



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY
SERVICE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES**

PAUL JONES

**PROPOSED TIME LIMITED PARKING PLACES ON POTTERGATE IN
ALNWICK**

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed introduction of additional parking places on Pottergate in Alnwick.

Recommendations

It is recommended that in view of the feedback received from the consultation and the high demand for parking within Alnwick that 3 additional parking places are introduced on Pottergate.

Link to Corporate Plan

How - "We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone"

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

Connecting - "We want you to have access to the things you need"

Key Issues

1. Parking Study was carried out in Alnwick which was commissioned by NCC in 2017.
2. Parking Study highlighted the need for additional parking in Alnwick town centre.
3. Pottergate was identified as a possible location for additional parking.

Report Author

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Delegated Decision Report

PROPOSED TIME LIMITED PARKING PLACES ON POTTERGATE IN ALNWICK

Background

1. Alnwick is a historic market town which attracts thousands of day visitors each year visiting attractions such as Alnwick Castle and Alnwick Gardens along with the historic town centre which offers many restaurants, bars, cafes and shopping outlets.
2. In summer 2017 the County Council commissioned consultants to undertake parking studies and survey work in the market towns of Berwick, Hexham, Morpeth and Alnwick, to help develop options for future parking needs in these busy market towns.
3. Work was then undertaken to seek the views and opinions of the local County Councillors, Town Councils and other key stakeholders on the findings of the consultants studies and their suggested recommendations on a range of potential measures that could help address parking issues in their area.
4. The report identified that in Alnwick the car parks and streets are full to capacity, especially during the summer months. The traffic is made worse by drivers searching for a parking space, resulting in increased congestion within the town centre.
5. Following discussion with local County Councillors, Town Councils and other key stakeholders, Pottergate was identified as a location where there was the potential to increase parking capacity and is located within the Disc Parking Zone.
6. Scheme is supported by County Councillor Castle and County Councillor Moore as well as Alnwick Town Council.

Consultation

The proposed introduction of additional parking places was the subject of a consultation exercise that involved asking all residents who would be directly affected by the introduction of additional parking places for feedback on the proposals. In total nine residents were consulted along with approximately 30 statutory consultees including the emergency services and various disabled and transport organisations/associations. A plan showing the proposals is attached with a copy of the consultation letter as Appendix A.

The consultation exercise concluded on Thursday 14th June 2018 and responses were received from 6 consultees with 3 being in favour and 2 against the proposal. The North East Ambulance Service were the only statutory consultees to respond and did not express a preference. A summary

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of responses has been attached as Appendix B.

Comments

Those who did not support the scheme commented that the bays were too close to the windows of the flats on Pottergate and that the bays would obstruct the visibility when exiting the flat's gated parking facility. Measures have been taken to reduce the extent of the parking places to allow visibility when exiting the private parking area on Pottergate, as shown in Appendix C.

Recommendations

7. From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concerns raised in this area and it is inevitable that some individuals in the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. The assessment of the results following the consultation exercise can be a contentious matter and the results show that there was no clear majority either way, but due to the high demand for additional parking, limited response from residents and support from both local County Councillors and Alnwick Town Council, it is recommended that 3 additional parking places are introduced on the north side of Pottergate.
8. The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

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Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	None
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Benefit of additional parking places within Alnwick town centre
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Alnwick

Background papers:

None

Delegated Decision Report

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Delegated Decision Report

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Paul Jones - Service Director -Local Services

Subject: Proposed Time Limited Parking Places on Pottergate in Alnwick

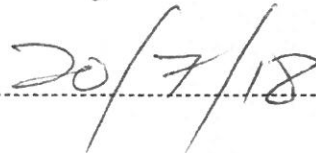
Consultation: 6 Responses Received
3 For
2 Against
1 Neither

Decision Taken: To introduce 3 additional parking places on Pottergate in Alnwick.

Signature of Director



Date





Northumberland County Council

Appendix A

|Name|
|Job Title|
|Business|
|Thoroughfare|
|Post town|
|County|
|Postcode|

Your ref: HE185325-06

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Dan Fraser

Email:

HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: (01670) 624125

Date: Thursday 17th April 2018

Proposed Additional Parking Place – Pottergate, Alnwick

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the parking study conducted in Alnwick Town Centre, Council Officers have been working with Local County Councillors and Alnwick Town Council with the aim of alleviating some of the issues highlighted within the report.

One of the issues raised was the need for additional parking places within Alnwick Town Centre and it was suggested that it would be feasible to introduce additional parking bays on Pottergate. It is anticipated that if additional parking places are introduced on Pottergate, it will go some way to helping alleviate the high demand for parking within Alnwick.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed introduction of additional "Disc Zone - Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm, 3 hours, No return within 4 hours" parking bays Pottergate in Alnwick, as shown the attached plan.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

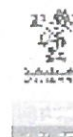
Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Thursday 14th June 2018. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

Highways Programme

County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

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www.northumberland.gov.uk





Northumberland

County Council

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

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

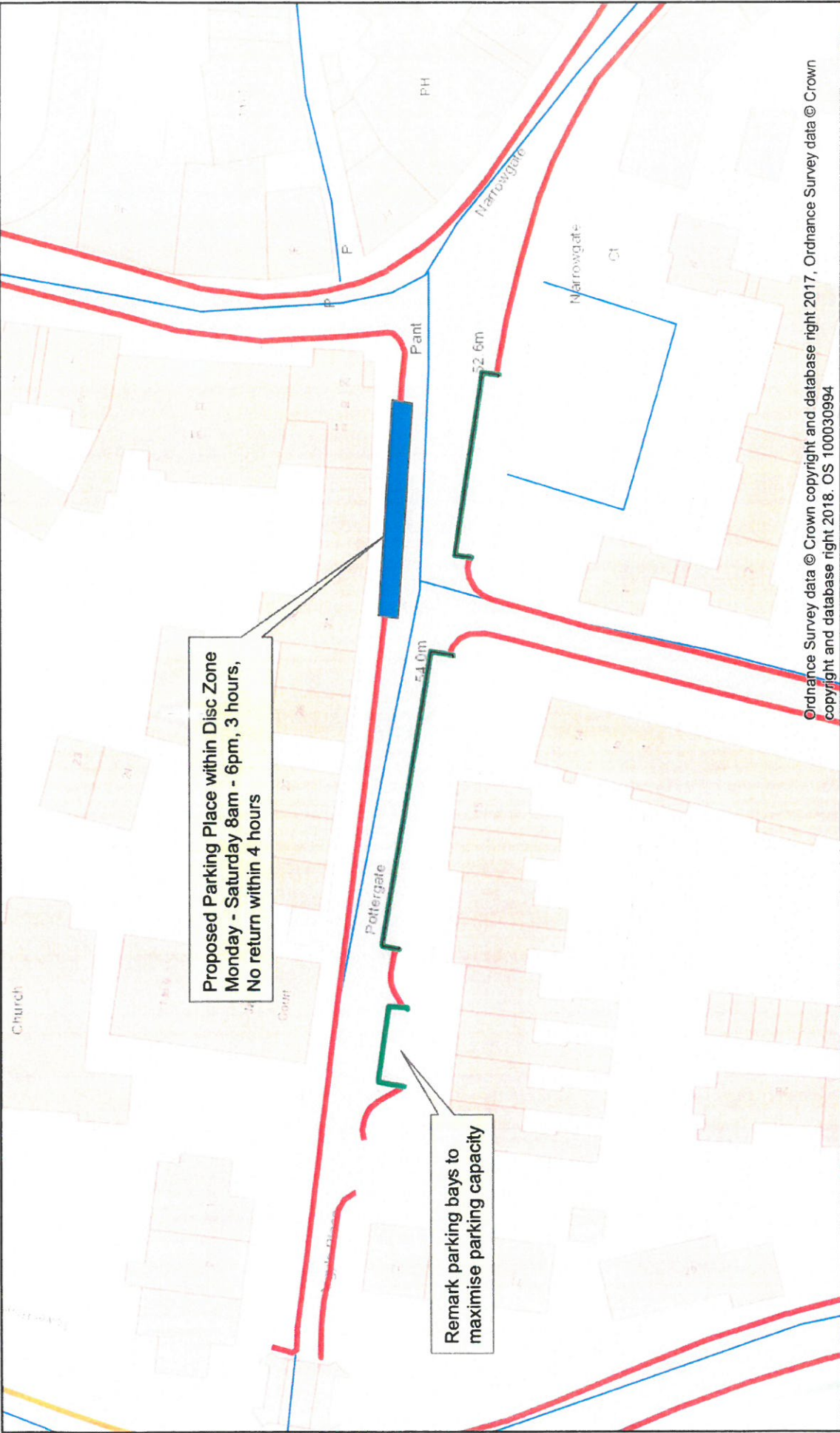
Yours faithfully

Highways Programme



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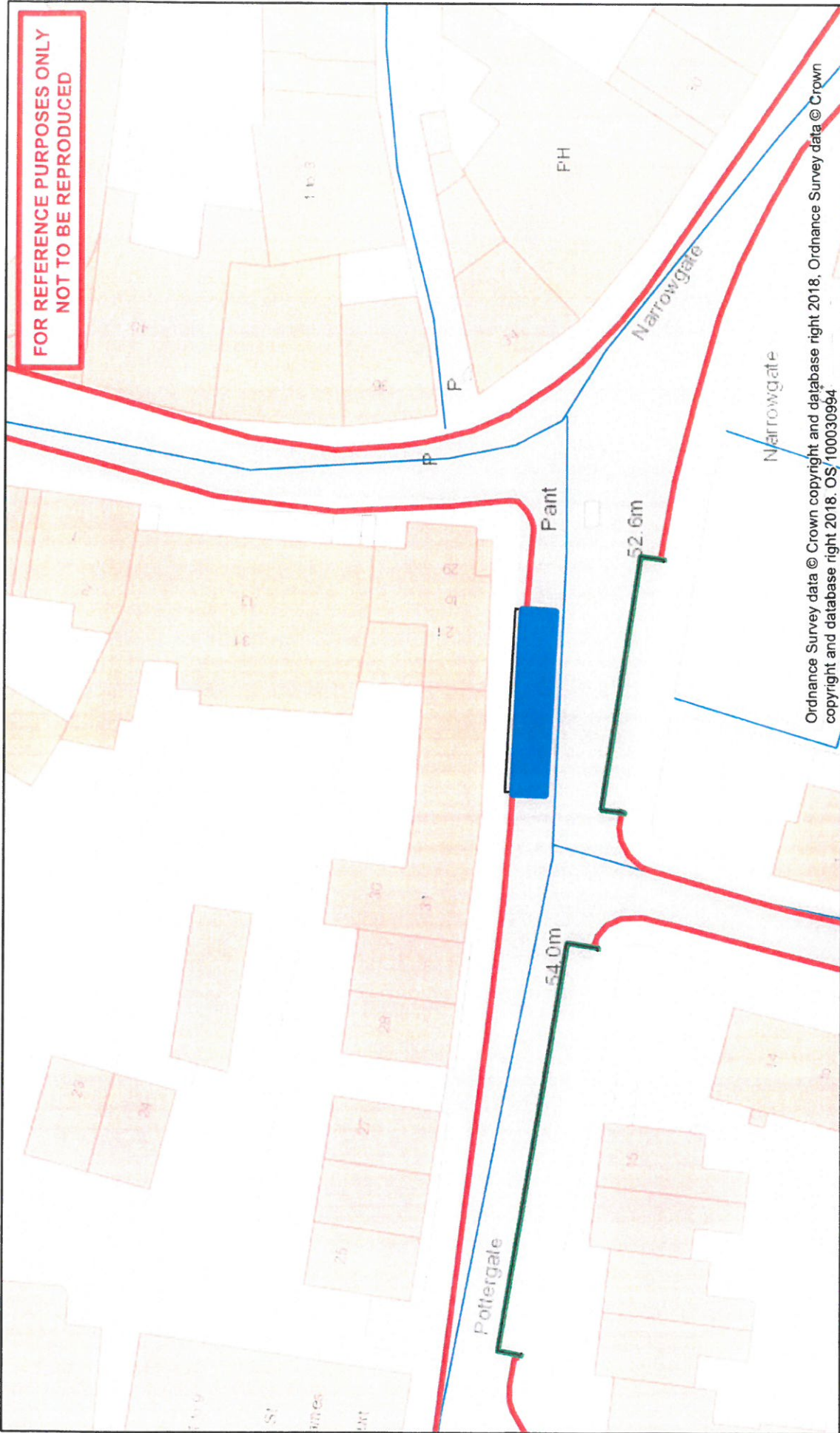


Northumberland Northumberland County Council		Network Management Information System This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License no. 100045045 (2009).		Title: Pottergate Proposed Additional Time Limited Parking Place Key Existing Double Yellow Lines Existing Time Limited Bays Proposed Time Limited Bays	
Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000		Drn: Date: Scale: 1:1000			

Appendix B

Initial	Name	No	Thoroughfare	Post Code	AGATE FORES	Other Relevant Comments
M	Lindores				1	Whilst I understand the need to increase parking in Alnwick this is barely a drop in the ocean. It will achieve very little. I suppose something is better than nothing.
	Emergency Services				1	Thank you for your correspondence dated 17th May 2018 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
Mr + Mrs C.I	Abrams	28	Pottergate	NE66 1JW	1	We would support the proposed extra spaces at the bottom of Pottergate (as marked on the plan provided), with the proviso that the upper limit is set so that, even with poor parking, the access to our gated courtyard is not obstructed. This might be achieved, perhaps, by marking individual bays rather than a general permitted area, as is the case on the other side of the road. This seems OK.
D	George	35	Upper Howick Street	NE66 1UZ	1	What I REALLY wanted to comment on however was the proposal to, as far as I can read it, make ALL parking places in the area of Bondgate outside Costa coffee in the middle of Alnwick into 30 minutes. This implies that this will include the two disabled bays, or does it??? Have you ever tried to take care of a disabled person? Get them out of car, take them to a shop or shops, get them loaded back in and drive away?? My wife is disabled and there are many like us in the area. The two bays are a lifeline to get to Boots, do a bit of shopping etc. and yes even treat ourselves to a Costa coffee. To deny disabled people those little highlights would seem to me to be a very low trick indeed. Can I have an (email) clarification please. Many thanks Dudley George PS You can hold my details under GDPR as long as you like.
						We have looked at the proposal to remove the parking restriction at the bottom of Pottergate and see no merit or justification in the suggestion.
						The proposal seems to ignore the entrance to the flats in Pottergate - It will make traffic movement around "The Pant" more difficult - It will create difficulties for heavy goods vehicles turning on Pottergate - It provides for only 3/4 spaces - making the existing parking into car-spaced bays would give more spaces - This would also prevent the road from being a magnet for Camper Vans - The refuse bins from the flats are collected from the pavement outside of the flats and parked cars would hinder this operation and stop traffic movement.
						I have had 40 years experience in town planning management and have read the Parking Study. I found it well reasoned but there is a need for better political decision making in order to prioritise the concerns and issues raised.
						I am not convinced that the priorities at present are balanced - free parking is not really sensible. No one wants to live or visit a town centre that is a car park. Too many unnecessary traffic movements are encouraged with drivers looking hopefully for parking spaces. Alternative parking solutions and methods of transport are not supported because of the lack of funds.
						Alnwick is a top quality town and is in real danger of being spoilt by parking. Many comparable towns already understand this and severely limit the provision by with a variety of traffic measure including Park and Ride.
D	Binyon	26	Pottergate	NE66 1JW	1	One further observation - there needs to be a "No Through Road" sign at the bottom of Pottergate to prevent traffic from needlessly going up and back.

J	McBride	29	Pottergate	NE66 1JW	1	I disagree with the proposal for the following reasons: - The proposed bays would block the driveway and electric gates to my private parking bay, which is situated in a car park provided for Pottergate and Narrowgate townhouse and apartment residents. I assume a mistake has been made by those responsible for the drawing. Clearly, a site visit was not made. - The western edge of the proposed bays should be at least 4 metres from the right (east) side of the electric gates. Such a distance would enable private car park users to manoeuvre safely onto Pottergate. A suitable distance should include an allowance for the many vehicle owners who do not park sensibly within bay limits. - Creating parking bays outside the windows of a ground floor apartment would be a callous act. - The Part at the bottom (east side) of Pottergate is used as a turning point by vehicle drivers returning to the town centre. They usually have to make a three-point turn. I note that the drawing seems to sensibly cater for this requirement. - If the Council agrees with the above points, I calculate that a revised proposal would be for just one car parking bay. Residents on the north side of Pottergate have to endure unacceptable noise levels from late-night revellers, often until 3am, seven nights per week. Not even one parking bay should be created here as it will be used by noisy late-night revellers. - Recent developments in this part of Alnwick have caused significant increases to traffic flow and demand for vehicle parking in Pottergate and it's going to get worse: (i) St. James's Hall was converted to a block of nine flats without parking spaces; (ii) Pottergate Tower is now a holiday apartment, creating demand for one or two spaces; (iii) The modern apartment block opposite the three motor mechanic repair workshops has created significant demand for residents' visitor parking; (iv) The site of the workshops is being marketed as a development opportunity. Another apartment block there will cause greater traffic flows and demand for visitor parking; (v) The impending construction of three new houses behind the old building at Narrowgate House, along with four holiday apartments and a basement creperie will further increase traffic flow and demand for visitor parking, including parking for delivery vehicles accessing the nine new properties through an alley between townhouses at 27 and 28 Pottergate. The current proposal for Time Limited Parking at Pottergate will further increase traffic flow, demand for parking and noise in Pottergate. - I purchased my townhouse to retire to Alnwick in the belief that the double yellow lines would remain on the north side of the street to help alleviate noise problems and allow delivery vehicles and taxis temporary parking. - Increased traffic flows at Pottergate are exacerbated by the phenomenal growth in internet shopping. Delivery vehicles must be allowed priority temporary parking on the double yellow lines. - I have not read the Council's report but I believe the demand for car parking can be alleviated by many other means: (i) Make Finkle Street a one-way street or cul-de-sac by having either a No Entry sign or bollards at the north end of the street; (ii) The free parking sign at the car park opposite the Duke's Cottages has been removed by the Local Authority. To avoid confusion, re-erect an appropriate sign. It seems more convenient for residents of the adjacent top floor flats to use the car park, rather than spaces and garages behind houses on the south west side of Pottergate; (iii) Opposite St. James' Church, there is a road with footpath leading to the aforementioned private car park and garages. The pavement could be removed and parking bays created for two vehicles. (iv) There is at least one space to the right of an end property at Bowburn Cottages; (v) Part of the grassed area of the green at Duke's Cottages is now used for parking and washing lines. Consider excavating much of the green to create private free spaces for the residents there; (vi) Consider acquiring the three workshops to create disc car parking there; (vii) Create a 'Park and Ride' service similar to the one at Newcastle Great Park, Gosforth; (viii) The popularity of the Alnwick Castle and Gardens has significantly increased demand for 'daytrippers' parking. The Duke of Northumberland might allow the disc parking area on Greenwell Road to be extended onto his land; (ix) Consider re-locating the 'bottle bank' bins to create extra parking spaces.
					3	2
					1	1



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- KEY**
- Existing Double Yellow Line
 - Existing Time Limited Bays
 - Proposed Time Limited Bays

Title: Pottergate Proposed Time Limited Parking Appendix C			
Dm:	Date:	Scale:	1:1000

Network Management Information System	
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