



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' PARKING RESTRICTIONS, CASTLE TERRACE, BERWICK UPON TWEED

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the consultation exercise regarding a proposal to provide some 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) parking restrictions in Castle Terrace, Berwick.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions are implemented.

Link to Corporate Plan

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

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Key Issues

The County Council has received concerns from residents of Castle Terrace, via the local ward member, about parked cars obstructing sightlines and access to properties.

The consultation response was positive and the scheme will be funded through the LTP.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. The County Council has received concerns via the local ward member from residents of Castle Terrace about parked cars obstructing sightlines and access to properties.
2. Castle Terrace is a residential street which runs between North Road and the A1. Its southern end is close to the town centre and is within 150 metres of the railway station. Its location is shown in Figure 1.



Fig.1. Castle Terrace Location Plan.

3. Due to its close proximity to the station and town centre, some dual use parking bays (short stay parking or resident permit holders) are in place at the southern end, and double yellow lines are in place to prevent indiscriminate parking. The extent of these existing restrictions is shown in Figure 2.

Delegated decisions



Fig.2. Existing Parking Restrictions (red = double yellow lines, blue = parking bays).

4. Residents stated that problem parking is now experienced further along Castle Terrace, and is often associated with rail users who either cannot find a space at the station or are seeking to avoid paying parking charges.
5. Castle Terrace was surveyed in March and July 2017 as part of the Berwick Parking Study. The survey found that in March 84% of the available capacity was taken up. In July this figure rose to 99%. This demonstrates a high demand for parking in the area.
6. Officers visited the site with the local Ward Member and residents to view the problems first hand and found that there are instances of parked cars obstructing sightlines and, in some cases, parked cars encroach across driveways.
7. A letter was therefore sent to all residents who live beyond the existing parking restrictions to ask whether they encountered similar problems that they felt should be addressed. 13 responses were received and all felt that additional parking restrictions were necessary. A copy of the responses received is shown in Appendix A. Some supplied photographic evidence of the problem, as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Delegated decisions



Fig.3



Fig.4 (Photographs supplied by residents)

8. Residents and statutory consultees were therefore formally consulted on a proposal to provide 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions (double yellow lines) at various points along the road. The restrictions are designed to keep parked cars away from entrances but still leave enough room for parking where it would not cause a problem. A copy of the consultation plan is shown in Appendix B.
9. Thirteen responses were received as follows:
 - For: 11 (79%)

Delegated decisions

- Against: 2 (14%)
- Neutral: 1 (7%)

A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix C.

10. There was no response from Berwick Town Council, however the local ward member supports the proposal.
11. Given the outcome of the consultation, the issues related to station parking and the support of the local ward member, it is recommended that the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions should be implemented.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	The scheme will be funded through the Local Transport Plan Programme.
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Local residents and statutory consultees have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Berwick North

Background papers:

Delegated decisions

File ref: HE185325

Report sign off.

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

	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	<i>R/M</i>
Portfolio Holder(s)	<i>n/a</i>

Author and Contact Details

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Delegated decisions

Appendix A - Informal Consultation Responses

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>We have indeed experienced problems accessing our driveway. Yes I think double yellow lines to ensure safe entry and exit would help. Thanks for the enquiry</p>
1			<p>Ref. your letter of 30th May. We live some distance away from the railway station, but do occasionally find parked cars a hazard when trying to exit our driveway. I sympathise with fellow residents who live nearer the station and have a similar problem. If yellow lines were to be used to improve accessibility to their driveways, then the same would be needed the full length of Castle Terrace, or this would mean the current parking issues would merely just be moved further along the road.</p>
1			<p>A very welcome letter arrived this morning whereby you were asking if residents of Castle Terrace in Berwick upon Tweed could send their views on having short lengths of double yellow lines next to driveways.</p> <p>I was actually about to contact you myself as it is an accident waiting to happen. Currently and it has got worse over the last 2 years there are times when I cannot see either way whilst coming out of my drive as cars are parked so close to our entrance. We have to go onto the other side of the road before turning and if there are more than one car you cannot see anything coming up or down the street. As I say, it is only a matter of time before there is an accident.</p> <p>I would be very much in favour of stretches of double yellow lines either sides of driveways and they should be at least two car lengths long.</p> <p>I very much look forward to hearing your proposals in due course.</p>
1			<p>After months of lobbying Catherine Seymour (our County Councillor) on the safety issues exiting our property, and following a meeting with her and your Officer from Highways Department on 26th April, we were very pleased to receive the letter from Richard McKenzie dated 30th May, proposing the provision of double yellow lines. We are delighted that the Council has acknowledged the safety issues - certainly to this particular stretch of the road, where parked cars - combined with a dip and a bend in the road - completely block our visibility when exiting the property.</p> <p>We look forward to hearing that the Council will be able to action the introduction of yellow lines before too long.</p> <p>Thanks, again, to all involved for listening to our concerns.</p>
1			<p>We have double yellow lines either side of our drive, which helps with visibility, but not opposite. Our problem is the speed of traffic on Castle Terrace, particularly from East to West as our view is restricted by the rise in the road West of the Castle Drive junction. Cars park opposite our drive which therefore both narrows the highway and restricts the visibility for our neighbours on the opposite side of the road, at a point where car speeds are increasing. I feel there should be both more double yellow lines to aid visibility from residents driveways, which will make the highway wider where visibility is restricted and more speed restriction signage to slow traffic.</p>

Delegated decisions

1		<p>Many thanks for your letter of 30th May enquiring whether we are having difficulty exiting our drive due to parked cars.</p> <p>We are indeed suffering such issues which, due particularly to our position at a bend in the street, are proving most dangerous. We regularly use our driveway but this does not seem to be considered by numerous motorists who are happy to park extremely close to the entrance, into the drop curb area. Visibility becomes severely restricted in these instances (which may last a number of days as car owners use the street to park and use the train) and we have narrowly missed an accident on a couple of occasions.</p> <p>The reference to the provision of double yellow lines is most welcome and we would be delighted to do whatever we can to ensure support for this initiative is attained.</p>
1		<p>Referring to your letter of 30th May, my particular address is adequately surrounded by yellow lines, but what I would request is a notice placed for the benefit of drivers coming up Castle Terrace, drawing their attention to the possibility of residents emerging from their drives, and suggesting they watch their speed. That's all.</p>
1		<p>Would like yellow lines opposite my entrance as parked cars make it hard to get out.</p>
1		<p>Thank you very much for your letter dated 30 May 2018.</p> <p>Yes, we do feel yellow lines around our driveway entrance would be of benefit.</p>
1		<p>We are pleased to hear that due to visibility problems when exiting driveways you are carrying out a review of car & commercial vehicles parking on Castle Terrace which has now reached saturation point with long term is car parking becoming the norm. Vehicles now park up in Castle Terrace order taxis to carry luggage and passengers to the station leaving vehicles to go on holiday for two or three weeks at a time, this needs to be regulated. Parked vehicles can be a problem particularly on the bend by Spring Bank house and in low winter sun it can be extremely dangerous to drivers heading into town, both my wife and I have been almost pushed off the road by oncoming traffic, The Grange at the top of Castle Terrace has parking restriction/covenants this means that any car owners who are unable to park on their own property park on Castle Terrace up to 4 or 5 at a time, one commercial van is almost a permanent fixture. Early in the morning as cars come off the A1 they use the upper part of the terrace as a race track, which can be quite dangerous for us to exit our property, we also have to deal with HGV/Coach, car and motorcycle training on most days of the week, What you propose in your letter is a short term solution, which will just bring the problem further up the Terrace, perhaps you may consider extending double yellow lines, along the whole of Castle Terrace and increase the parking availability at the railway station, Please could you let us know your intentions in this matter, and if you are visiting to view the situation could we please have a word with you?</p>
1		<p>I have tried to get on the website your letter gives but cannot find the appropriate part of the site to click on. Parking at our drive entrance is a problem. Can you please take this email as a note that we have a problem or let me know which part of your website to access.</p>
1		<p>Thank you for your letter dated 30th May 2018 re: difficulties exiting driveways on Castle Terrace due to parked cars.</p> <p>You requested our views on providing some double yellow lines and their benefits. Please find attached images of some typical parking at our driveway exit. Our main problem is achieving any view of cars approaching from the right hand side in order to exit our drive safely. Our problem is further exacerbated by being close to a bend in the road on that side. As can be seen from our images this is impossible unless there are no cars as far as the lamp post on our right. However, on occasion there has been episodes where cars have jammed themselves into the very limited space between us and next door.</p> <p>We are very supportive of any measures that can be taken to improve our safety on exiting our property especially in preventing cars parking on close proximity on our right hand side but also to exclude parking between us and next door.</p> <p>Hoping to hear from you soon with some positive news.</p>
1		<p>With reference to your letter of 30/5. Firstly apologies for the delayed reply. We have been away. We regularly experience the issue of commuters parking too close to the edges of our driveway as it connects to Castle Terrace. As you say in your letter, this restricts visibility especially where it's a large vehicle such as a 4x4 or large SUV.</p> <p>We would certainly be in favour of the implementation of yellow lines to help address this issue.</p> <p>Many thanks and once again apologies for the delayed reply.</p>
13	0	0

Delegated decisions

Appendix B - Consultation Plan



Proposed Double Yellow Lines, Castle Terrace, Berwick upon Tweed

Delegated decisions

Appendix C - Formal Consultation Responses

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>I refer to your letter of 13th September. My comments are as follows:</p> <p>The proposal obviously makes sense in terms of increased safety for people coming out of their drives. Visibility will be improved by cars not being parked so close to entrances. However -</p> <p>In terms of overall road safety, there will be no improvement. From my own perspective the problem is the speed at which vehicles often travel, as they come up from the direction of town. There is a definite blind spot at about where Castle Drive joins Castle Terrace. Paradoxically, fewer parked cars is likely to make this even more of a potential menace. Personally I wouldn't be sorry to see a speed bump in place, or at least a sign up, warning motorists of concealed drives ahead.</p> <p>Looking more holistically at the situation, the cars parked are there so that people can use the station. In the current absence of suitable parking provision for commuters, etc., I can't see where these people will go. If this means potential passengers are prevented from using the station, then I imagine there is a risk that Berwick might lose its station - a real body blow.</p>
	1		<p>Thank you for your correspondence dated 13th September 2018 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal.</p> <p>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 outpatient appointments.</p> <p>I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.</p>
1			<p>We do support the move to have 10m of road clear from front of our drive and note the connection to the left hand side to make a continuous run.</p> <p>We hope this will aid safety in exiting our driveway as the current situation is dangerous.</p> <p>Thank you very much for listening to our concerns and being able to find a solution to aid safety.</p>
1			Delighted
1			<p>Although I agree in principle with the proposals, I do not think they go far enough. The plan indicates a pavement outside of number 43 and 41, which is not the case. There is only a steep grass bank which would make it extremely awkward to open a car door, forcing people to get out into the roadside. I therefore think that the yellow lines should also be placed outside of these properties as a matter of safety.</p>
1			
1			<p>This is a really good idea but I would also suggest that the double yellow lines should be right up from our house to the Grange Road. It is very dangerous with parked cars to the right of our drive with the large amount of traffic that comes out of Grange Road.</p>
1			<p>We are especially pleased that the lines will include the part of the road where there is a grassy bank outside which already makes it slightly difficult to see traffic coming down from the A1 towards the station.</p>

Delegated decisions

	1	<p>The proposals do not deal with the fact that it has become very difficult to drive out our entrance because of cars parked on both sides of the entrance, sometimes partly blocking it. Our entrance is shown on your map, but the house number is not and we did not originally receive the consultation document. If there are more double yellow lines further up the road, more cars will try to squeeze in front of our entrance. Even a one metre limitation on each side of the gate would help, yet we are not being offered any limitation, and houses further up are being offered 10 metres on either side, far more than we would ask for. A fair solution would be a one metre clearance on each side of the entrance for all the houses affected by parking. I have marked the entrance with an X on the attached copy of your map.</p>
	1	<p>I am a surprised that my property is not highlighted I did reply to your letter. If possible please can my property be added to the list.</p> <p>My concern that if you don't do all the properties on the street then the congestion will be worse. More so now that the out of town shopping has been given the go ahead with an access through the grange.</p>
	1	<p>I write with reference to the above and primarily to thank you for prompt action in this regard. We are certain that this intervention will make a huge difference and can only hope that the proposal becomes a reality in short order.</p>
	1	<p>Our initial approach to the council was based on the serious safety issues pertaining to this stretch of the road, as acknowledged by Richard McKenzie on this site visit in April. We have measured the 10 metres proposed by the council but feel it falls somewhat short of ensuring reasonable visibility. A further 2 metres would, we feel address our concerns. (To the north side of our exit). We would really appreciate the council's consideration of this small adjustment to the proposed solution.</p>
	1	<p>Don't forget electric sub-station track entry adjacent to No 36 also No34 entry driveway.</p>
	1	<p>Both myself and my husband would like NCC to reconsider the proposed 'No waiting at Any Time' etc, and take into consideration the following:</p> <p>whilst our address did not receive any initial correspondence dated 30 May and 13 September 2018 respectively, we feel that as residents of castle terrace we should have been included in the consultation. Therefore we are submitting our comments for your consideration and IAW the forthcoming Decision Report to the Director of Local Services. In addition you have 'urged residents to take this opportunity on the matter as the decision taken will be based upon responses received from residents.'</p> <p>The proposal does not take into account or consider the fact that there has been an increase in individuals parking on the current yellow lines and not on the free parking areas. This has caused some difficulty seeing any oncoming traffic because of a car parked directly on yellow lines and blocking the view.</p> <p>Further if there are more double yellow lines further up the road, more cars will potentially ignore or will attempt to squeeze in front of the entrances. If the council and highways could consider extending and enforcing the one metre limitation on each side of gates/entrances, this would perhaps help. we do appreciate that commuters do need to park cars as the current car park at Berwick train station appears to be inadequate for the commuters heading north and south for work. This should be good news for residents of Berwick and the outlying villages. We do not wish to see commuters,visitors and indeed residents coming to Berwick, being deterred from any available parking. Parking is at a premium and a win win approach could be sought rather than the 'No waiting at Any Time approach' - This option does not appear to have been offered or provided as an option. A common sense and fair solution in line with limitations for all on Castle Terrace, would seem a win win approach. therefore could a considered; One meter limitation for all Castle Terrace houses, rather than the Ten meters, which seems excessive.</p> <p>I cannot provide a diagram of our property as we did not receive the consultation map in the initial letters. Thank you in advance.</p>
11	2	1

DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer(s) and Portfolio
Holder (where appropriate):**

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

Subject:

**PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME'
PARKING RESTRICTIONS, CASTLE TERRACE,
BERWICK UPON TWEED**

Consultation


- For: 11 (79%)
- Against: 2 (14%)
- Neutral: 1 (7%)

Decision Taken:

The proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions should be implemented.

Signature of Director/
officer/Portfolio Holder (where
appropriate)*

Date


18/4/19

* delete as appropriate