



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS, LONGMEADOWS, DARRAS HALL

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the consultation exercise regarding a proposal to introduce parking restrictions in Longmeadows, Darras Hall.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed parking restrictions are not 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 Longmeadows, via the local ward member, about parked cars causing congestion and obstruction issues at school times.

The majority of consultation responses did not support the introduction of parking restrictions.

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Background

1. The County Council has received concerns via the local ward member, from residents of Longmeadows about indiscriminate parking in the street at school start and finish times.
2. Issues raised include congestion preventing access for larger vehicles, obstruction of driveways and drives being used for turning.
3. Longmeadows is a residential street with no footways. At its eastern end it has a pedestrian link through to Broadway. Parents dropping off/picking up children from Darras Hall Primary School are using this link to get to and from the school. Figure 1 shows the general area.



Fig.1. Location Plan

4. In response to the concerns raised residents were consulted on potential parking restrictions including double and single yellow lines and residents permits. A copy of the consultation letter is shown in Appendix A.
5. All 54 properties were consulted. 28 responses were received - just over half the eligible respondents. The results were:
 - Single yellow lines: 6 (21%)
 - Double yellow lines: 2 (7%)
 - Residents permits: 4 (14%)
 - No restrictions: 16 (57%)
 - A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix B.

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6. Many of the responses stated that there was no issue at all while others acknowledged the additional cars present at school times but felt that as it is only for short periods restrictions are not necessary.
7. There was no response from Ponteland Town Council.
8. Given the above it is recommended that the parking restrictions should not be implemented, the local ward member supports the recommendation.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	
Finance and value for money	None
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	Ponteland West

Background papers:

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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	PS
Portfolio Holder(s)	n/a

Author and Contact Details

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Appendix A - Consultation Letter



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:
Our ref: HE185325
Enquiries to: Richard McKenzie
Email: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel direct: (01670) 624099
Date: Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Parking Issues, Longmeadows, Darras Hall

The County Council has received concerns via your local ward member, Councillor Jones, about parking in Longmeadows associated with the school run. In order to address this, the following options are available:

- Double yellow lines which would prevent parking at all times.
- Single yellow lines which would prevent parking at certain specified times of the day. This could be all day or just at school start and finish times.
- A residents permit parking scheme. This would mean that only residents and their visitors could park in Longmeadows. Only two permits are available per household, so the scheme can be restrictive. Please note there is an annual charge for each permit. (Note: permits only apply to the public highway and are not required to park on private driveways).

I am therefore writing to ask for your views on these proposals, including whether you feel that restrictions should apply to all or only part of the road. A freepost form is enclosed for you to send any comments you may have or you can reply via email to HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk or online at <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk>

This is an initial consultation to find out peoples views. You will be consulted formally on any proposals that are brought forward as a result.

The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Wednesday 20th February 2019

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Yours sincerely,

R. McKenzie

Richard McKenzie
Senior Programmes Officer



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Appendix B - Consultation Responses

D YL	SY L	R PZ	N O N E	Other Relevant Comments
			1	I am definitely against the proposals set out in your letter of the 23rd January, 2019. Longmeadows is a quiet nice street and I find no reason to support any of the proposals set out in your letter. There is certainly no inconvenience of any kind associated with the school run. I feel annoyed that the complaint has been made as I consider it a complete waste of your time and council money.
	1	1		No to double yellow lines, Yes to single yellow line with specified parking times, Yes to permit parking
			1	In answer to your questionnaire, I do not believe that the issue of school parking on Longmeadows is a problem which requires any remedial action. The level of "school related parking" is relatively light and does not have any direct impact upon the movement of resident traffic. The parking on Middle Drive and nearby off-roads such as Linden Way and Crossfell is of far greater significance and disruptive to other traffic. There must be a small number of residents near to the head of Longmeadows cul de sac who seem to think that either they own the Highway adjacent to their properties, or they take exception to legitimate road users parking legally. Such nimbyism should not carry any weight or be treated seriously. In actual fact, there is at least one resident of the area in question who, rather than park their commercial vehicle on a substantial driveway within the confines of their property, chose to park partly on the pavement outside the property, thus restricting safe pedestrian passage. As you guess, I strongly support the "NONE" option in your questionnaire.
		1		This must be all the road restricted times, otherwise people will park further up the road. Restricted times on the school times would be the best. This is a quiet cul de sac, until the parents zoom up and down. Parents late for school do not keep to the speed limits.
			1	I have lived in Longmeadows for 15 years and never had any problems with parents parking for 30 minutes between 8:30am and 3 to 3:30pm each school day. Live and let live! Residents who have complained are newcomers who should have researched the road before moving in; and not tried to change the status quo! There are more important issues around the new school which should have been looked at by the County Council rather than trying to change residential areas. Question! If you impose yellow lines or permits in Longmeadows would I get a reduction in my Council tax?
		1		We would be absolutely delighted to support any proposal to stop parents parking in Longmeadows whilst dropping off and picking up children from Darras Hall Primary School. We only moved into Longmeadows a number of months ago and were extremely disappointed to note that our street was being used as a car park for the Primary School. We have a motorhome which we are unable to drive up the street when so many cars are parked there during term times. Also quite recently I had major heart surgery and had a visit from the local district nurse. She was unable to park anywhere near our bungalow due to so many cars and one very badly parked opposite a residents car (on the road), but no space was left on the road for another vehicle to get through! Had an emergency vehicle needed to get through, it would have been impossible.
			1	I have lived in Longmeadows for over 30 years and have walked the length of the road a great many times at various times of the day. There is indeed extra parking associated with the school run which occurs twice a day for about 30 - 45 minutes during term time. In my opinion, the drivers are very considerate of the residents of Longmeadows - I have never seen, or heard of, a driveway being obstructed or the width of the road being narrowed to prevent flow through of emergency or other vehicles. In my opinion the institution of yellow lines or permit parking would be a total waste of county council money.

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			I can understand the frustration that some residents have over this issue but I cannot help but feel that any resolution would be expensive to monitor / put in place. Also the parking that does occur is typically for say 30 minutes in the morning and this is then repeated about 3:30 in the afternoon for another 30 minutes. It is not as if these cars are parked outside these properties all day. The parking is only an issue for the households living at the end of the street as this is a cul-de-sac with a pedestrian walkway through to the rear of the shops at Broadway and the school. I would estimate that the issue affects about 5% of the households in this street. The solutions suggested present issues: 1) Double yellow lines. If these were installed at the houses currently affected then the parking problem would inevitably just move further up the street. Monitoring would have to take place as many people are regularly parking on the yellow lines opposite the shops on Broadway and in particular at the side of the church where they park on the pavements thereby making it necessary for pedestrians to walk on the road. 2) Single yellow lines - the same as above. 3) Resident parking scheme. I have seen this when we lived at Solihull and occasionally it is very inconvenient. Have the affected residents wound one another up and made this into an issue when really it is not an issue as long as the parents park responsibly, which is the case most of the time though there have been some exceptions. On a cost basis I also feel that the cost outweighs the inconvenience.
		1	I imagine that the problems that have been reported in relation parking associated with the school run, are concentrated at the east end of Longmeadows. I have not noticed any such problems at the west end. I have no objection to the introduction of the type of parking arrangements you outline, provided these are confined to the east end of longmeadows and are desired by the residents there. There seems to be no need for such measures at the west end of the street. It is possible (in theory) that parking restrictions at the east end of long meadows would simply move the problem west along the street, in which case my view (as expressed in the previous paragraph) might change. But it does not seem likely that the west end of Longmeadows will be a very attractive place for school run parking.
		1	As residents of Longmeadows for 57 years who walk everyday to Broadway to shop we consider that the safest upgrading of the street would be to lay pavements over its whole length extending the existing tarmac coverage to 100% of its sidewalks.
	1		1. This proposal could be phased and to apply to half of Longmeadows for a trial period and to all of Longmeadows if there is still a problem.. 2. A further alternative could be to allow parking on both sides on alternate dates only. 3. A worse problem is parking on Middle Drive within 100 yards of the Broadway roundabout.
1			Preferably double yellows at the bottom of the cul-de-sac as this is nearest to the cut and people seem to think it is acceptable to park there, even though there are dropped kerbs on either side. Single yellow elsewhere, with time constraints to coincide with school run times.
		1	I don't think there is an issue with parking in the street associated with the school run. Yes there are a few cars that park in the street but they don't block people's drives or the road. Having children in the primary school I think there is a greater concern around broadway with people parking dangerously and driving too fast when children are trying to cross the road. If you make the side streets resident only people are only going to park elsewhere as not everyone is in a position to be able to walk to/from school. It is a nightmare trying to get down Middle Drive as it is without more cars being forced to park there. I feel the money involved in completing these works and then the policing of them to ensure the law is not being broken would be far better spent on a pelican crossing at Broadway. If we have to go down the route of parking restrictions I would favour single yellow lines for non residents as we currently park a car outside our house and as I don't see that there is a problem don't see why we should have to change this.
		1	This school parking does not really affect this address. Furthermore by using this cul de sac the traffic is kept away from the main highway.
		1	Allowing another access for drop off eases situation around Broadway and therefore is a good thing. Long Meadows is also a busy walking route for parents & young children and always has been. We do not want anymore parking restrictions.
	1		I think single yellow lines would be the best solution with the restrictions applied to school start and finish times. The above restrictions to be applied to the whole road and the cul de sac leading to the kindle path.
	1		
		1	As I live nearer top of road this doesn't really affect me but probably annoying if you live near the cut thro to school. Maybe single yellow lines half way up road at school times would be

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			OK
		1	Excellent idea. Hope administrative cost not too high to put people off. Perhaps administration and parking could be put out to a private contractor in the case of permit parking. I believe this would be lawful. Thus reducing administrative and parking costs any "fines" revenue could be retained by the contractor to pay for the traffic upkeep of the scheme thus relieving the council and the residents.
		1	I am obviously concerned about the parking issues, as I live in the centre of Longmeadows. However I would have thought that the parking issues only involve short periods when parents are dropping off and collecting children at school times, no action should be taken.
1			To prevent parking at school start & finish times there should be fined or dealt with by legal process.
1			I have lived in Longmeadows for over 12 years. Up until recently, this has been a lovely quiet street in which to live. However I am absolutely appalled at the amount of traffic entering the street, which is blighting our lives. I have noticed the increased traffic starting early in the morning through to late afternoon. The traffic increase is due to parents parking at the bottom of Longmeadows and walking through to drop off / collect their children. I have witnessed this on a daily basis. The speed the cars travel is also of great concern to me, as here are several elderly residents in the street and also young families with small children. I suggest that a "Residents Only" sign be placed at the entrance to Longmeadows along with a "camera" sign. If that fails to deter the parking problem caused by the school run, then I would reluctantly have to choose the option of double yellow lines. This would have to be on the 'whole' street on both sides.
		1	Since the new school has moved further down from the Broadway, there has not been so many cars parking at the top of Longmeadows, where I live. We still get a few parking for short periods, but so far I haven't had any problems myself, but I do know that some people have, especially when they back into drives to turn around.
		1	Because of the short times of the parking issues feel that the cost of public money would not be well spent. We have walked down to school with our grandchildren but have noticed that the parking is considerate for the driveways and not blocking anyone.
		1	
1			Suggest single yellow lines on last 200m from the Broadway end of Longmeadows.
		1	There are only a small number of cars and only for a short period of time that park on Longmeadows during the school run, so we feel the options of yellow lines and permit parking are excessive and a needless expense. A better option would be a 20mph speed limit enforced in Longmeadows (with signs) as people drive dangerously fast down the cul de sac to it being a relatively long straight road. More of a problem as regards dangerous on road parking the cars that park right up to the middle drive / woodside / Broadway mini roundabout from about 8am to 6pm every week day. They park on the western side of the mini roundabout right up to the pedestrian crossing island and block the view of drivers and pedestrians crossing the road, - It is a very dangerous situation I have witnessed several near misses of cars turning off the mini roundabout to travel west up middle drive coming bumper to bumper with cars.
		1	Please please no more yellow lines in the area! Permit parking should not be necessary on our private estate. It is incredible that a new school has been built without thought for dropping children off. Surely there is an area around the school to have a car park!
2	6	4	16

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DECISION TAKEN

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

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

Subject:

**PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS,
LONGMEADOWS, DARRAS HALL**

Consultation

- Single yellow lines: 6 (21%)
- Double yellow lines: 2 (7%)
- Residents permits: 4 (14%)
- No restrictions: 16 (57%)

Decision Taken:

The proposed parking restrictions should not be implemented.

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



Date

18/4/19

* delete as appropriate

