'parking target' for visitors and it is particularly handy for those who wish to walk on the Estuary Beach. Visitors staying in other holiday let areas are directed to park there too. So, it does have its own problems. (Riverside Road suffers similarly, but many of the properties have private parking and the ratio of parking spaces to homes is greater.)</p> <p>If the parking permits at taken away from Argyle Street residents, then they will be forced to park in Riverside Road or the High Street, thereby taking up spaces others could use.</p> <p>I would also like to state a strong case for the creation of extra car parking for visitors. I believe this has been considered and has come to a standstill, but it must be a better plan to concentrate efforts on this objective rather than taking away existing benefits from residents. Also, improving the signage so that visitors can understand the layout of Alnmouth, in particular getting across the point that parking on the beach area does not necessarily mean walking back up the way they came in and that the shops and cafes etc are only 5 - 10 minutes walk from the beach parking via the footpath through to the Golf Club/village. Many times, I have watched people park their cars on Riverside Road or Argyle Street and walk down to the main beach!!</p> <p>I visited the Lake District recently, and believe me they have a much greater visitor parking problem and visitors must be prepared to walk quite a distance from parking to visitor attractions.</p> <p>I would also like to state that I have no issue with tourism businesses or visitors. I welcome them all and enjoy the buzz they create in the busy season. Tourism is probably the biggest industry in Northumberland and good for the county, since Alnmouth is a popular destination I think it is important that NCC address the lack of parking for tourists, and sooner rather than later</p>	

<p>I understand that Alnmouth PC do not now support the use of parking permit system in Argyle St, this is despite a long trial and strong support from the majority of the residents of Argyle St., of which I am one, and without holding an open PC meeting for Argyle St residents to attend/discuss.</p> <p>We have suffered greatly in the past from tourist-parking blocking access to our homes (some 40 homes in Argyle St), not only for residents but for deliveries and service providers in general, the parking permits have much alleviated this difficulty, as has the one-way system. So where would the residents park? -they'd take up other spaces in the village or would have then to park at the beach car park which is where the tourists should be parking!</p> <p>I note also that some businesses over recent years have removed most/all of their own parking facilities by extending their premises/activities (with good commercial reason). However the expectation is then for the Highways/community to accept/substitute/resolve any resulting street parking problems alongside normal traffic increase!</p> <p>The prevention of tourist/visitor parking in Argyle St has not affected the tourist numbers nor the commerce of Alnmouth and during 'high seasons' you would be very lucky to see some 4 or 5 empty spaces in Argyle St. and not for long.</p> <p>The PC's own newsletter confirms how the village activities have continued to thrive;</p> <p>Alnmouth Arts Festival – 'the best attended so far'</p> <p>Alnmouth Volcano Night – 'record nos.....48 teams taking part spurred on by hundreds of supporters'</p> <p>Alnmouth Food Festival – 'a glorious day in terms of sales with many vendors running out of food. More than 1200 people attended'</p> <p>The real answer is to increase parking for tourists/everyone; I have already suggested west of the bridge on the 'flood plain' area (some 30 or 40 spaces could be made available with gravel/sub-base surfacing only); perhaps the area down the beach access road and behind the parking kiosk could also be explored (good car/pedestrian access? 10/15 car spaces?)? Every visitor attraction in UK has to contend with parking problems, as I recently experienced in the Lake District, and every visitor has to walk some distance from very full/overflowing car parks to reach their individual destinations or attractions.</p> <p>For proper utilisation of the Beach car park, further improvement could be provided e.g. increase to the parking area (up to 10 or 20 spaces?, - with markings to all?), better direction signage (to Highways standards), lighting, and pedestrian access from the car park to/from the village.</p> <p>Some bold creative planning is required by NCC to resolve the overall parking shortage and not 'tinker' with existing arrangements for Argyle St. which will not resolve the overall parking issues. I look for NCC to take a strong and knowledgeable lead on these matters and to better assist the PC in their efforts, whether technically or financially.</p> <p>It would be much regretted to remove (or change) the successful parking permit system from Argyle St.</p> <p>Please note my support for the continuance of the current Parking Permits for Argyle St. and for the one-way traffic routing which has proved very successful for ALL users.</p> <p>I would like to register my support for the Residential Parking Permits for Argyle Street, Alnmouth,</p> <p>There is a big problem with parking in Alnmouth especially during the summer months when visitors often refuse to use the beach car park. Surely the directions to the beach car park could be more prominent and the path from the car park to the village could be improved. If it could be pointed out to visitors that the car park is only a few hundred yards from the village that might encourage them to use it. I realise improving the path from the existing car park will be expensive, especially if the path was to be improved significantly and lighting if lighting was installed. I can also see that those who are not very steady on their feet or those pushing prams etc find the existing path difficult.</p> <p>If the path from the beach car park could be improved the traders in the village may not be so hostile to the restrictions in parking in Argyle Street where there is only room for 1 to 1 ½ car outside each property. Now that most properties have been converted into flats there is insufficient parking outside each property for the residents, that is without visitors being encouraged to park there to as well.</p> <p>Please keep the residential parking permits.</p> <p>The one way system works well and has improved traffic flow.</p> <p>The Argyle Street Residents Parking Scheme should be retained as it is a great help to the people who live in that street. I hear that some in the village feel that it is unfair, but if similar permit schemes are introduced throughout the village then it would no longer be unfair or divisive. People complain that they can't park to attend events in the Hindmarsh Hall. The Hall has no parking, so why should nearby residents be the ones to provide parking for it?</p> <p>The Parish Council should pay more attention to the interests of Residents not only Holiday Visitors and those businesses that benefit from them.</p> <p>I really like the new parking scheme and the one way system in Alnmouth, having been a regular visitor to the village for 10+ years. Makes such a difference, and ultimately it's the residents who live there and rightly have their interests represented, not just businesses that make a fortune from tourism.</p> <p>I think it could be extended in other parts of Alnmouth, so that Argyle Street isn't unfairly used, but it should definitely stay on that road (by the way, I don't live on that road.)</p>

<p>I gather some argue against the Argyle St Residents Parking scheme because they can't park to attend events in the Hindmarsh Hall.</p> <p>The Hindmarsh Hall sets itself up as an events venue and as such I agree it is a valuable village asset. However the Hall is hamstrung by one major inherent disadvantage. It does not possess one single dedicated parking space. Why should residents living close by, suffer for the convenience of concert goers, wedding guests etc.</p>	<p>I live at the other end of the village and therefore my view is influenced by what is best for residents not by any personal interests</p> <p>A. In respect to ease of access to public transport and local amenities' accessing public transport is not a concern as the village is well served by both rail and bus services (albeit the bus shelter is now on the wrong side of Northumberland Street). However access to local amenities is not well served by the new one way system. If on reversed the experimental arrangement (ie go back to the way we were) it would benefit visitors, particularly those arriving by motor vehicle, as the visitor is made aware of the retail, catering and hotel facilities on their arrival at the village. With the current arrangement (apart from the Dandelion Restaurant) these facilities are not on view until visitors are nearing departure. This means either (i) the facilities are at risk of being ignored or (ii) involved a visitors completing another circuit.</p> <p>B. Furthermore reversing the direction of traffic flow of the experimental one way system would further improve pedestrian safety. In particular (i) traffic will be approaching from the left when turning into Marine Road which will be both safer/more logical for pedestrians (particularly those crossing from Northumberland St into Riverside); and (ii) allow designated car parking spaces on Marine Road to be (re)located adjacent to all residences which is safer for their passengers who can alight onto the existing public footpath. NB where space permitted the one way system NCCs highways engineers have introduced parking on both sides of this road which has usefully improved parking capacity as well as introducing a 'chicane'/natural traffic calming measure. However this current chicane arrangement has two drawbacks (a) it only works when the parking spaces are occupied and (b) put parked vehicles at risk of damage from passing traffic. If NCC introduced raised planters or street furniture immediately adjacent to the first and last parking bays these chicanes would not be dependent upon parked vehicles to be effective with the benefit that traffic calming would achieved at all times.</p> <p>C. Designated the majority of on street parking as 'residents only' ideally to achieve a parking to property ratio of one to one or the best ratio as is practical. This could be adjusted seasonally (eg residents only from 1st April to 30th September as similar arrangement in other coastal villages such as Low Newton). This would need to be managed via the issue of residents parking permits NB residents parking permits are already issued by the Burgrave holders for seasonal use of the beach car park so this is something the Village/Parish Councilors would likely be pleased to assist with.</p> <p>D. Introduction of designated disabled parking bays ideally adjacent the retail and restaurant outlets together with secure bicycle parking.</p> <p>E. Absentee landlords (eg those owning holiday accommodation) need to be considered when their property is of a size that permit multiple occupancy/ more than one family. I say this because the number of persons in residence will at times require more than one car space and a likely need for additional overnight parking during the main holiday season. A solution is suggested in para H below.</p> <p>F. Introduction of an hours/waiting time restriction on large delivery vehicles to reduce the problem with blocking Northumberland Street and or parking on the public footpath (this has long been a problem which has not eased in spite of the works undertaken as part of your experimental order). The hours restriction could be between the hours of 6pm and 8am. Alternatively designated loading and unloading bays but this may not be possible due to safety and other constraints.</p> <p>G. In conjunction with the Burgrave Holders develop opportunities to extend the existing off road visitor parking amenities. The existing visitor beach parking facility could be enhanced and extended where possible. The existing beach parking and the overflow/coach parking facility is currently well managed by our Burgrave Holders and the income therefrom is reinvested to the benefit of residents and the wider community (eg visitors). NB1 Whilst accepting this car park is located in a conservation area/ AOB there is potential to both expand the area (albeit limited) and increase capacity by the use of a more durable (albeit green/eco-friendly) surfacing, and designate the parking bays (by introduction of bay markers). I'm sure the Northumberland Tourist Board would support such an initiative and may provide financial assistance to NCC in meeting the costs of these improvements. There are already excellent and established footpaths connecting the beach car park to the village together with existing public toilets. NB2 a more durable surface to the beach car park would have to be maintained. Currently the Burgrave Holders are faced (annually) with repairs to potholes/ regarding following the ravages of winter and the North Sea. This annual expenditure (currently circa £7K to £8K/ annum) could be directed to a sinking fund to assist NCC in future repairs and maintenance. Annual maintenance/life cycle costs for a more durable surfacing material, over time should not be significantly different. NB3 the provision of separate visitor parking is not a new idea in Northumbrian coastal villages. It may be useful to remind NCC that this arrangement works well at Warkworth, Craster, Low Newton and Holy Island to name but four.</p> <p>H. Overnight car parking for visitors using holiday or hotel accommodation needs to be considered. Currently overnight parking on the beach car park is not permitted and many may think this should continue. There is however the overflow car park (by the car park attendants hut). This was historically but now rarely used for parking coaches overnight. This car park has a macadam surface, again there is the potential to increase capacity by expanding the area and introducing designated parking bays. Temporary overnight parking permits detailing vehicle registration and duration of permit could be made available at a cost. Owners of holiday accommodation and hoteliers would be able to advise visitors of the amenity and purchase arrangements (See para E above). This arrangement works well in other historic coastal towns such as Fowey and Salcombe (albeit not to my knowledge in Northumberland).</p>
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<p>I Agree with: One way system 20 mph speed limit</p>	
<p>I Disagree with: The significant loss of parking places The Bus parking bay which takes up at least 5 parking spaces and has no shelter Cars now parking on both sides of the road leading into Alnmouth because they cannot park in the village, a creating congestion and bottlenecks. Extra large parking bays which are not necessary Double yellow lines that stop at the entrance to a driveway (although this is not consistent throughout the village). Home owners use this space to park their cars - in an area when the rest of the road has double yellow lines - caused congestion. On leaving the village to turn right and go back round the one way system - it's not made clear that you are driving directly into oncoming traffic - an accident waiting to happen. Cars leaving the beach are not being asked to filter into the one-way system, but allowed to turn right into the path of oncoming traffic that think they are in a one way system - An accident waiting to happen. Over zealous use of double yellow lines throughout the village. Home owners who have off road parking still parking on the high street. Tradings having skips on the road in parking bays for weeks at a time - in some cases taking up to 3 parking spaces. No traffic warden patrolling the village on a Friday and Saturday night when all visitors park on double yellow lines. Motorbikes that take up a parking space. Traders and locals that block out parking spaces with cones and 'A' boards Golfers who come to play at Alnmouth, but do not use the Golf Club car park.</p>	
<p>Having lived in the village for over 17 years and never had off road parking, I had previously always been able to park somewhere in the village at any time of the year. With the new parking system, I find it impossible to get a parking space during busy times.</p>	
<p>All we want is more parking in the village, not less. Can I suggest we adopt a system such as Holy Island, in that ALL visitors have to park outside the village and walk in.</p>	
<p>I look forward to your response.</p>	<p>Could you please</p>
<p>tell me why Argyle Street has the luxury of Permit Parking only, but residents who live in the rest of the village have not been given the same privilege</p>	
<p>I've lived in the village for over 17 years and never seen the parking as bad as it is now - I often cannot park anywhere in the village now and have to resort to parking along the Foxton road.</p>	
<p>Dear Sir/Madam, I note from the communication from the Alnmouth Village Newsletter that New Traffic Scheme implemented within Alnmouth, is according to Northumberland County Council implemented on a "temporary basis", and subject to review. I have not received notification from yourselves as to how the review process will take place or indeed when. The one-way system as it implemented does seem, in the main, to have resolved the congestion that occurred on Northumberland Street although I'm sure the residents of that street will have more relevant commentary based on their experience. Until such time as the village has had the exposure of the summer peak traffic we will not understand the efficacy of the current scheme. Of particular concern to myself is the "residents parking permits" use in Argyle Street as it is ill thought out. Experience throughout the UK tells us that implementation of such a scheme on a limited area basis just move as the problem somewhere else, specifically to adjacent streets. In this case into Riverside Road. I do not understand why this has not been thought through by NCC. With the reduction in parking spaces throughout the village there is a need to consider all residents. With no provision for the residents of Riverside Road we will experience the same issues that are and were faced by residents of Argyle Street. The most obvious solution was to have reserved all parking spaces to the north side of the road, that is adjacent to the houses in Riverside Road, for residents while leaving those to the south side, adjacent to the river for non-residents. I would ask that this be considered and implemented as part of the review and changes to the Traffic Scheme that follows the summer experience.</p>	

<p>We are very supportive of the one-way system in the village, but the parking situation is becoming worse and worse as we enter high-season for tourists; although the new bays make the parking more orderly there is definitely less capacity. However, since the changes, we have felt a little like prisoners in our own village as once you get a parking slot, you don't want to move as there are much fewer than before. Previously, we would have parked on Argyle street and Riverside road. However, now obviously we cannot park on Argyle street and Riverside Road has less parking than before which is just bizarre. So the choice is left to parking on double yellow lines. And it does seem a little unfair that everyone can park on Riverside road, but not Argyle street; it may relate to the fact that folks who have reported parking problems, live down the hill on Argyle street perhaps. The funny thing is that the parking slots at the top of Argyle street have no properties with exists onto Argyle street...</p>	
<p>I spoke to others on Riverside Road and they have had similar problems with parking on Riverside road.</p>	
<p>To be honest, I think it is overkill to implement residents parking, double yellow lines everywhere and huge parking bays. It's the kind of thing you get in a city, not a village. Yes the village got busy on the bank holidays weekends in summer but you could always find a parking slot on Argyle street or Riverside road. Now, that is not the case and has made the situation worse.</p>	
<p>Also, I think it was a great shame for the village that a parking inspector was out at the weekend during the arts festival. Giving out fines to tourists don't really send a great message for one of Northumberland's key industries.</p>	
<p>I write to lodge an official objection to the current experimental order as referred to above. I write in my capacity as owner of a property which as I'm sure you're aware is just around the corner from Argyle Street and which is directly affected by the current parking arrangements. It is reported in The Alnmouth Village Newsletter that only the residents of Argyle Street were consulted on the introduction of the scheme. I have to say that if I was an Argyle Street resident I would have been strongly in favour of the scheme's introduction. As a resident what is there not to like? Overnight a markedly improved parking situation outside one's front door, albeit at the cost of a worsening of the parking situation elsewhere in the village. I am really surprised that only the Argyle Street residents were consulted when it is surely obvious that a reduction in parking capacity on Argyle Street would have wider implications. Living at the Argyle Street end of Northumberland Street our obvious parking options were Northumberland St itself and Argyle St. As the main street in the village you do not need me to explain the pressure on parking spaces on Northumberland Street, a situation that has now worsened. Suffice to say that as a result of this pressure we would frequently find ourselves parking on Argyle St, particularly at the top end before the Council flats that you arrive at before you start to go down the hill. Sadly this is no longer an option, a fact that is made all the more galling by regularly observing lots of available parking space on the whole of Argyle Street as I drive around the village looking for somewhere to park. However well intentioned the change might have been, I think it is difficult not to conclude that it is very surprising that the consultation was no wider than with Argyle St residents and that substantial prejudice has as a result been caused to other residents, particularly to the residents of Northumberland St and Riverside Road who live near Argyle St. I would urge a speedy reconsideration of the situation particularly as the summer holidays approach. A word on other recent changes if I may? I think the introduction of the one way system is a great innovation. Not so I'm afraid the introduction of individual parking bays which seem to assume that everyone drives a Range Rover. I would estimate that for every 3 marked bays you could park 4 cars, the effect of which is to reduce the available space by parking in the village by 25%. Was it really necessary to mark out individual bays within the designated parking areas? Clearly this reduction in parking capacity is only made worse by the further reduction to available capacity on Argyle Street as described above. I would very much welcome your views on this email.</p>	
<p>I have lived in Alnmouth for nearly 2 years now and recently witnessed the reduction in parking spaces throughout the village. Parking is becoming more and more of a problem for residents without private parking, particularly at weekends and the problems are likely to increase over the school summer holiday. I believe the residential parking scheme on Argyle Street and the street leading to Riverside Road has exacerbated this problem as there are regularly many free parking spaces on Argyle Street, particularly during the day, when day trippers to the village need to park.</p>	
<p>It seems most unfair for only one street in the village to be granted residential parking when other residents often struggle to find a parking space and I really feel that in a village of Alnmouth's size, any decision regarding residents parking, whether it be one street or 5, should be taken by the entire village.</p>	
<p>I am a long term permanent resident of Alnmouth and unfortunately have no off-street parking so rely on parking being available at the top of Northumberland Street. I attended the presentation at the Hindmarsh Hall last year and despite some reservations was willing to see how the experiment worked out throughout the various winter and holiday seasons, especially as the impression at the presentation was that the parking position would improve.</p> <p>Now that a year has passed it has become apparent that the parking situation is now far worse than it was previously.</p> <p>I do not understand why there is a need for 7 bays on Northumberland Street with 20 minute time restrictions. They either lie vacant while drivers circle the village looking for available spaces or are used on the hope that the traffic warden will not be around.</p> <p>I do not understand why there is a need for disabled bays as I understand that those drivers with blue badges are able to park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours. This is surely sufficient time for those drivers to visit shops and restaurants.</p> <p>I do not understand the need for double yellow sight lines at every junction on to Northumberland Street, even where the side lanes serve only 2 or 3 properties which are not always occupied outside of the main tourist season. How many collisions have there been in the past at these junctions?</p> <p>I do not understand why there is a need for a bus bay at the Schooner Hotel as buses only wait for a couple of minutes and cause very little disruption. There was no need for bus bays previously when there was no one way system.</p> <p>I do not understand why there is residents parking in Argyle Street limited to Argyle Street residents only. On many occasions there are a substantial number of spaces available in Argyle Street while none available elsewhere.</p> <p>At the moment I feel trapped in the village and now only leave the village once per week to attend to necessary chores. The likelihood is that I will have to circle the village many times looking for an available space - the record so far is 5 circles and then a wait of 37 minutes until a space became vacant.</p> <p>I would suggest scrapping the 20 minute bays, scrapping the disabled bays, scrapping the long sight lines, thus increasing the number of parking spaces.</p> <p>As far as the one way system is concerned, I think that it has merits as it appears to encourage visitors to use the beach car park.</p>	

<p>We would like to make some comments regarding the experimental traffic scheme in Alnmouth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plethora of signage throughout the village is a disgrace and has spoiled the look of one of Northumbria's prettiest villages. 2. The same is true of the road markings and the delineation of the marked parking bays. Completely unnecessary. 3. There has been a huge loss of parking spaces in an already congested village. At our end of the village we have lost most spaces, making a difficult problem even worse. 4. The residents parking scheme on Argyle Street is completely unfair. Why should those residents be spared the parking traumas of the rest of the village. We all pay the same Council Tax. Either residents parking for all, or for none! 5. Since creating the one way system, the speed of traffic in the village has increased - the opposite of what I assume was hoped for. The knowledge of not meeting an oncoming vehicle in the narrow streets is clearly responsible. I would urge the Highways Department to abandon the current experiment and return our delightful village to its former glory. Whatever you hoped to achieve, has been an abject failure and has provoked unfavourable comments from more or less everyone I have spoken to. <p>I trust our views will be taken into account and that common sense will prevail.</p>	<p>I would like to register my objections to the new traffic scheme that was implemented in Alnmouth last November.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If there has to be a one way system it should be the other way round with traffic allowed straight into the heart of the village first, as only this way will be of benefit to the tourists, commerce and residents. I am a house owner in the village and have been a regular visitor for nearly 60 years, so can remember the previous attempt to set up a one way system which was eventually abandoned. However, it did at least allow the traffic to flow in the direction that makes personal and commercial sense. Residents returning home want to drive straight down Northumberland St where they can park briefly to buy food/newspapers etc rather than having to drive around the village more than once to achieve the same goal (polluting as they go). Visitors too are much more likely to support the village shops/pubs/cafes etc if they see these facilities first before arriving at the sea; even if they end up parking by the beach they are more likely to return to the commerce of Northumberland St if they have already seen it. Indeed the whole point of coming to visit Alnmouth is to drive into the heart of the village down Northumberland St. After all these years I felt real anger at no longer being able to drive into the village I so love. 2. The new scheme has resulted in a notable loss of parking spaces in the village with no new parking solution. A site for a car park closer to Northumberland St than the beach car park should be explored. If not the reduced trade for businesses could be the death of the village. 3. The implementation of the Argyle St Residents only parking has limited parking even further and it's clear to any resident that many of the parking spaces there remain unused for large parts of the day so compounding the impact of reduced parking. This scheme needs to be removed. 4. The delineated parking bays are a further cause of lost parking space and could easily be removed. <p>Overall the loss of parking has created huge stresses for residents, visitors, and tradesmen and I'm speaking from personal experience of all three. Indeed I've had tradesman declining to attend because they know they will be unable to find anywhere to park. I myself have frequently been unable to park near my house when I have needed to unload heavy items. I have also had visitors who have been forced to drive around and around to find a space and some who have simply had to leave because there was nowhere to park. This is NOT a sustainable situation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The parking bays on Marine Road are NOT on the side of the pavement. This has resulted in increased safety implications for people getting out of their cars. I have witnessed a number of dangerous moments especially with buggies/babies as the frequent very large buses come round the corner at speed to get up the hill. This is a SERIOUS oversight and the parking should be moved with immediate effect to the side of the pavement. 6. The buses now accelerate up the hill of Marine Rd (rather than down) with more noise, more fumes and more vibrations felt right through the properties. This did not happen before and could threaten the structure of these homes. If the one way was reversed there would no longer be the case. <p>I trust these objections will read through carefully and taken seriously as they come from someone with a long history of knowing this precious village and who can see the damage it is doing.</p>
<p>I would be grateful for an acknowledgement of receipt of this email.</p>	<p>I wish to lodge a formal objection to the introduction of residents parking on Argyle Street last June as a 6 month experimental order.</p>
<p>As a resident of Alnmouth, I fail to understand why one particular street in the village should be given preferential treatment in this way. Why should a very small number of residents have the benefit of both this as well as being able to park anywhere else they wish in the village whilst the rest of the residents are excluded from parking in certain roads. In such a small village, it would seem grossly unfair to continue with this scheme – when the idea of 'some' residents parking in the village was first raised during the initial consultation process it was unanimously voted down by the village as a whole, and in a village of this size, surely any such scheme should be implemented for the good of the entire village and not for the few.</p>	<p>The implantation of this scheme has been very divisive throughout the village, and should it be decided that residents parking is to continue on Argyle Street, it would seem the only fair thing to do would be to allow ANY resident of the village the right to apply for a permit to park there, however my preference would be that it be removed at the end of the 6 month order.</p>
<p>I am fully behind the new system, I fully understand the half hour parking system which allows people to use the shops, but if you go as suggested by some to two hour scheme could you make it compulsory that they use the card system to state which time they arrive. This would make it easy to police and one of the shops could stock them to sell.</p>	<p>Argyle St. I am in favour of residents parking and if you go for non residents parking through the day could make them use the parking card system as well.</p>

Dear Sirs	
I wish to lodge a formal objection to the introduction of residents parking on Argyle Street last June as a 6 month experimental order.	
As a resident of Alnmouth, I fail to understand why one particular street in the village should be given preferential treatment in this way. Why should a very small number of residents have the benefit of both this as well as being able to park anywhere else they wish in the village whilst the rest of the residents are excluded from parking in certain roads. In such a small village, it would seem grossly unfair to continue with this scheme – when the idea of 'some' residents parking in the village was first raised during the initial consultation process it was unanimously voted down by the village as a whole, and in a village of this size, surely any such scheme should be implemented for the good of the entire village and not for the few.	
The implantation of this scheme has been very divisive throughout the village, and should it be decided that residents parking is to continue on Argyle Street, it would seem the only fair thing to do would be to allow ANY resident of the village the right to apply for a permit to park there, however my preference would be that it be removed at the end of the 6 month order.	
Best regards	
I am writing to object about the resident parking on Argyle Street in Alnmouth. As a resident & business owner in Alnmouth I really don't understand why this one Street should have the privilege of resident parking, as we all have horrendous problems with it. All it does is push the problem from Argyle Street onto the already busy Northumberland street. And the main gripe I have is that the majority of the Argyle Street houses are large homes converted into holiday flats, so why should all the holiday makers have the privilege of permit parking ?? And for the very few residents that actually live on this street why should they have the privilege when it is a problem throughout the village? I fail to understand the reasons & I'm sure the vast majority of villagers feel the same way.	
We have just heard that there is a possibility that the residents parking in Argyle Street, Alnmouth may become permanent - I can't believe it. We were given to believe that this was a trial run during the summer season to see how it would help the parking situation in Alnmouth - its been a disaster, apart from ARGYLE STREET, in our part of the village. We live in Riverside Road and the whole summer months have been utter chaos - gridlock is the word we would choose, especially weekends and during the high season. Alnmouth has always had a problem with summer traffic as tourism is a main part of the village's economy and it is increasing yearly but to favour one street above the rest is extremely unfair to say the least, as it is a problem that either directly or indirectly affects the whole village. We actually drive down Argyle Street accessing our part of Riverside Road, and even in the high season, there were parking spaces available in Argyle Street, which of course are unavailable to anyone without 'a permit'. I would point out that most residents including Argyle Street Flats either bought or rented their properties knowing there was no place to park and now they have become the chosen few, it has caused a lot of unnecessary anger - until N.C.C. works seriously with the village to create a car park to help solve this problem no special privileges should be shown to any area in the village whatsoever.	
Following the recent publication of changes to the parking in Alnmouth printed in the local Gazette. Which are suggested to be made before the trial year is completed. I would like to strongly OBJECT to the preferential parking in Argyle Street. There are many areas in Alnmouth with inadequate parking including the main street. Argyl Street has very few cars parked during the day : yet visitors on which the village relies are unable to park there. The problem lies with the increasing numbers of visitors to the village and a solution along the lines of that at Craster would be the best solution. A Council Car Park west of the Dutchess Bridge would allow adequate visitor parking and also create revenue for the Council.	
We understand that at the recent public Alnmouth Parish Council Meeting the decision to terminate the under utilised residents' parking in Argyle Street was unilaterally reversed by a person from the NCC.	
Can you explain how this came about? Does it reflect the views of the majority of Alnmouth residents or just a vocal minority? And does it not encourage all other residents to want their own parking spaces in a village where parking is at a premium?	
We are puzzled and indeed concerned - how is this democratic and how can it be justified?	
We await NCC's response with interest.	
I objected to the initial establishment of this scheme on an experimental basis and now wish to object to its proposed continuation. My main reason for this was and still is that parking is a problem in many of Alnmouth's streets and singling out one street for preferential treatment is unfair and invidious.	
Additionally, the scheme impacts upon our village hall, which is situated on Northumberland Street opposite the end of Argyle Street. Visitors to the hall cannot now park in Argyle Street even if places are available, which they frequently are following the restriction of parking to residents-only. For instance, on Saturday November 18th I know that there were, because I counted them several times, 12 parking places in Argyle Street which were vacant all day. We had organised an all-day event in the Hall and visitors were unable to park in Argyle Street even though the spaces were not being used by the residents throughout the day. I now have to warn Hall users that they cannot park in Argyle Street even if places are available. Taking so many parking places out of the pool available in the village purely for the convenience of a few residents in Argyle Street is causing problems for other residents and our village hall. I agree with the Parish Council's view that the scheme is not in the best interests of the village as a whole and should therefore be discontinued immediately.	

<p>The changes to the road system in recent times are bad enough including the loss of many parking spaces to the yellow lines causing visitors much inconvenience and frustration. The difficulties finding a space earlier this year were most annoying and we were pleased to read that the restricted parking in Argyle Street was to be scrapped. But now I hear that this extraordinary special treatment of Argyle Street will continue and the visitor parking restriction will not be lifted. Please reconsider as Alnmouth needs more parking availability not less for the many visitors like ourselves who love the town and bring our holiday cash to spend in Northumberland.</p> <p>It's a very long drive and I would very much like to find a convenient parking space on arrival.</p>	<p>I have worked in Alnmouth for the past 14 months and have seen many changes from the one way system being introduced to lots of double yellow lines and then the residents only parking on Argyle Street.</p> <p>I have to travel to work by car and in the busy months I find it very difficult to park, especially when my shift starts after 9.00.</p> <p>I enjoy my job, but often wonder on my drive to work whether I will get parked. I remember driving round Alnmouth last Summer and seeing spaces outside of Argyle Street, but unable to park there because of the residents parking. I hope this is resolved soon, and Alnmouth gains more spaces for not just myself but its tourists.</p>	<p>As a frequent visitor to Alnmouth staying at Puffin cottage in Northumberland Street I am dismayed to hear that the council is proposing to make Argyle Street a residents only parking zone.</p>	<p>When we come to stay if we can't park in Northumberland Street we usually use Argyle Street assuming there are spaces available & as this is usually after we have been out all day the residents have already parked.</p>	<p>We always eat in the local pubs & restaurants every evening & spend a considerable amount of money in the community as there are 4 of us all adults it certainly adds up which will of course be lost if we don't come to stay in Alnmouth.</p>	<p>After spending the last five years holidaying in a lovely holiday cottage in Craster we decided that for 2018 we would choose another location in the county. To that end, we have booked a weeks break in Alnmouth. A condition and major influence of booking the cottage was that there was available car parking nearby. In Craster, the cottage had its own dedicated parking space.</p> <p>We were assured that we could park our car on Argyle Street which gives access to the rear of the cottage we have booked and has been used by previous guests of the cottage for a number of years.</p> <p>We were then surprised to be notified by the owner of the property that the County Council has decided to reverse the original Argyle Street Scheme decision. This decision will have a significant impact on our decision to choose Alnmouth as a holiday destination now and in the future. We use our car as little as possible whilst we are away, instead preferring to walk, cycle or use public transport if possible.</p> <p>I am sorry to say that this is yet another instance we have personally experienced where we as visitors are being given the impression that Northumberland, beautiful as it is, is doing it's upmost to discourage visitors and perhaps its overreliance on the tourism industry. As a former economic development professional in my working life, I find these decisions quite puzzling and indeed worrying. Examples include the closures of the TICs, car parking restrictions in retail locations, overflowing dog waste bins (Walkworth, Craster, Amble and Alnmouth), that we encountered on our visit last year, and that would seem to leave the wrong impression on the visitor.</p> <p>I trust that the County Council will be mindful to take notice of visitor and resident comments on a range of tourism-related issues and that Northumberland can continue to prosper.</p>
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We are writing to formally object to the "Residents Only" Parking Scheme imposed by the County Council.

We have visited Alnmouth on many occasions, since noticing it from a train window during a trip to Scotland. It has become one of our favourite places in Northumberland and always feels like "home" when we visit. There is, however, one problem which is a serious concern and which might well deter us from staying in Alnmouth in the future - the parking situation.

Having previously stayed in a property accessed from Argyle Street, we are appalled to learn that we would be precluded from parking there if we returned. We cannot understand why that street should merit special concessions and feel that it could have a very negative impact on tourism in the village and consequently on the various different types of businesses there. We would respectfully suggest that more parking provision is needed, not less!

We sincerely hope that the County Council will reconsider its decision relating to Argyle Street and that it will seek ways to improve parking facilities for visitors, instead of making parking in Alnmouth even more difficult.

I would like to formally object to the Argyle Street Alnmouth 'Residents Only' parking scheme.

Over the years we have been lucky enough to stay at Puffin Cottage in Alnmouth and have always found it most convenient to park on Argyle Street where there is easy access to the rear of the property. This has allowed us to park off the main road at the front of Puffin Cottage which is busy and has a bus stop. With elderly less mobile relatives often accompanying us on holiday, being able to park on Argyle Street makes the process of them alighting from the vehicle far less dangerous and stressful for us all.

We love Alnmouth and visit regularly as we live less than an hour away and until 12 months ago never had a problem finding somewhere to park for however long we planned to stay - a quick visit to the shops, lunch in a cafe, a day on the beach or a much needed holiday. Since the one-way system was introduced there are a lot less parking spaces available and an awful lot of double yellow lines have taken their place. Indeed we were in the area on Sunday 26th November and drove twice around the one-way system looking, unsuccessfully, for a parking space and drove back to Warkworth and had lunch there.

Although we understand that the one way-system is to remain for the time being, we believed that the council had agreed at the start of this month that the Argyle Street scheme would be scrapped which would be a considerable help to us when we stay for a week at Puffin Cottage next month. However, we think this is not now the case and would like to lodge our great concern that this will make it very difficult to park in the village and will certainly have a detrimental impact on our decision to go back to Alnmouth.

It would appear that there is no obvious merit for Argyle Street to be 'Residents Only' parking and although we love Northumberland, we would have to mention to anybody thinking of visiting or staying in Alnmouth that there is now an issue with parking.

Yours sincerely

Further to our discussion today.

We would like to like request double yellow lines extending 6 yards from the white line opposite our garage.

This would allow proper access throughout the year.

Appendix B - Summary of Responses

Other Relevant Comments

" Having already expressed my opinion regarding resident parking in Argyle Street, Alnmouth during a meeting held in the Hindmarsh Hall earlier this year, which was a large 'NO' I now found that this has happened.

As I live in Riverside Road I cannot believe that this proposed decision has gone ahead, as of course the result of this is that we now well and truly get the overflow from Argyle Street, given that most of the multiple houses are now let as holiday houses and as each one averages 5 bedrooms with no parking facilities whatsoever without even considering the Argyle Street Flats we now cannot even get our cars near our houses. Before the Experimental Order 2016 was put in place, we at least had a chance to find a place near our house, but as we now see, residents arriving for these complete with luggage, this takes away any chance of reasonable parking as previously. It has always been a problem parking I must admit, but for the most part they were day visitors but now we have cars in situ sometimes without moving for quite a few days - probably once here they travel around together using one car, conveniently parked in Argyle Street outside their holiday home, which of course blocks Riverside Road completely - I assume they are told by the owners of their holiday homes where the 'overflow' car park is, i.e. Riverside Road, as they certainly know which way to go with their luggage, depending on which house they have rented, as they have two options of course. It would appear that to sort this problem out, Riverside Road should also be given the option of having a Residents Parking permit - perhaps one side only to be fair, outside the houses and leave the beach side open to visitors of all sorts. I appreciate not an easy task, but one that seriously affects us now Argyle Street has residents parking. The double yellow lines hav'nt helped either as there is no parking from opposite No. 12 Riverside right down to the park, apart from the couple of marked bays. The plus side of the 'experiment' is the one way system, apart from the dangerous exit onto Marine Road from Peases Gardens.

Hoping you take my suggestions into consideration. "

"I have received complaints from customers that its difficult to park in the village due to the new parking regime.

I happend to take a lunch time stroll around the village at 13.34 yesterday and took these pictures.

It would seem that the Argyle Street parking restrictions are having the desired outcome, restricting parking for residents only, however, it would also seem that those spaces remain vacant durning the day to the detriment of parking for others visiting the village.

Pictures are of Argyle street at 13.34 and of Northumberland street at the same time interval. Argyle street remains largely empty of cars whilst there are no free bays on Northumberland street.

It would seem to me that if residents parking is to remain in Argyle street, then it would be better if it were a time window when residents are likely to be at home i.e. 6pm to

6am. Precious parking space could be used by visitors during the day.

I hope this is useful input for your consultation process."

"Good morning

I gather that there is some opposition to the Argyle Street resident parking scheme. I do not live in Argyle street but am a resident of Alnmouth and I believe that the wishes of then Argyle street residents should be fully recognised.

I also understand that much of the criticism is based on a feeling that the scheme is unfair as it only benefits one street. I believes that residents elsewhere in the village could benefit from a limited expansion of the scheme in the other main streets of the village.

This would remove the ' unfairness' and benefit permanent residents of the village that have to unfairly compete with the growing number of holiday makers staying at the growing number of holiday lets and B and Bs etc . "

"I am writing to object to the resident permit holder scheme for Argyle Street residents.

It seems highly unfair for one part of the village to have a parking scheme when the rest of the village residents have to circle the village - 7 times is our record- to park. Often the spaces in Argyle street are empty.

I think either this scheme should be scrapped or extended to all permanent residents of the village.

Yours faithfully"

"Hail to a great start with the new initiative despite the parish council's perceived lack of consultation.

You can be assured that if that council were in charge nothing would happen now or in the future and the village would become totally suffocated in traffic.

The efficient way your teams went about creating the one way system has to be applauded. It will surely lead to major improvements when day visitors will be encouraged to go to the beach car parks.

Sadly for us residents of Argyle Street we seem to have lost out. No permit parking No one way system through the street And although there are small ""residents only"" signs outside the flats no more prominent signs at the top of the street. In fact no restrictions whatsoever

It does seem ironic that we as a group pointed out how impossible it is becoming for residents in Alnmouth. We were the pioneers. Ambulances not being able to reach patients. Residents not able to leave the village in their cars knowing they would find a space when they returned. The street will continue to be a holiday dumping ground. Northumbria Coast and Country Cottages will continue to put it in their paperwork to send their ""overspill"" guests to park on Argyle Street as will the other business people who run pubs and guest houses. So the misery here will continue for the quiet majority. Still we did try and I'm sure that the scheme you have introduced will be a success. But going forward you may want to revisit the idea of helping to protect the residents of Argyle Street.

This is a response from Marrisse

to a new ""survey"" from ""three retired engineers"" who clearly are unhappy about the new road design initiative.

We among many others in Alnmouth are delighted with the work you have carried out and wanted to add our voices against the latest survey initiative which we gather even Alnmouth Parish Council has distanced itself from."

"My Mother in Law is not "on grid" so I'm sending this on her behalf.

Coincidentally I have just walked round the village and seen over 70 (yes 70) empty car parking bays. I'm not incl roads where parking is permitted, but there are no bays.

Admittedly many were on Marine Rd and Riverside Rd, but there were still 15 on Northumberland St (excl Disabled). A quiet time of year, but it reinforces the view that the congestion is visitor related and could be solved by Residents Parking Permits, but I doubt that's going to happen given all the Holiday Lets and B&Bs

My Mother In Law's comments:-

I just wanted to voice my support for the traffic and parking changes that have recently been implemented in Alnmouth. I would in particular like to mention:-

The slower speed limit in Marine Road makes it a lot safer for pedestrians.

The One Way in Marine Road should end the practice of large lorries turning in the space outside the Seabank complex's garages.

Buses no longer race round a blind corner by the Golf Club threatening players as they approach or leave the course as they now travel in the opposite direction.

As an OAP I have found that the new parking bays in Northumberland St have increased the spaces between parked cars thus improving visibility and safety when crossing the road.

I have often had to walk in the road outside the post office as the bus queue together with the grit bin, seat, A Frames, shop displays etc combine to totally obstruct the pavement. The move of the Bus Stop to the Schooner will alleviate this problem.

"

"Now that the Alnmouth trial traffic scheme has had its first real test with the large influx of visitors over the Christmas period I would like to offer you and the Council my observations.

Before doing so, however, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for the way in which the consultation process was carried out, which provided the residents of Alnmouth with ample opportunity to consider different proposals for easing traffic congestion and parking in the village.

My early impression of the trial scheme is that it has been very effective in addressing some of the problems created by traffic especially during peak.holiday periods. In particular, I believe that the one-way system has much improved the flow of traffic through the village, although I would have preferred to have had an anti-clockwise flow maintaining the original bus route.

I also feel that the introduction of parking bays has helped to improve the parking situation and has created some much needed discipline, although I think there is scope for providing more bays on Riverside Road.

As regards the idea of introducing resident parking in Argyle Street, as a permanent resident, it would obviously have my full support and I look forward to learning the final decision in that regard."

One way traffic is faster than two way traffic. Marine Road is more busy than before. Parking on opposite sides alternately doesn't affect law abiding but provides a bit of excitement for the adventurous ! Parking outside this house, opposite the door, means a slightly risky exit. Residents and staying visitors need residential permit cards "

I am totally unhappy about double yellow lines outside my apartment , 1, Marine Apts , Marine Road , Alnmouth , there are 5 Apts in total and we could usually park outside , more difficult in the summer but with your proposals , impossible. The one way system is a good idea but would like yellow lines removed and the white bays opposite removed . If you persist in this, I would like to apply for a parking permit for one of the bays opposite which I believe we should all be entitled to and signs erected to this effect , as surely owners have more right to park than Day visitors .

"

I'm a resident of Alnmouth and would like to offer personal feedback on the new traffic scheme in the village.

First of all, a big thank you! I was among the original group of residents who approached Alnmouth Parish council to ask for help with finding solutions to the specific problem of parking within our street.

I have also attached here a document posted through my letterbox from a group opposing the present system and have done so FYI. I am very concerned about this document and will come to my reasons for that concern at the end of this.

I have been extremely impressed by the way NCC, via Gordon Castle in particular, have acted to help with this traffic challenge and endeavoured to achieve the best outcome possible for all – residents, business owners and visitors.

The consultation process in my opinion, has been very thorough. I was present at the Hindmarch Hall when various suggested solutions were presented and had the opportunity to speak directly to the NCC staff present, as well as being invited to give written feedback.

In addition I have twice given feedback on the proposal to possibly introduce permit parking to Argyle Street, which I am very much in favour of.

I was keen to have the one way system, turning in the direction of the beach parking first. I think it has helped greatly in guiding visitors to the beach car park, rather than parking so readily on our street which is right beside the smaller beach, as well as other residential streets, although there is still quite a lot of parking in Argyle Street by none-residents.

The additional yellow lines have also lessened the available spaces but at the same time made traffic movement much better and allowed emergency access for ambulances/fire engines which was seriously compromised earlier. I think the addition of parking permits which will at least only allow residents to park on the street, would be extremely helpful and ensure that visitors do head to the beach car park first – also offering additional revenue for the village via the small parking fee charged there.

The one way system and 20 mph signs also make it safer, I think, for older residents. Our 91 year old neighbour who is seriously visually impaired, had often been worried by traffic moving too quickly, in both directions and had to step out across a road congested with vehicles manoeuvring forwards and back when parking on either side made it impossible for traffic travelling in both directions to move freely.

I have heard much criticism of the number of signs which have been erected.

Personally I don't believe that they have had any detrimental effect whatsoever,

certainly compared to the situation we had before the new system, where traffic on the main street was often gridlocked, looking more like a large car park than an attractive tourist village.

In addition I think one more sign is perhaps needed on the turn to The Wynd at the very beginning of the one way system to inform drivers that the first section is in fact two way and that traffic might be approaching from the direction of the beach.

I also think that perhaps a few more parking spaces could be re-instated at the far end of Riverside Road where there doesn't seem to be any real need for double yellow lines by the boating club and play park areas.

On a completely unbiased note – I have spoken to a bus driver of the X18 route who has driven through the village both before and after the traffic changes and he is very positive about the new system.

Equally an ambulance driver who picked up two neighbours regularly at the bottom of our street and had real problems doing so before the changes is much happier as is our carpet cleaner who visited last week and was raving about the new system!

None of the above have any other connection with the village and all spoke spontaneously on the traffic changes, without any input or encouragement from others.

All in all I think it has been a job very well done and carried out very smoothly by the workmen on the ground too. I would still like parking permits in Argyle Street but await the decision based on collective feedback from everyone living on the street.

THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

I admit to being somewhat troubled by this document which was posted through my letterbox.

Obviously I am happy with the changes, so that may be colouring my judgement somewhat, but my concern is that the document is clearly slanted towards giving negative feedback, even stating that the completed docs may be used at a later stage as a collective objection to the new road system if NCC don't do as they (who are they??) want. Bit undemocratic I think.

Given misleading information, ie that local consultation was informal, whereas I believe that the consultation was very thorough.

1. Slanted all of the suggested feedback towards negative comments (One actually has to cross out objections otherwise they will be forwarded to your office as printed – and sorry, can't help it :D but "the extra mileage caused by the one way system" comment is utterly laughable in this tiny village) I can't see any positive suggestions printed to give equal weight to the feedback, though I have outlined just a few positives in the main body of my letter.

2. The people who have sent and are collecting these papers are not named and are not officials. They are clearly against the present system. How can anyone filling in this document who wishes to give positive feedback, be sure that the forms will be forwarded to you given the agenda of the people encouraging negative feedback?

3. There has been ample opportunity for people to give feedback individually to NCC as I am doing here and this offer is ongoing until May 17th. I am confident that my feedback will be given equal attention to everyone else's this way, be it positive or negative. People are allowed to do as they wish of course but I feel that people are being pressured via this document to give negative feedback by others who are not in a position of authority to do so and would request that NCC keep this in mind when

making further decisions based on the feedback within these documents.

Sorry for the length of this feedback, but please don't be downhearted by what seems to be a lot of criticism on these changes. I think you've done a fantastic job and so do lots of others, but there is a certain amount of nervousness amongst some to speak out due to the pressure being imposed by negative groups with influence within the village."

"Since the one way system was introduced we have noticed a sharp and continued improvement to both traffic flow and an easing of the parking situation in Argyle Street.

One family (friends of ours) visiting the village again this year told me how much easier it was to drive round the village.

One parking attendant on the beach told me that she has been ever so busy now that day visitors are being directed by the road signs down to the beach area. This means an increase in takings for the Burghers

Most days now we are able to park in Argyle Street and most of the time outside our home at 22.

So for us lovely to report a great result."

"Firstly I wanted to point out that we are thrilled that at last we have been able to parkin our street on most occasions.

We think the permit scheme coupled with with the new one way system has been a major improvement and seems to have encouraged day visitors to go to the beach parking.

It is a view shared by residents in the street though I will encourage them to email or write separately.

For now Argyle is no longer a dumping ground for the likes of Northumbrian Coast and Country Cottages, Pubs, other guests houses and visitors happy to rob residents of a parking space. The previous situation really made it a nightmare for some residents and also prevented emergency vehicles getting in an out of the street.

One neighbour often couldn't return to the street with her terminally ill husband because of the congestion and an ambulance struggled to turn up to attend to another neighbour in her 90's.

You may be aware the there is is an orchestrated campaign spearheaded by local business and parish councillors to revert back to the old system. It is featured in then new Alnmouth Village Newsletter today which can be seen online.

We want to keep the new system and stand up for the many in this village who haven't a voice and who've seen much improvement.

I'll copy Gordon Castle in on this for his information."

"I am a resident of Alnmouth village and note that our monthly newsletter has given a list of addresses to give feedback on the new residents parking permits recently implemented on Argyle Street.

Whilst the word objection was mentioned four times in the piece, the suggestion of making comments specifically approving, the new parking implementation was not. Much information has also been given on contacts for making official, and formal objections. I imagine these contacts welcome a balanced view, therefore I am copying this to all.

BACKGROUND

First let me say that I am a full-time resident of Argyle Street and was one of a group of residents who sought help from Alnmouth Council, as we were facing the ongoing challenge of gridlocked traffic on Argyle Street. The street is quite short, but has four, four storey blocks of flats situated at the top and at least six holiday house rental businesses, possibly more, situated on either side of the road, in amongst a range of full time residential properties.

At the very amicable council meeting during which we asked for assistance, we acknowledged that many villagers make an income from holiday home lets and made clear that we didn't want to damage any of their businesses. We obviously welcome visitors to the village, but we had got to a stage in our street where through traffic was often unable to access the route through to Riverside Road, because of:

1. A glut of cars parked at the bottom of the street.
2. Holiday home rentals, none of which are Bed & Breakfast establishments, sometimes having several cars per house filling the available parking space.
3. Day visitors, parking here in high numbers to access the smaller beach in Alnmouth for dog walking/etc.
4. Some holiday home rental & bed & breakfast customers staying in other parts of the village, being directed by owners to park in Argyle Street. Totally legal, but nevertheless adding hugely to the congestion problem.

In the wider village, traffic and parking was, as is now, one of the major talking points amongst all villagers and indeed has been for the years I have been resident. The main street as locals will know, was often jammed with traffic, both parked and moving, meaning cars had to back up to allow others access. I was aware of many acquaintances living in the area who stated that they never came to Alnmouth anymore because of the traffic.

Our street undoubtedly had an issue and so did the rest of the village. We felt solutions had to be found, both for the full time residents of the village and visitors, as Alnmouth becomes ever more popular as a tourist attraction. The consultation process carried out by NCC was extensive and resulted in changes specific to Argyle Street as well as the rest of the village.

CHANGES TO PARKING ARGYLE STREET

At the time of the consultation we had neighbours on either side who required regular emergency visits by ambulance and doctors. The ambulance drivers mentioned their

worries about accessing the houses. No doubt fire engines too would have found access impossible because of the concentration of cars at the bottom of the street. For this reason we welcomed double yellow lines starting a few feet from our own home and at other points along Argyle Street and the lane connecting our street and Riverside Road. Obviously this did not help us personally with our parking difficulties, but it did help the more frail members of the community, so a much needed change. At this stage we had not been offered parking permits, but with the new one way system in place guiding day visitors to the parking on the beach, we felt that a small improvement had already been made. Visitors before this change had often stopped us on the main street, bewildered, having missed the beach turning and asking for directions to get there, so we feel that the one way system in the present direction has been a real improvement. I imagine the revenue from beach parking will have grown as a result, which is of benefit to villagers and visitors alike.

When the parking permits were offered, we happily accepted. In the past, residents of Argyle Street had often been forced to park in other areas of the village, because of the additional parking issues stated above, depriving our village neighbours of parking near their own homes. Though not dedicated spaces, we now usually do find a space to park in our own street. This isn't always the case, but we fully accept that and we are not now parking regularly in neighbouring village streets out of desperation, so are freeing up some space there.

The holiday rental businesses located in Argyle Street, I understand, have also been allocated permits in a similar number to the full time residents. This I think is fair and ensures that the businesses in our street have not suffered in any way because of the introduction of permits. None are Bed & Breakfast establishments, so none have need for several permits.

Incidentally the newsletter mentions that only residents in Argyle Street have permits, but many of the holiday rental owners have never been resident. They are property owners operating as businesses and are benefitting from the parking permit allocations.

During the first week of implementing the permit scheme, there was some criticism from other residents, particularly those living in Riverside Road, that Argyle Street had a number of empty spaces and yet no spaces were free in Riverside Road. I believe this was because the non-resident holiday home owners had not at that point obtained permits for their customers. That situation seems to have been rectified now, as the parking spaces available at any given time are largely in keeping with other streets in the rest of the village.

Incidentally the whole new traffic system seems to have largely benefitted the village in my opinion. I work from home and walk around the village every day, seeing spaces available in all streets and often a large number of potential parking spaces free in Pease Lane and Alnwood in particular.

At the recent Alnmouth Arts Festival, which the newsletter states was the best attended ever, I happened to meet several visitors who mentioned that they much preferred the one way system, saying that the place looked much more like a real village now, rather than one big car park and the roads in the village are in a much improved condition too.

Going forward, it might be an idea to try permit parking for all villagers who don't have their own dedicated parking spaces after a similar very thorough consultation. There

are also areas in the village where some yellow lines could be replaced with additional parking spaces.

All in all, I think Northumberland County Council and particularly Gordon Castle, have done a really good job. Locals came with a very real problem, were listened to and a very thorough consultation was carried out before implementing changes. I have, of course, no knowledge of consultations which may or may not have been carried out re parking, involving residents of other specific streets within the village.

Some people may be shy about coming forward to give positive comments, as they fear pressure from some very vocal members of the community who are strongly against the changes made, but I have heard plenty of locals quietly saying how much better the traffic situation is within the village.

In seaside villages such as ours it is important to get a balance between keeping the area a vibrant tourist destination and keeping the village alive with real village residents. I think the parking in Argyle Street as well as other traffic flow changes, will have a positive effect on both going forward.

"
"

With regard to the parking situation, not only in Argyle Street, but across the whole village, thinking about residents parking is a good idea. I have several times come out of the house to run an errand, to come back unable to park, not only in close to my house, but in the entire village – admittedly at weekends, bank holidays and during the holiday periods we have had so far so since this scheme was put in place.

This can only get worse in the coming months as we enter the summer holiday period and something that must be given greater consideration than it currently is.

Whilst I understand the need for visitors, the use of the beach car park must be used more efficiently, with parking not for the day but time limited, bringing more income from the car park, but also allowing for a turnover of those visiting for the day. Also for those holidaying in the village – clearly if they cannot park in the village, let alone close to where they are staying I doubt they will be quick to return unless they have the assurance of parking from a residents pass. I also believe the village would benefit from the use of the car park across the bridge by the school should be used as an overflow for visitors during busy summer months.

It is surely worth considering making Alnmouth residents only parking in the summer in any event to reduce traffic into the village.

"

"I would like to support the new residents parking scheme in Alnmouth which seems to be working well. My husband and I have 2 cars. We still encounter a few problems when friends and family visit, but it is nevertheless a great improvement in everyday life.

I also attend a couple of morning classes in Hindmarsh Hall with people who come into Alnmouth by car and, now that everyone understands the Village parking scheme,

they do not have problems parking in appropriate areas.

Thank you and my husband and I hope the scheme continues."

"The problem for residents in Northumberland St and the lanes running off it is (Prospect Place, Grosvenor Terrace, Livaine Terrace etc with no parking) is that N St is swamped with Visitors staying or visiting the pubs, B&Bs, Air BnBs etc. Essentially every parking space is needed to accommodate visitors. This causes friction. The Argyle scheme (which I think is a good thing) annoys N St residents and businesses as they can see spaces during the day whilst N St is packed. Again I think that the spaces show it is working as Argyle residents can come back and park after work or when ever, but there is a case for arguing that it is unfair for N St residents

I was under the impression that to have a scheme whereby residents of N St and the adjacent lanes had permits then it would have to involve all of the street at all times. If there is more flexibility then would it be possible to look at Residents parking for say half the Street or just in the evenings?? I dont want to crucify businesses, but equally I don't want businesses and holiday lets to squash the residents. I think is fairer to expect visitors to park round the corner than residents.

I don't want to compare Alnmouth to Venice or Barcelona, but I sense that, like Venice & Barcelonaresidents are starting to get a little tired of being swamped by cars and visitors virtually every weekend in the summer and increasingly even out of school holidays."

"A brief note to provide my full support for the current experiment, both for the one-way system and for the parking arrangements. These arrangements have worked very well since they began, including the recent improvements, and I hope they will continue on a permanent basis.

You may be aware of an additional problem now occurring on the entry road between the bridge and the memorial roundabout caused by car parking; this happens particularly during the tourist season and special events being held, or starting/terminating in Alnmouth. Buses, wagons and ordinary traffic can suffer blockage and major delay - along the curved section in particular, there being no passing place.

Like many coastal villages, Alnmouth is very short of parking areas to accommodate large increases in traffic and I urge your department to now focus attention to the provision of new parking - west of the bridge on the flood plain fields seems a likely choice area.

I will be supporting the view that the current experimental arrangements be made permanent since they have proved most successful."

"I would just like to say how great all the new traffic regulations have been in Alnmouth.

The one way system has been a great success and the parking bays and additional double yellow lines have made the village look much neater. The civil enforcement

officers have been doing a sterling job!

It also feels a lot safer walking around as all cars now have to pass the way to the car park and there has been no gridlock or road rage or cars mounting the pavements to get through the village!

The bus service also has no trouble coming through the village now although extending the double yellow lines after the roundabout when leaving the village would be beneficial to all!

I would also like to say that the introduction of resident parking permits on Argyle Street, whilst not making any difference to the number of visitors, has dramatically improved the lives of the residents. (Even with the opposing views and comments from other people in the village!) We now have no fear of leaving at any time of day even when the village is heaving with visitors as we know we can park somewhere near our properties when we return. Also, when we have spoken to visitors staying in the five rental properties in Argyle Street, they are also very happy they can now park when returning from days out.

Alnmouth is a lovely place to visit but it is now also a wonderful place to LIVE once more.

Thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues have done so far and it has always been a pleasure communicating with you."

As a resident on Argyle Street I fully agree with the parking scheme. I feel I should be entitled to a c/parking space. By having this scheme, it has not driven any visitors away. Would it not be possible to make the beach car park free, visitors come to walk along the beach and walk into the village to so. Surely by doing this it would bring more visitors and keep businesses happy by and making the residents happy by having guaranteed parking. Surely the one resident at the bottom of Argyle street who advised there are parking during the day, I bet she/he has her own parking space, however if she/he didn't have her own parking space and had to park on Argyle street she would be arguing for the other side as all the business owners who have their own guaranteed parking spaces and doesn't have to worry about parking.

"We wish to compliment NCC on the one way system in our village and hope that it continues after the expiration of the 12 month traffic experiment.

As a resident on Riverside Road would it be possible to adopt a residents parking scheme on the houses side of the road similar to what as been done on Argyle Street? Or alternatively be given a parking permit for Argyle Street which covers the lane linking Argyle Street to Riverside Road which we live very close to.

"

" The scheme has been in operation for six months. In my view, and the majority of Argyle St residents it has been a great success.

Not only can we park when we come home from work etc, but during the day also. It has stopped the influx of cars from the holiday flats in

Percy cottages, Victoria cottages and Riverside.

I hope the scheme continues."

"We are a resident of Argyle Street write with regard to the recently introduced residents parking scheme.

We are very much in support of the continuation of the scheme. Prior to it's introduction we were frequently unable to park anywhere close to our residence and this was proving quite a challenge on occasions. since it's introduction we have always been able to park our car close to the house.

We understand the pressures on parking in the village as a whole and are sympathetic to the needs of retailers, guest houses and users of holiday lets who wish to access the village. It is clear that over the last couple of years the village economy has flourished with refurbished and new businesses. This growth does not seem to have been affected by the introduction of the parking scheme and balancing the needs of residents and visitors is an important part of the health of the village. Day visitors are increasingly being encouraged to use the beach car park and the marked bays on the waterfront roads. The one way system will have helped access overall. To remove the scheme that has been introduced would in our view be a retrograde step. The fact of some empty spaces in the street during the day is actually evidence that the scheme is working as it means residents can return to the street and park. The village has to accept it cannot readily accommodate more parking in it's centre during the summer months and other repeal holiday periods and other long term strategies, including possibly additional resident only parking arrangements are required. Short term parking and disabled parking in limited areas and a focus on visitors parking in the car park or even introducing a park and ride scheme at very peak times (as is done on certain event days) is the only practical alternative to a free for all which would leave residents unable to park.

Parking schemes such as these are normal in many urban areas and a feature of modern life. Other residents in the village will be sympathetic to this and we would support their efforts to extend the scheme if they wished to do so.

We believe those running businesses should look to a new way of serving customers without seeking to have parking in a residential village primarily focussed on their customers (and therefore their) needs."

"My contribution would be to say that tension seems to be between residents wanting to park after work which is an absolute nightmare in the rest of the village, and allowing daytime users access.

Why not limit the residents-only restriction from 4pm-8am, and widen that across the village? Holidays rentals etc could have a pass each as is currently done in Argyle Street, and that way the villagers proper are shown the respect they deserve for paying council tax etc in the area.

Currently the situation is fantastic in Argyle Street. As a flat resident, I can chose from Northumberland Street parking, residents zones, AND the pre built parking around the flat. But that's actually very unfair - xxxxx literally does three circles of the village many days and before I moved in here so did I. This needs to be more fairly spread across the resident villagers.

"

We need the permit parking as we cant get parked when we come home at night .All the people from the hotels and holiday homes [some of the holiday lets have three or

more cars] park there and there is just not enough spaces for the for the residents .There may be spaces during the day as people are at work or on other business but when they come home the street is full .If there was some way to let day visitors park during the day till about six it would help but I don't know if that is feasible .

"I would just like to say how great all the new traffic regulations have been in Alnmouth.

The one way system has been a great success and the parking bays and additional double yellow lines have made the village look much neater. The civil enforcement officers have been doing a sterling job!

It also feels a lot safer walking around as all cars now have to pass the way to the car park and there has been no gridlock or road rage or cars mounting the pavements to get through the village!

The bus service also has no trouble coming through the village now although extending the double yellow lines after the roundabout when leaving the village would be beneficial to all!

I would also like to say that the introduction of resident parking permits on Argyle Street, whilst not making any difference to the number of visitors, has dramatically improved the lives of the residents. (Even with the opposing views and comments from other people in the village!) We now have no fear of leaving at any time of day even when the village is heaving with visitors as we know we can park somewhere near our properties when we return. Also, when we have spoken to visitors staying in the five rental properties in Argyle Street, they are also very happy they can now park when returning from days out.

Alnmouth is a lovely place to visit but it is now also a wonderful place to LIVE once more.

Thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues have done so far and it has always been a pleasure communicating with you.

Many thanks once again"

"As it's been six months since the traffic changes in Alnmouth were introduced we would like to say that the residents of Argyle Street continue to be thrilled with the improvements to the quality of their lives.

As you'll recall the street was previously a complete dumping ground for day visitors.

One resident struggled to return with medicine for her dying husband and ambulances were unable to reach another elderly neighbour needing to be taken to hospital.

Holiday companies and local businesses also recommended that their guests leave their

cars in Argyle Street if no other spaces were available.

The permits also have eased the problems of the holiday homes in the street which often attracted up to six visiting cars at a time.

So well done all round to you and your team and a particular nod to our Warden who's done a brilliant job despite the insults heading his way.

Now we hear of some new ""hybrid"" plan allowing visitors to park between 9 and 6 which frankly will mean that we are all back to square one.

We understand the aggressive lobbying from certain business folk and parish councillors (often the same people)

The County Council have been great throughout this process. We hope you won't let us down now."

"As far as Argyle St 'Resident Permit' scheme, I believe this is accomplishing the intended goal. I have not met any resident of this street who has had any real negative response. The exception being during the summer season and the few properties that have been sub-divided into flats and there for entitled to more than the standard two (2) resident permits. Only on the rare occasion have I observed every parking space occupied. By all accounts it is actually late in the evening (sometime after 1800 hrs) that is the biggest issue of people parking without permits.

I have had people who frequent the village, who don't actually live in the village, complain that they ""come into the village for shopping and what not and frustrated to see spaces they can not park in"". I have tried to reason with them that the purpose of the scheme was to attempt to allow residents of the street priority access to parking outside their own front door. They come back with things such as why is this scheme not in place for folk who live elsewhere in the village.

During the off-season, parking in Riverside Road is rarely utilized to anywhere near it's full potential. Even during the peak season, it is rare that all spaces are occupied. What it generally boils down to is the fact that a significant portion of the driving public are not prepared to walk a reasonable distance to their intended destination. It hardly takes 5 minutes to walk to any location from one side of the village to the other.

Perhaps Northumberland St, Alnmouth, could offer a similar scheme to that of Bailiffgate, Alnwick. Where bays are limited time parking or Resident Permit. No need for a parking clock. Maybe ""Resident Permit Holders or 2 hours free no return for 3 hours"". This would give time for folk to have a bite to eat and check out the extremely

limited gift shops. There have been one or two voiced concerns on Riverside Road which there could be a view to doing the same perhaps '4 hours no return for 5 hours' to allow folk a more leisurely walk along the beach and what not. Just a thought.

I am aware that we are not going to be able to please everyone but if we can at least give most people a portion of what they want it will show that we are committed to providing a mutually beneficial compromise."

"I really like the new parking scheme and the one way system in Alnmouth, having been a regular visitor to the village for 10+ years. Makes such a difference, and ultimately it's the residents who live there and rightly have their interests represented, not just businesses that make a fortune from tourism.

I think it could be extended in other parts of Alnmouth, so that Argyle Street isn't unfairly used, but it should definitely stay on that road (by the way, I don't live on that road.)

"

"

As far as Argyle St 'Resident Permit' scheme, I believe this is accomplishing the intended goal. I have not met any resident of this street who has had any real negative response. The exception being during the summer season and the few properties that have been sub-divided into flats and there for entitled to more than the standard two (2) resident permits. Only on the rare occasion have I observed every parking space occupied. By all accounts it is actually late in the evening (sometime after 1800 hrs) that is the biggest issue of people parking without permits.

I have had people who frequent the village, who don't actually live in the village, complain that they ""come into the village for shopping and what not and frustrated to see spaces they can not park in"". I have tried to reason with them that the purpose of the scheme was to attempt to allow residents of the street priority access to parking outside their own front door. They come back with things such as why is this scheme not in place for folk who live elsewhere in the village.

During the off-season, parking in Riverside Road is rarely utilized to anywhere near it's full potential. Even during the peak season, it is rare that all spaces are occupied. What it generally boils down to is the fact that a significant portion of the driving public are not prepared to walk a reasonable distance to their intended destination. It hardly takes 5 minutes to walk to any location from one side of the village to the other.

Perhaps Northumberland St, Alnmouth, could offer a similar scheme to that of Bailiffgate, Alnwick. Where bays are limited time parking or Resident Permit. No need for a parking clock. Maybe ""Resident Permit Holders or 2 hours free no return for 3 hours"". This would give time for folk to have a bite to eat and check out the extremely limited gift shops. There have been one or two voiced concerns on Riverside Road which there could be a view to doing the same perhaps '4 hours no return for 5 hours' to allow folk a more leisurely walk along the beach and what not. Just a thought.

I am aware that you are not going to be able to please everyone but if you can at least

give most people a portion of what they want it will show that we are committed to providing a mutually beneficial compromise."

"Just though I would drop you an email with a couple of comments on the current parking scheme within Alnmouth. I have been a resident of Argyle Street in Alnmouth for the last xx years and for the last xx I have been a car owner/driver. Personally I must say what a huge improvement it has made to the street and I DO HOPE THAT IT CONTINUES!!

In the past it had become increasingly difficult to find a parking space outside of my house, or even just in the street where I live due to the increased number of holiday homes and houses that are rented out throughout the year. I don't think there is a week that goes by without houses being vacated by one or more groups/families whilst another arrives shortly afterwards. Sometimes these groups brought 4 cars to the same house and therefore parking became rather scarce. Not being able to find a car parking space in, or close to home, did make it difficult when returning home with 6 or 7 bags of food shopping and then having to circle the village a couple of time (have done this many times :-)) in order to find a space to park, followed by a couple of trips between the house and car in order transfer the shopping.

Anyway, I just wanted to say that since the residential parking scheme was introduced in Argyle Street, I am no longer worried that when I arrive home after work in the evening, especially now the dark nights are here, that I will need to park a distance away from my door, I do travel down to Newcastle every day so tend to get back anytime between 5 and 7. It is the same at weekends - I used to be of the opinion that, if at all possible, I would not bother moving my car, due to the worry that I would never be able to find a space upon my return. Now I know that parking within the area is not guaranteed and I understand that, but I have to say that during the summer, just past, parking within the area around Argyle Street has been greatly improved. Cars were sometimes parked opposite junctions or squeezed in blocking pavements, all of which caused other road users stress. I can recall a number of times large delivery lorries having to reverse up our street because they could not turn the corner at the bottom due to cars being parked without due care - and got forbid if emergency vehicles could not get access due to bad parking. So having the marked bays in place has improved this area.

I must admit there are still times when non-residential cars do park in the ""residential only area"" and these tend to sneak in late in the day, when I presume they think the traffic warden will no longer be around - so maybe this needs to be looked at i.e. whether sometimes someone could do a patrol later in the evening or early in the morning to catch those at fault.

BUT overall I would say it has been a great success and, as I have already stated, as a long term resident of Argyle Street I do hope the trial is adopted and it becomes the norm.

The only other point I would raise is about the ""one way"" scheme in operation, and this is that I would like to see those vehicles leaving the beach car park, and driving up the road, having to turn left at the top junction of Maine Road and just follow the one way system from there. Just last week I witnessed a near collision where a car turned right at the top, against the one way traffic flow, and nearly collided with a van going down the Wynd.

If you need any further information or clarification then please let me know."

"I just want wanted to add my support to the parking scheme trial which is working very well in terms of being able to park near or outside my own property. Prior to the scheme this was not the case. I very much hope the scheme will become permanent as I do not believe it is detriment to the wider village.

Many thanks

"

"I am writing further to the Alnmouth Council meeting on Tuesday 14th November. Around 20 Argyle Street residents and permit holders with Riverside Road addresses were

present. We had read notices in The Northumberland Gazette stating that temporary traffic orders, including those within our own street, were to be discussed and we wished

to be involved in the conversation about Argyle Street.

During the parking experiments throughout the village and within our own street, I have

been extremely happy with the consultation process carried out by NCC, who listened to our

concerns about parking in Argyle Street and then instigated the whole process of a new traffic

system in Alnmouth. I and many other residents throughout the village have been very pleased

indeed with the outcome.

During this time, NCC have spoken with us directly. However, many of us in Argyle Street,

rightly or wrongly, perceive that a number of the members of Alnmouth Parish Council, whilst

claiming to act for the good of all of the villagers, are personally biased against not only parking

permits in Argyle Street, but the whole new traffic system, because the Parish Council have a

separate issue of anger with regards to communication between themselves and NCC.

Our concern is that Alnmouth Parish Council, unlike NCC, have not instigated an open council meeting, inviting locals to discuss the issues. Nor have they invited locals to approach

individual councillors with their concerns. Therefore how can they claim to be acting on the villagers'

behalf? Are there any records of conversations, or written communications with local individuals

proving that a majority of residents are -

A) Unhappy with Permit parking in Argyle Street?

B) Unhappy with the new traffic system?

During this time Alnmouth Parish Council have, via the newsletter (July) advised locals on

how to protest about the new parking system in Argyle Street. Giving links to do so.

No

encouragement accompanied this for locals to comment positively about the permits.

The word

“objection” was printed four times in the piece.

Many of us living in Argyle Street feel that because of the reasons stated Alnmouth Parish

Council's feedback to NCC does not accurately reflect the true feelings of all of the village and

specifically the residents of Argyle Street. It is we have had everyday experience of the parking issues

before permits were introduced, have responded directly to NCC with feedback on the scheme (on

record as a majority wanting the permits) and turned out in force on Tuesday night to explain the

reasons why we are still very much in favour of parking permits..

In addition to this, it is a fact that Alnmouth ALWAYS has some free parking spaces – even

during village events. Streets such as Alnwood have garage and drive parking for residents or specific

parking spots for the bungalows, but the rest of the street is absolutely free of cars.

This was the

case even when Northumberland Street was closed for resurfacing. There are other streets which

also regularly have lots of free space.

2

ARGYLE STREET – WHY OUR STREET HAS A UNIQUE PARKING ISSUE, RESOLVED WITH GREAT SUCCESS BY THE USE OF PARKING PERMITS.

Argyle Street sits only a few metres away from The Little Beach, It is a relatively short street,

but has four, four storey blocks of flats within it, five full time holiday let businesses, further

part time holiday let businesses and several residential units. Argyle Street probably has the

highest permanent residential percentage in any road in the village and none of the properties has parking provision other than on the street.

Being so close to the Little Beach, the street was often full of day visitors walking dogs etc.

This blocked parking for residents, yet ample parking provision is available for day visitors on

the main beach, from which day visitors can walk anywhere in the village. Parking in the

main car park also brings in vital revenue to maintain certain facilities within the village.

Before parking permits were introduced, the full time businesses in our street, which are

holiday lets, had four and sometimes five vehicles per house using the street space for parking. This prevented residents from being able to park in the street. Now the full

time

businesses have the same parking permit provision as residents. We are happy with this and

would argue that this actually supports the businesses in our street, ensuring that their clients have a chance of parking near the businesses.

Criticism has been levelled at the fact that Argyle Street has empty parking spaces available.

Sometimes it does have some free spaces. This is a sign that the permit parking is working.

Sometimes it is also still absolutely full of cars. The times when our street has spaces are the

times that several other streets also have available spaces.

If Argyle Street's parking permits are removed, then the residents will once again be forced

to park on other village streets, particularly Northumberland Street, blocking visitors who

may want to use the shops/pubs. Surely this would be detrimental to the good of the village

and simply means that Argyle Street will be a big car park for users of the holiday lets and

day visitors walking on The Little Beach once again?

The village is thriving since the new parking scheme has been in place. The Parish Council's

own newsletter confirms this. Here are just a few examples of quotes from this:

1. Alnmouth Arts Festival – "The best attended festival so far!"

2. Alnmouth Volcano Night – "Record Number of Volcanos... 48 teams taking part spurred on by hundreds of supporters"

3. Alnmouth Food Festival – "A glorious day in terms of sales with many vendors running out of food. More than 1200 people attended."

It is clear that businesses are doing well in Alnmouth and there are a lot of them for such a

small village. The Argyle Street Parking Scheme will not harm them in any way and actually helps the

businesses in Argyle Street as well as the residents. I think everyone would agree that we want to

welcome business, visitors AND residents to this village. But please do not ignore the needs of the

permit holding residents of Argyle Street and Riverside Road."

"I live in Alnmouth and would like to register my support for the recent Traffic and Parking changes in the village.

The one way system works well and has improved traffic flow.

The Argyle Street Residents Parking Scheme should be retained as it is a great help to the people who live in that street. I hear that some in the village feel that it is unfair, but if similar permit schemes are introduced throughout the village then it would no longer be unfair or divisive. People complain that they can't park to attend events in the Hindmarsh Hall. The Hall has no parking, so why should nearby residents be the ones to provide parking for it?

The Parish Council should pay more attention to the interests of Residents not only Holiday Visitors and those businesses that benefit from them."

As a regular visitor to the village I just wanted to say I have welcomed the new changes to the road network. We rarely experience problems with traffic like we used to. We often visit friends in Argyle Street and the residents parking system is a fantastic idea. I think it would be a good idea to extend this system into other areas of the village, to be fair to other residents in Alnmouth.

"

I have lived in Alnmouth for many years. I would like to record my view that the new one way system works very well and has improved the flow of traffic around the village and makes it easier for me to cross the road.

I would also like to express my support for the residents of Argyle Street and their wish to retain the Residents Parking Scheme. I do not live in Argyle Street, but appreciate their frustration as the ever increasing number of visitors to the village make it extremely difficult to park near to where they live. Those that feel it is unfair for one street to have such a scheme should encourage the authorities to implement a similar scheme elsewhere in the village. Those who live in Grosvenor Terr., Prospect Place, Osborne Terrace, Lovaine etc should also benefit from similar protection by the installation of a small number of Resident Permit parking spaces in Marine Road, Riverside and at the northern end of Northumberland Street.

It is unfortunate that those wishing to attend events at Hindmarsh Hall find it difficult to park close by, but that is a function of the Hall having no dedicated parking spaces what so ever. It should not be the responsibility of nearby residential streets to provide a carpark for the Hall.

"

"Hello and firstly I would like to say that the new one-way system in Alnmouth seems to be working well and I have not heard too many people saying otherwise, so thank you for that.

I attended the November meeting of the Alnmouth Parish Council when the Argyle Street Resident Parking Scheme was discussed. (I have say that I had not previously appreciated what 'poor relations' Argyle Street residents were!!) The discussion was contentious and I did not feel that the PC were objectively representing the Alnmouth residents overall – there was definitely a 'them and us' atmosphere with most of the PC members taking the 'them' stance which was evident in their body language. The NCC representative and the County Councillor had a tough time! Anyway, moving on, objectively, I would like to formally state a case for the retention of the Argyle Street Resident Parking Scheme by listing the following points:

There are over 35 residences/homes/holiday homes in Argyle Street within a fairly short stretch of street ie, it is a street mainly of terraced houses with no garages, driveways or personal parking of any sort and it includes 3 blocks of flats, which I believe makes it the most congested residential area in Alnmouth. (I am the

exception on the gable end where the front garden has been converted into a parking bay for a small car so, I think it is easier for me to adopt a more unbiased attitude. It is the only house in the street where this arrangement is possible.) Many other homes amongst the nooks and crannies of Alnmouth have managed to create invaluable personal parking, but that is almost impossible in Argyle Street.

Argyle Street is a 'parking target' for visitors and it is particularly handy for those who wish to walk on the Estuary Beach. Visitors staying in other holiday let areas are directed to park there too. So, it does have its own problems. (Riverside Road suffers similarly, but many of the properties have private parking and the ratio of parking spaces to homes is greater.)

If the parking permits are taken away from Argyle Street residents, then they will be forced to park in Riverside Road or the High Street, thereby taking up spaces others could use.

I would also like to state a strong case for the creation of extra car parking for visitors. I believe this has been considered and has come to a standstill, but it must be a better plan to concentrate efforts on this objective rather than taking away existing benefits from residents. Also, improving the signage so that visitors can understand the layout of Alnmouth, in particular getting across the point that parking on the beach area does not necessarily mean walking back up the way they came in and that the shops and cafes etc are only 5 - 10 minutes walk from the beach parking via the footpath through to the Golf Club/village. Many times, I have watched people park their cars on Riverside Road or Argyle Street and walk down to the main beach!!

I visited the Lake District recently, and believe me they have a much greater visitor parking problem and visitors must be prepared to walk quite a distance from parking to visitor attractions.

I would also like to state that I have no issue with tourism businesses or visitors. I welcome them all and enjoy the buzz they create in the busy season. Tourism is probably the biggest industry in Northumberland and good for the county; since Alnmouth is a popular destination I think it is important that NCC address the lack of parking for tourists, and sooner rather than later"

"I understand that Alnmouth PC do not now support the use of parking permit system in Argyle St; this is despite a long trial and strong support from the majority of the residents of Argyle St., of which I am one, and without holding an open PC meeting for Argyle St residents to attend/discuss.

We have suffered greatly in the past from tourist-parking blocking access to our homes (some 40 homes in Argyle St), not only for residents but for deliveries and service providers in general; the parking permits have much alleviated this difficulty, as has the one-way system. So where would the residents park? -they'd take up other spaces in the village or would have then to park at the beach car park which is where the tourists should be parking!

I note also that some businesses over recent years have removed most/all of their

own parking facilities by extending their premises/activities (with good commercial reason). However the expectation is then for the Highways/community to accept/substitute/resolve any resulting street parking problems alongside normal traffic increase!

The prevention of tourist/visitor parking in Argyle St has not affected the tourist numbers nor the commerce of Alnmouth and during 'high seasons' you would be very lucky to see some 4 or 5 empty spaces in Argyle St. and not for long.

The PC's own newsletter confirms how the village activities have continued to thrive; Alnmouth Arts Festival – 'the best attended so far'

Alnmouth Volcano Night – 'record nos.....48 teams taking part spurred on by hundreds of supporters'

Alnmouth Food Festival – 'a glorious day in terms of sales with many vendors running out of food. More than 1200 people attended'

The real answer is to increase parking for tourists/everyone; I have already suggested west of the bridge on the 'flood plain' area (some 30 or 40 spaces could be made available with gravel/sub-base surfacing only); perhaps the area down the beach access road and behind the parking kiosk could also be explored (good car/pedestrian access? 10/15 car spaces?)? Every visitor attraction in UK has to contend with parking problems, as I recently experienced in the Lake District, and every visitor has to walk some distance from very full/overflowing car parks to reach their individual destinations or attractions.

For proper utilisation of the Beach car park, further improvement could be provided e.g. increase to the parking area (up to 10 or 20 spaces?, - with markings to all?), better direction signage (to Highways standards), lighting, and pedestrian access from the car park to/from the village.

Some bold creative planning is required by NCC to resolve the overall parking shortage and not 'tinker' with existing arrangements for Argyle St. which will not resolve the overall parking issues. I look for NCC to take a strong and knowledgeable lead on these matters and to better assist the PC in their efforts, whether technically or financially.

It would be much regretted to remove (or change) the successful parking permit system from Argyle St.

Please note my support for the continuance of the current Parking Permits for Argyle St. and for the one-way traffic routeing which has proved very successful for ALL users."

"I would like to register my support for the Residential Parking Permits for Argyle Street, Alnmouth,

There is a big problem with parking in Alnmouth especially during the summer months when visitors often refuse to use the beach car park. Surely the directions to the beach car park could be more prominent and the path from the car park to the village could be improved. If it could be pointed out to visitors that the car park is only a few

hundred yards from the village that might encourage them to use it. I realise improving the path from the existing car park will be expensive, especially if the path was to be improved significantly and lighting if lighting was installed. I can also see that those who are not very steady on their feet or those pushing prams etc find the existing path difficult.

If the path from the beach car park could be improved the traders in the village may not be so hostile to the restrictions in parking in Argyle Street where there is only room for 1 to 1 ½ car outside each property. Now that most properties have been converted into flats there is insufficient parking outside each property for the residents, that is without visitors being encouraged to park there to as well.

Please keep the residential parking permits."

"The one way system works well and has improved traffic flow.

The Argyle Street Residents Parking Scheme should be retained as it is a great help to the people who live in that street. I hear that some in the village feel that it is unfair, but if similar permit schemes are introduced throughout the village then it would no longer be unfair or divisive. People complain that they can't park to attend events in the Hindmarsh Hall. The Hall has no parking, so why should nearby residents be the ones to provide parking for it?

The Parish Council should pay more attention to the interests of Residents not only Holiday Visitors and those businesses that benefit from them."

"I really like the new parking scheme and the one way system in Alnmouth, having been a regular visitor to the village for 10+ years. Makes such a difference, and ultimately it's the residents who live there and rightly have their interests represented, not just businesses that make a fortune from tourism.

I think it could be extended in other parts of Alnmouth, so that Argyle Street isn't unfairly used, but it should definitely stay on that road (by the way, I don't live on that road.)

"

"I gather some argue against the Argyle St Residents Parking scheme because they can't park to attend events in the Hindmarsh Hall.

The Hindmarsh Hall sets itself up as an events venue and as such I agree it is a valuable village asset. However the Hall is hamstrung by one major inherent disadvantage. It does not possess one single dedicated parking space. Why should residents living close by, suffer for the convenience of concert goers, wedding guests etc.

I live at the other end of the village and therefore my view is influenced by what is best for residents not by any personal interests"

"A. In respect to ease of access to public transport and local amenities' accessing public transport is not a concern as the village is well served by both rail and bus services (albeit the bus shelter is now on the wrong side of Northumberland Street).

However access to local amenities is not well served by the new one way system. If on reversed the experimental arrangement (ie go back to the way we were) it would benefit visitors, particularly those arriving by motor vehicle, as the visitor is made aware of the retail, catering and hotel facilities on their arrival at the village. With the current arrangement (apart from the Dandelion Restaurant) these facilities are not on view until visitors are nearing departure. This means either (i) the facilities are at risk of being ignored or (ii) involved a visitors completing another circuit.

B. Furthermore reversing the direction of traffic flow of the experimental one way system would further improve pedestrian safety. In particular, (i) traffic will be approaching from the left when turning into Marine Road which will be both safer/more logical for pedestrians (particularly those crossing from Northumberland St into Riverside!); and (ii) allow designated car parking spaces on Marine Road to be (re)located adjacent to all residences which is safer for their passengers who can alight onto the existing public footpath. NB where space permitted the one way system NCCs highways engineers have introduced parking on both sides of this road which has usefully improved parking capacity as well as introducing a 'chicane'/natural traffic calming measure. However this current chicane arrangement has two drawbacks (a) it only works when the parking spaces are occupied and (b) put parked vehicles at risk of damage from passing traffic. If NCC introduced raised planters or street furniture immediately adjacent to the first and last parking bays these chicanes would not be dependent upon parked vehicles to be effective with the benefit that traffic calming would achieved at all times.

C. Designated the majority of on street parking as 'residents only' ideally to achieve a parking to property ratio of one to one or the best ratio as is practical. This could be adjusted seasonally (eg residents only from 1st April to 30th September as similar arrangement in other coastal villages such as Low Newton). This would need to be managed via the issue of residents parking permits NB residents parking permits are already issued by the Burgage holders for seasonal use of the beach car park so this is something the Village/Parish Councillors would likely be pleased to assist with.

D. Introduction of designated disabled parking bays ideally adjacent the retail and restaurant outlets together with secure bicycle parking.

E. Absentee landlords (eg those owning holiday accommodation) need to be considered when their property is of a size that permit multiple occupancy/ more than one family. I say this because the number of persons in residence will at times require more than one car space and a likely need for additional overnight parking during the main holiday season. A solution is suggested in para H below.

F. Introduction of an hours/waiting time restriction on large delivery vehicles to reduce the problem with blocking Northumberland Street and or parking on the public footpath (this has long been a problem which has not eased in spite of the works undertaken as part of your experimental order). The hours restriction could be between the hours of 6pm and 8am. Alternatively designated loading and unloading bays but this may not be possible due to safety and other constraints.

G. In conjunction with the Burgage Holders develop opportunities to extend the existing off road visitor parking amenities. The existing visitor beach parking facility could be enhanced and extended where possible. The existing beach parking and the overflow/coach parking facility is currently well managed by our Burgage Holders and the income therefrom is reinvested to the benefit of residents and the wider community

(eg visitors). NB1 Whilst accepting this car park is located in a conservation area/ AOB there is potential to both expand the area (albeit limited) and increase capacity by the use of a more durable (albeit green/eco-friendly) surfacing, and designate the parking bays (by introduction of bay markers). I'm sure the Northumberland Tourist Board would support such an initiative and may provide financial assistance to NCC in meeting the costs of these improvements. There are already excellent and established footpaths connecting the beach car park to the village together with existing public toilets. NB2 a more durable surface to the beach car park would have to be maintained. Currently the Burgage Holders are faced (annually) with repairs to potholes/ regarding following the ravages of winter and the North Sea. This annual expenditure (currently circa £7K to £8K/ annum) could be directed to a sinking-fund to assist NCC in future repairs and maintenance. Annual maintenance/life cycle costs for a more durable surfacing material, over time should not be significantly different. NB3 the provision of separate visitor parking is not a new idea in Northumbrian coastal villages. It may be useful to remind NCC that this arrangement works well at Warkworth, Craster, Low Newton and Holy Island to name but four.

H. Overnight car parking for visitors using holiday or hotel accommodation needs to be considered. Currently overnight parking on the beach car park is not permitted and many may think this should continue. There is however the overflow car park (by the car park attendants hut). This was historically but now rarely used for parking coaches overnight. This car park has a macadam surface, again there is the potential to increase capacity by expanding the area and introducing designated parking bays. Temporary overnight parking permits detailing vehicle registration and duration of permit could be made available at a cost. Owners of holiday accommodation and hoteliers would be able to advise visitors of the amenity and purchase arrangements (See para E above). This arrangement works well in other historic coastal towns such as Fowey and Salcombe (albeit not to my knowledge in Northumberland).

"

"

I Agree with:

One way system

20 mph speed limit

I Disagree with:

The significant loss of parking places

The Bus parking bay which takes up at least 5 parking spaces and has no shelter

Cars now parking on both sides of the road leading into Alnmouth because they cannot park in the village, a creating congestion and bottlenecks.

Extra large parking bays which are not necessary

Double yellow lines that stop at the entrance to a driveway (although this is not consistent throughout the village). Home owners use this space to park their cars - in an area when the rest of the road has double yellow lines - caused congestion.

On leaving the village to turn right and go back round the one way system - it's not made clear that you are driving directly into oncoming traffic - an accident waiting to happen.

Cars leaving the beach are not being asked to filter into the one-way system, but

allowed to turn right into the path of oncoming traffic that think they are in a one way system - An accident waiting to happen.

Over zealous use of double yellow lines throughout the village.

Home owners who have off road parking still parking on the high street.

Tradings having skips on the road in parking bays for weeks at a time - in some cases taking up to 3 parking spaces.

No traffic warden patrolling the village on a Friday and Saturday night when all visitors park on double yellow lines.

Motorbikes that take up a parking space.

Traders and locals that block out parking spaces with cones and 'A' boards

Golfers who come to play at Alnmouth, but do not use the Golf Club car park.

Having lived in the village for over 17 years and never had off road parking, I had previously always been able to park somewhere in the village at any time of the year. With the new parking system, I find it impossible to get a parking space during busy times.

All we want is more parking in the village, not less. Can I suggest we adopt a system such as Holy Island, in that ALL visitors have to park outside the village and walk in.

I look forward to your response.

Could you please tell me why Argyle Street has the luxury of Permit Parking only, but residents who live in the rest of the village have not been given the same privilege

I've lived in the village for over 17 years and never seen the parking as bad as it is now - I often cannot park anywhere in the village now and have to resort to parking along the Foxton road. "

"Dear Sir/Madam,

I note from the communication from the Alnmouth Village Newsletter that New Traffic Scheme implemented within Alnmouth, is according to Northumberland County Council implemented on a ""temporary basis"", and subject to review. I have not received notification from yourselves as to how the review process will take place or indeed when.

The one-way system as it implemented does seem, in the main, to have resolved the congestion that occurred on Northumberland Street although I'm sure the residents of that street will have more relevant commentary based on their experience.

Until such time as the village has had the exposure of the summer peak traffic we will not understand the efficacy of the current scheme.

Of particular concern to myself is the ""residents parking permits"" use in Argyle Street as it is ill thought out. Experience throughout the UK tells us that implementation of such a scheme on a limited area basis just move as the problem somewhere else, specifically to adjacent streets. In this case into Riverside Road. I do not understand why this has not been thought through by NCC.

With the reduction in parking spaces throughout the village there is a need to consider all residents. With no provision for the residents of Riverside Road we will experience the same issues that are and were faced by residents of Argyle Street.

The most obvious solution was to have reserved all parking spaces to the north side of

the road, that is adjacent to the houses in Riverside Road, for residents while leaving those to the south side, adjacent to the river for non-residents.

I would ask that this be considered and implemented as part of the review and changes to the Traffic Scheme that follows the summer experience."

"We are very supportive of the one-way system in the village, but the parking situation is becoming worse and worse as we enter high-season for tourists; although the new bays make the parking more orderly there is definitely less capacity. However, since the changes, we have felt a little like prisoners in our own village as once you get a parking slot, you don't want to move as there are much fewer than before. Previously, we would have parked on Argyle street and Riverside road. However, now obviously we cannot park on Argyle street and Riverside Road has less parking than before which is just bizarre. So the choice is left to parking on double yellow lines. And it does seem a little unfair that everyone can park on Riverside road, but not argyle street. It may relate to the fact that folks who have reported parking problems, live down the hill on Argyle street perhaps. The funny thing is that the parking slots at the top of Argyle street have no properties with exists onto Argyle street...

I spoke to others on Riverside Road and they have had similar problems with parking on Riverside road.

To be honest, I think it is overkill to implement residents parking, double yellow lines everywhere and huge parking bays. It's the kind of thing you get in a city, not a village. Yes the village got busy on the bank holidays weekends in summer but you could always find a parking slot on Argyle street or Riverside road. Now, that is not the case and has made the situation worse.

Also, I think it was a great shame for the village that a parking inspector was out at the weekend during the arts festival. Giving out fines to tourists don't really send a great message for one of Northumberland's key industries.

"

"I write to lodge an official objection to the current experimental order as referred to above. I write in my capacity as owner of a property which as I'm sure you're aware is just around the corner from Argyle Street and which is directly affected by the current parking arrangements. It is reported in The Alnmouth Village Newsletter that only the residents of Argyle Street were consulted on the introduction of the scheme. I have to say that if I was an Argyle Street resident I would have been strongly in favour of the scheme's introduction. As a resident what is there not to like? Overnight a markedly improved parking situation outside one's front door, albeit at the cost of a worsening of the parking situation elsewhere in the village. I am really surprised that only the Argyle Street residents were consulted when it is surely obvious that a reduction in parking capacity on Argyle Street would have wider implications. Living at the Argyle Street end of Northumberland Street our obvious parking options were Northumberland St itself and Argyle St. As the main street in the village you do not need me to explain the pressure on parking spaces on Northumberland Street, a situation that has now worsened. Suffice to say that as a result of this pressure we would frequently find ourselves parking on Argyle St, particularly at the top end before the Council flats that you arrive at before you start to go down the hill. Sadly this is no longer an option, a

fact that is made all the more galling by regularly observing lots of available parking space on the whole of Argyle Street as I drive around the village looking for somewhere to park. However well intentioned the change might have been, I think it is difficult not to conclude that it is very surprising that the consultation was no wider than with Argyle St residents and that substantial prejudice has as a result been caused to other residents, particularly to the residents of Northumberland St and Riverside Road who live near Argyle St. I would urge a speedy reconsideration of the situation particularly as the summer holidays approach. A word on other recent changes if I may? I think the introduction of the one way system is a great innovation. Not so I'm afraid the introduction of individual parking bays which seem to assume that everyone drives a Range Rover. I would estimate that for every 3 marked bays you could park 4 cars, the effect of which is to reduce the available space by parking in the village by 25%. Was it really necessary to mark out individual bays within the designated parking areas? Clearly this reduction in parking capacity is only made worse by the further reduction to available capacity on Argyle Street as described above. I would very much welcome your views on this email.

"

"I have lived in Alnmouth for nearly 2 years now and recently witnessed the reduction in parking spaces throughout the village. Parking is becoming more and more of a problem for residents without private parking, particularly at weekends and the problems are likely to increase over the school summer holiday. I believe the residential parking scheme on Argyle Street and the street leading to Riverside Road has exacerbated this problem as there are regularly many free parking spaces on Argyle Street, particularly during the day, when day trippers to the village need to park.

It seems most unfair for only one street in the village to be granted residential parking when other residents often struggle to find a parking space and I really feel that in a village of Alnmouth's size, any decision regarding residents parking, whether it be one street or 5, should be taken by the entire village. "

"I am a long term permanent resident of Alnmouth and unfortunately have no off-street parking so rely on parking being available at the top of Northumberland Street. I attended the presentation at the Hindmarsh Hall last year and despite some reservations was willing to see how the experiment worked out throughout the various winter and holiday seasons, especially as the impression at the presentation was that the parking position would improve.

Now that a year has passed it has become apparent that the parking situation is now far worse than it was previously.

I do not understand why there is a need for 7 bays on Northumberland Street with 20 minute time restrictions. They either lie vacant while drivers circle the village looking for available spaces or are used on the hope that the traffic warden will not be around.

I do not understand why there is a need for disabled bays as I understand that those drivers with blue badges are able to park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours.

This is surely sufficient time for those drivers to visit shops and restaurants.

I do not understand the need for double yellow sight lines at every junction on to Northumberland Street, even where the side lanes serve only 2 or 3 properties which are not always occupied outside of the main tourist season. How many collisions

have there been in the past at these junctions?

I do not understand why there is a need for a bus bay at the Schooner Hotel as buses only wait for a couple of minutes and cause very little disruption .There was no need for bus bays previously when there was no one way system.

I do not understand why there is residents parking in Argyle Street limited to Argyle Street residents only . On many occasions there are a substantial number of spaces available in Argyle Street while none available elsewhere .

At the moment I feel trapped in the village and now only leave the village once per week to attend to necessary chores . The likelihood is that I will have to circle the village many times looking for an available space - the record so far is 5 circles and then a wait of 37 minutes until a space became vacant .

I would suggest scrapping the 20 minute bays , scrapping the disabled bays , scrapping the the bus bay , scrapping the long sight lines , thus increasing the number of parking spaces .

As far as the one way system is concerned , I think that it has merits as it appears to encourage visitors to use the beach car park ."

"We would like to make some comments regarding the experimental traffic scheme in Alnmouth.

1. The plethora of signage throughout the village is a disgrace and has spoiled the look of one of Northumbria's prettiest villages.
2. The same is true of the road markings and the delineation of the marked parking bays. Completely unnecessary.
3. There has been a huge loss of parking spaces in an already congested village. At our end of the village we have lost most spaces, making a difficult problem even worse.
4. The residents parking scheme on Argyle Street is completely unfair. Why should those residents be spared the parking traumas of the rest of the village. We all pay the same Council Tax. Either residents parking for all, or for none!
5. Since creating the one way system, the speed of traffic in the village has increased - the opposite of what I assume was hoped for. The knowledge of not meeting an oncoming vehicle in the narrow streets is clearly responsible.

I would urge the Highways Department to abandon the current experiment and return our delightful village to its former glory. Whatever you hoped to achieve, has been an abject failure and has provoked unfavourable comments from more or less everyone I have spoken to.

I trust our views will be taken into account and that common sense will prevail."

"I would like to register my objections to the new traffic scheme that was implemented in Alnmouth last November.

1. If there has to be a one way system it should be the other way round with traffic allowed straight into the heart of the village first, as only this way will be of benefit to the tourists, commerce and residents.

I am a house owner in the village and have been a regular visitor for nearly 60 years, so can remember the previous attempt to set up a one way system which was eventually abandoned. However, it did at least allow the traffic to flow in the direction that makes personal and commercial sense.

Residents returning home want to drive straight down Northumberland St where they can park briefly to buy food/newspapers etc rather than having to drive around the

village more than once to achieve the same goal (polluting as they go). Visitors too are much more likely to support the village shops/pubs/cafes etc if they see these facilities first before arriving at the sea; even if they end up parking by the beach they are more likely to return to the commerce of Northumberland St if they have already seen it. Indeed the whole point of coming to visit Alnmouth is to drive into the heart of the village down Northumberland St. After all these years I felt real anger at no longer being able to drive into the village I so love.

2. The new scheme has resulted in a notable loss of parking spaces in the village with no new parking solution.

A site for a car park closer to Northumberland St than the beach car park should be explored. If not the reduced trade for businesses could be the death of the village.

3. The implementation of the Argyll St Residents only parking has limited parking even further and it's clear to any resident that many of the parking spaces there remain unused for large parts of the day so compounding the impact of reduced parking. This scheme needs to be removed.

4. The delineated parking bays are a further cause of lost parking space and could easily be removed.

Overall the loss of parking has created huge stresses for residents, visitors, and tradesmen and I'm speaking from personal experience of all three. Indeed I've had tradesman declining to attend because they know they will be unable to find anywhere to park. I myself have frequently been unable to park near my house when I have needed to unload heavy items. I have also had visitors who have been forced to drive around and around to find a space and some who have simply had to leave because there was nowhere to park. This is NOT a sustainable situation.

5. The parking bays on Marine Road are NOT on the side of the pavement. This has resulted in increased safety implications for people getting out of their cars. I have witnessed a number of dangerous moments especially with buggies/babies as the frequent very large buses come round the corner at speed to get up the hill. This is a SERIOUS oversight and the parking should be moved with immediate effect to the side of the pavement.

6. The buses now accelerate up the hill of Marine Rd (rather than down) with more noise, more fumes and more vibrations felt right through the properties. This did not happen before and could threaten the structure of these homes. If the one way was reversed this would no longer be the case.

I trust these objections will read through carefully and taken seriously as they come from someone with a long history of knowing this precious village and who can see the damage it is doing.

I would be grateful for an acknowledgement of receipt of this email."

"I wish to lodge a formal objection to the introduction of residents parking on Argyll Street last June as a 6 month experimental order.

As a resident of Alnmouth, I fail to understand why one particular street in the village should be given preferential treatment in this way. Why should a very small number of residents have the benefit of both this as well as being able to park anywhere else they wish in the village whilst the rest of the residents are excluded from parking in certain roads. In such a small village, it would seem grossly unfair to continue with

this scheme – when the idea of ‘some’ residents parking in the village was first raised during the initial consultation process it was unanimously voted down by the village as a whole, and in a village of this size, surely any such scheme should be implemented for the good of the entire village and not for the few.

The implantation of this scheme has been very divisive throughout the village, and should it be decided that residents parking is to continue on Argyle Street, it would seem the only fair thing to do would be to allow ANY resident of the village the right to apply for a permit to park there, however my preference would be that it be removed at the end of the 6 month order."

"I am fully behind the new system, I fully understand the half hour parking system which allows people to use the shops, but if you go as suggested by some to two hour scheme could you make it compulsory that they use the card system to state which time they arrive. This would make it easy to police and one of the shops could stock them to sell.

Argyle St. I am in favour of residents parking and if you go for non residents parking through the day could make them use the parking card system as well."

"Dear Sirs

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the introduction of residents parking on Argyle Street last June as a 6 month experimental order.

As a resident of Alnmouth, I fail to understand why one particular street in the village should be given preferential treatment in this way. Why should a very small number of residents have the benefit of both this as well as being able to park anywhere else they wish in the village whilst the rest of the residents are excluded from parking in certain roads. In such a small village, it would seem grossly unfair to continue with this scheme – when the idea of ‘some’ residents parking in the village was first raised during the initial consultation process it was unanimously voted down by the village as a whole, and in a village of this size, surely any such scheme should be implemented for the good of the entire village and not for the few.

The implantation of this scheme has been very divisive throughout the village, and should it be decided that residents parking is to continue on Argyle Street, it would seem the only fair thing to do would be to allow ANY resident of the village the right to apply for a permit to park there, however my preference would be that it be removed at the end of the 6 month order.

Best regards

"

"I am writing to object about the resident parking on Argyle Street in Alnmouth. As a resident & business owner in Alnmouth I really don't understand why this one Street should have the privilege of resident parking, as we all have horrendous problems with it. All it does is push the problem from Argyle Street onto the already busy Northumberland street. And the main gripe I have is that the majority of the

Argyle Street houses are large homes converted into holiday flats, so why should all the holiday makers have the privilege of permit parking ?? And for the very few residents that actually live on this street why should they have the privilege when it is a problem throughout the village?

I fail to understand the reasons & I'm sure the vast majority of villagers feel the same way."

" We have just heard that there is a possibility that the residents parking in Argyle Street, Alnmouth may become permanent - I cant believe it. We were given to believe that this was a trial run during the summer season to see how it would help the parking situation in Alnmouth - its been a disaster, apart from ARGYLE STREET, in our part of the village. We live in Riverside Road and the whole summer months have been utter chaos - gridlock is the word we would choose, especially weekends and during the high season. Alnmouth has always had a problem with summer traffic as tourism is a main part of the village's economy and it is increasing yearly but to favour one street above the rest is extremely unfair to say the least, as it is a problem that either directly or indirectly affects the whole village.

We actually drive down Argyle Street accessing our part of Riverside Road, and even in the high season, there were parking spaces available in Argyle Street, which of course are unavailable to anyone without 'a permit'.

I would point out that most residents including Argyle Street Flats either bought or rented their properties knowing there was no place to park and now they have become the chosen few, it has caused a lot of unnecessary anger - until N.C.C. works seriously with the village to create a car park to help solve this problem no special privileges should be shown to any area in the village whatsoever. "

"Following the recent publication of changes to the parking in Alnmouth printed in the local Gazzette.

Which are suggested to be made before the trial year is completed. I would like to strongly OBJECT to the

prefferential parking in Argyle Street. There are many areas in Alnmouth with inadequate parking including the main street.

Argyl Street has very few cars parked during the day ; yet visitors on which the village relies are unable to park there.

The problem lies with the increasing numbers of visitors to the village and a solution along the lines of that at Craster

would be the best solution. A Council Car Park west of the Dutchess Bridge would allow adequate visitor parking and also create revenue for the Council.

"

"We understand that at the recent public Alnmouth Parish Council Meeting the decision to terminate the under utilised residents' parking in Argyle Street was unilaterally reversed by a person from the NCC.

Can you explain how this came about? Does it reflect the views of the majority of Alnmouth residents or just a vocal minority? And does it not encourage all other residents to want their own parking spaces in a village where parking is at a premium?

We are puzzled and indeed concerned - how is this democratic and how can it be

justified?

We await NCC's response with interest. "

"I objected to the initial establishment of this scheme on an experimental basis and now wish to object to its proposed continuation. My main reason for this was and still is that parking is a problem in many of Alnmouth's streets and singling out one street for preferential treatment is unfair and invidious.

Additionally, the scheme impacts upon our village hall, which is situated on Northumberland Street opposite the end of Argyle Street. Visitors to the hall cannot now park in Argyle Street even if places are available, which they frequently are following the restriction of parking to residents-only. For instance, on Saturday November 18th I know that there were, because I counted them several times, 12 parking places in Argyle Street which were vacant all day. We had organised an all-day event in the Hall and visitors were unable to park in Argyle Street even though the spaces were not being used by the residents throughout the day. I now have to warn Hall users that they cannot park in Argyle Street even if places are available. Taking so many parking places out of the pool available in the village purely for the convenience of a few residents in Argyle Street is causing problems for other residents and our village hall. I agree with the Parish Council's view that the scheme is not in the best interests of the village as a whole and should therefore be discontinued immediately."

"The changes to the road system in recent times are bad enough including the loss of many parking spaces to the yellow lines causing visitors much inconvenience and frustration. The difficulties finding a space earlier this year were most annoying and we were pleased to read that the restricted parking in Argyle Street was to be scrapped. But now I hear that this extraordinary special treatment of Argyle Street will continue and the visitor parking restriction will not be lifted. Please reconsider as Alnmouth needs more parking availability not less for the many visitors like ourselves who love the town and bring our holiday cash to spend in Northumberland.

It's a very long drive and I would very much like to find a convenient parking space on arrival.

"

" I have worked in Alnmouth for the past 14 months and have seen many changes from the one way system being introduced to lots of double yellow lines and then the residents only parking on Argyle Street.

I have to travel to work by car and in the busy months I find it very difficult to park, especially when my shift starts after 9.00. I enjoy my job, but often wonder on my drive to work whether I will get parked. I remember driving round Alnmouth last Summer and seeing spaces outside of Argyle Street, but unable to park there because of the residents parking. I hope this is resolved soon, and Alnmouth gains more spaces for not just myself but its tourists."

"As a frequent visitor to Alnmouth staying at Puffin cottage in Northumberland Street I am dismayed to hear that the council is proposing to make Argyle Street a residents only parking zone.

When we come to stay if we can't park in Northumberland Street we usually use Argyle Street assuming there are spaces available & as this is usually after we have been out all day the residents have already parked.

We always eat in the local pubs & restaurants every evening & spend a considerable amount of money in the community as there are 4 of us all adults it certainly adds up which will of course be lost if we don't come to stay in Alnmouth."

"After spending the last five years holidaying in a lovely holiday cottage in Craster we decided that for 2018 we would choose another location in the county. To that end, we have booked a weeks break in Alnmouth. A condition and major influence of booking the cottage was that there was available car parking nearby. In Craster, the cottage had its own dedicated parking space.

We were assured that we could park our car on Argyle Street which gives access to the rear of the cottage we have booked and has been used by previous guests of the cottage for a number of years.

We were then surprised to be notified by the owner of the property that the County Council has decided to reverse the original Argyle Street Scheme decision. This decision will have a significant impact on our decision to choose Alnmouth as a holiday destination now and in the future. We use our car as little as possible whilst we are away, instead preferring to walk, cycle or use public transport if possible.

I am sorry to say that this is yet another instance we have personally experienced where we as visitors are being given the impression that Northumberland, beautiful as it is, is doing its uppermost to discourage visitors and perhaps its overreliance on the tourism industry. As a former economic development professional in my working life, I find these decisions quite puzzling and indeed worrying. Examples include the closures of the TiCs, car parking restrictions in retail locations. overflowing dog waste bins (Walkworth, Craster, Amble and Alnmouth), that we encountered on our visit last year, and that would seem to leave the wrong impression on the visitor.

I trust that the County Council will be mindful to take notice of visitor and resident comments on a range of tourism-related issues and that Northumberland can continue to prosper.

"

"We are writing to formally object to the ""Residents Only"" Parking Scheme imposed by the County Council.

We have visited Alnmouth on many occasions, since noticing it from a train window during a trip to Scotland. It has become one of our favourite places in Northumberland and always feels like ""home"" when we visit. There is, however, one problem which is a serious concern and which might well deter us from staying in Alnmouth in the future - the parking situation.

Having previously stayed in a property accessed from Argyle Street, we are appalled to learn that we would be precluded from parking there if we returned. We cannot understand why that street should merit special concessions and feel that it could have a very negative impact on tourism in the village and consequently on the various different types of businesses there. We would respectfully suggest that more parking provision is needed, not less!

We sincerely hope that the County Council will reconsider its decision relating to Argyle Street and that it will seek ways to improve parking facilities for visitors, instead of making parking in Alnmouth even more difficult."

"I would like to formally object to the Argyle Street Alnmouth 'Residents Only' parking scheme.

Over the years we have been lucky enough to stay at Puffin Cottage in Alnmouth and have always found it most convenient to park on Argyle Street where there is easy access to the rear of the property. This has allowed us to park off the main road at the front of Puffin Cottage which is busy and has a bus stop. With elderly less mobile relatives often accompanying us on holiday, being able to park on Argyle Street makes the process of them alighting from the vehicle far less dangerous and stressful for us all.

We love Alnmouth and visit regularly as we live less than an hour away and until 12 months ago never had a problem finding somewhere to park for however long we planned to stay - a quick visit to the shops, lunch in a cafe, a day on the beach or a much needed holiday. Since the one-way system was introduced there are a lot less parking spaces available and an awful lot of double yellow lines have taken their place. Indeed we were in the area on Sunday 26th November and drove twice around the one-way system looking, unsuccessfully, for a parking space and drove back to Warkworth and had lunch there.

Although we understand that the one way-system is to remain for the time being, we believed that the council had agreed at the start of this month that the Argyle Street scheme would be scrapped which would be a considerable help to us when we stay for a week at Puffin Cottage next month. However, we think this is not now the case and would like to lodge our great concern that this will make it very difficult to park in the village and will certainly have a detrimental impact on our decision to go back to Alnmouth.

It would appear that there is no obvious merit for Argyle Street to be 'Residents Only' parking and although we love Northumberland, we would have to mention to anybody thinking of visiting or staying in Alnmouth that there is now an issue with parking.

Yours sincerely

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"Further to our discussion today.

We would like to like request double yellow lines extending 6 yards from the white line opposite our garage.

This would allow proper access throughout the year.

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