



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,
TANNERS ROW/GILESGATE/ALEXANDER PLACE JUNCTION, HEXHAM**

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the consultation exercise regarding a proposal to provide a 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restriction at the junction of Tanners Row/Gilesgate/Alexander Place in Hexham.

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 local residents via the local Ward Member about road safety caused by parking at the junction of Tanners Row with Gilesgate/Alexander Place in Hexham.

The issue was submitted by the local ward member as a priority for the 2018-19 LTP programme and the consultation result was positive.

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Background

1. The County Council has received concerns from local residents via the local Ward Member about safety concerns caused by parking at the junction of Tanners Row with Gilesgate/Alexander Place in Hexham.
2. The local ward Member submitted the issue as a priority for the 2018-19 Local Transport Plan Programme.
3. The issue is cars parked on the junction which make it difficult for vehicles exiting Tanners Row to see oncoming traffic.
4. Tanners Row is a sheltered housing development and many of the residents have mobility difficulties.
5. Often vehicles are parked partly on the footway which means pedestrians have to walk on the road, including those with mobility aids.
6. Residents were therefore consulted on a proposal to provide a 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restriction (double yellow lines) to keep it clear of parked cars. A copy of the consultation plan is shown in Appendix A.
7. 21 responses were received. The results were:
 - For: 14 (74%)
 - Against: 4 (21%)
 - Neutral: 1 (5%)

A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix B.

8. One of the responses against the proposal was from a resident of Dunwoodie Terrace.
9. Dunwoodie Terrace is approximately 175 metres away from the junction so those residents were not consulted on the proposal as it does not affect them directly. If this response is removed from the consultation results the proportion in favour rises to 78%.
10. The local Ward Member supports the proposal.
11. It is therefore recommended that the proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions are implemented.

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Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	
Finance and value for money	The scheme will be funded through the Local Transport Plan Programme.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the parking restrictions.
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	Hexham Central with Acomb.

Background papers:

File ref: HE185325

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Report sign off.

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

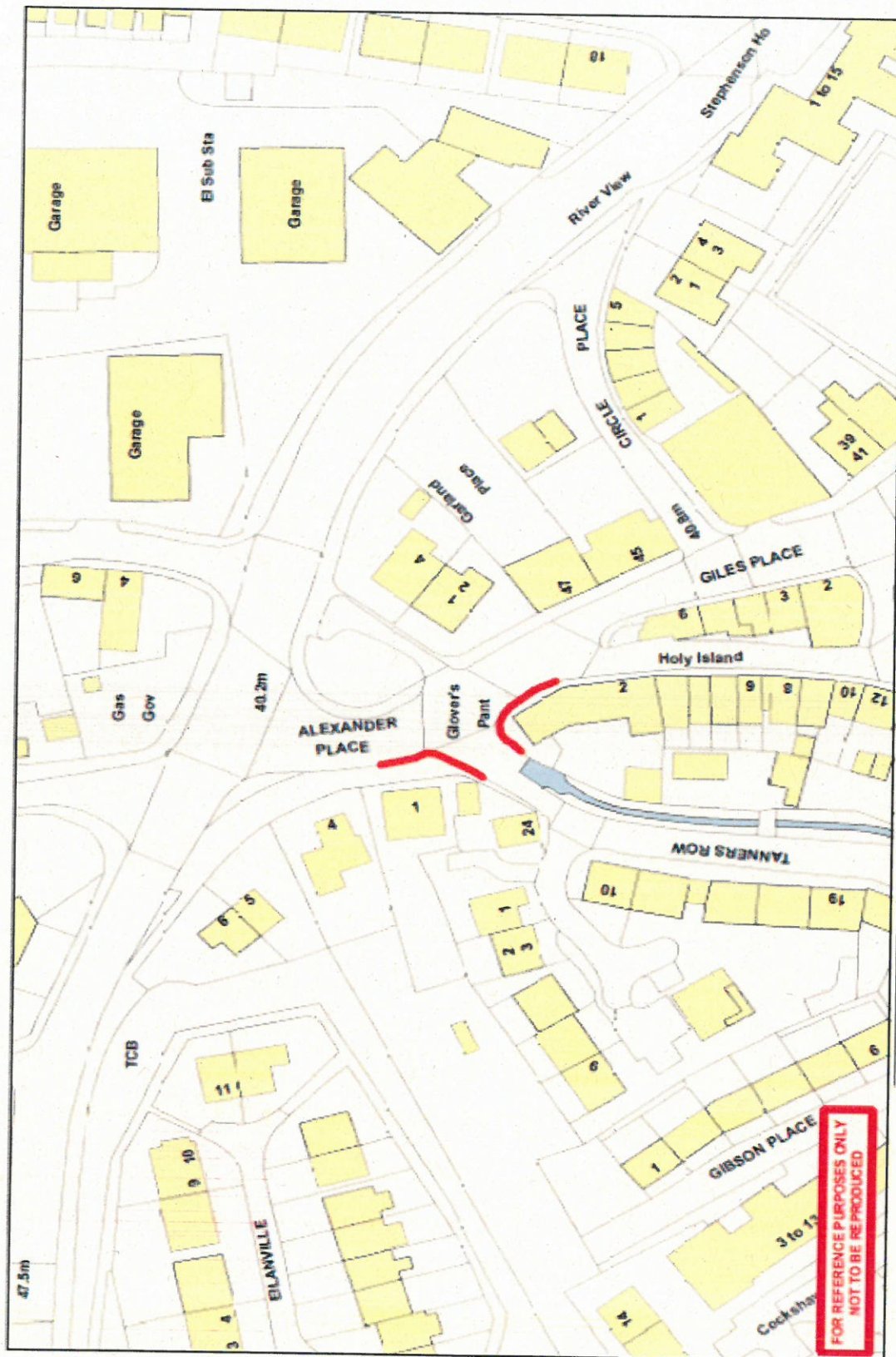
	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

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Appendix A - Consultation Plan



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Appendix B - Consultation Responses

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	
			Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>This area is made up of many properties with no other parking places anywhere nearby for residents other than on street. The proposals will not improve visibility and will reduce even further the spaces available for residents. I personally, nor anyone else I have asked around here, has ever had any problems with visibility in this space. I object very strongly to removal of more parking spaces when this area and Hexham in general is so short of long stay spaces.</p>
1			<p>During the Forty plus years I have lived at Alexander Place, cars have parked outside my property every day without any problem.</p> <p>I have used this junction thousands of times without incident.</p> <p>The road is of ample width for parked cars and two lanes of traffic.</p> <p>I object to double yellow lines outside Alexander Place on the following grounds.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There have never been any accidents at this junction. 2. The junction is only used by a very low volume of traffic. 3. The junction is not covered by the 20 MPH speed limit when it could have been. 4. The loss of vital parking spaces for Residents, Workers and Visitors to the town. <p>NB. NCC by its own admission has said that Hexham is short of around 150 long stay parking spaces.</p> <p>I conclude that this proposal is looking for a solution to a problem that does not exist.</p>
1			<p>I live at no 1 Holy Island House & think the restrictions are much needed. I also think that the spaces outside Holy Island should be residents permit or limited waiting time, and it is very difficult to get parked due to a number of regular vehicles that take advantage of the lack of restrictions park there all day during working hours.</p>

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1	<p>I write in order to lodge a complaint/objection against the proposals.</p> <p>I wholeheartedly disagree with the plan as being the correct way to alleviate parking problems in this area of Hexham.</p> <p>As a resident on Dunwoodie Terrace for 14 years I am unaware of any accidents/collisions relating to parking problems and this location and would appreciate being enlightened as to what this is based on. Additionally, I am somewhat concerned this has been tabled as a proposal without fully notifying the actual residents concerned.</p> <p>The residents of some areas of Cockshaw/all of Dunwoodie Terrace and all of Ordley Terrace have been kept in the dark and completely excluded from this exercise, furthermore there are no signs outlining the proposal which seems somewhat underhanded.</p> <p>Along Dunwoodie Terrace and Ordley Terrace areas there have already been double yellow lines which have compounded parking issues along all these streets and the proposal will simply increase the magnitude of the issue.</p> <p>I, as well as other residents will be aware that the bigger issue is with people from shops/offices/shoppers parking in this area for the entire day - together with parents dropping off/picking up from Sele First School at peak school times.</p> <p>When you consulted about the management proposals regarding Dunwoodie/Cockshaw/Ordley Terrace last year I did, in my objection, state I was not averse to a permit scheme but that sufficient permits per household needed to be available ie 2 residents and one visitor permit per home. Unfortunately this was totally ignored and no feedback was provided to this suggestion.</p> <p>There are resolutions to be had to this issue but the proposed scheme is not one.</p> <p>Double yellow lines on one side of Kingsgate will merely push the parking problems further afield to other streets and provide no resolution whatsoever.</p> <p>I do not deem the parking on both sides of the street to cause any danger or obstruction whatsoever.</p> <p>Could the street be made one way for instance as a solution to ensure a free flow of traffic along this street?</p> <p>Could this entire section of hexham be made permit holders only but all the same permit meaning all residents of the several streets are able to find parking when necessary and without the visitors who cause more of an issue?</p> <p>I did raise in my objection last year, that when lining the road, the no entry to the top of Ordley Terrace/Dunwoodie Terrace should be made clearer as vehicles regularly go the wrong way down this street, again this was ignored and not responded to/dealt with.</p> <p>I have a young child and elderly parents meaning that if you compound the current parking problems it will be dangerous for my small child simply living in her home/unviable for my parents to visit due to distances required in parking from my home.</p> <p>The Council does need to address the problems in Hexham as a whole ie the Wentworth car park as this has had a significant knock-on effect on our area of Hexham and this is making life difficult for the residents which is just simply wrong and inappropriate.</p> <p>I feel this consultation process has been set up in completely the wrong way being exclusive to a very small number of residents and not all concerned and that the issue is with other people coming to the area, not with residents (as can be seen in the evenings/weekends when there are less "third party" vehicles parked and there are no problems whatsoever with parking) - as such I feel this proposal is simply barking up the wrong tree in terms of Hexham's difficulties</p>
1	<p>Thank you for your letter dated 8th June 2018 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as 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. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the ongoing road safety programme.</p>

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1		<p>I am writing here as well as having emailed with photographs to support the proposed parking restrictions at Tanners Row/Alexander Place junction in Hexham.</p> <p>I have attached some photos of examples of parking on this junction which occurs consistently and on a daily basis.</p> <p>This is both a highways infringement as well as posing significant safety risks and access problems/hazards. It is also common for vehicles to park on the pavement as well as the junction itself. This behaviour makes it very difficult to navigate exit and entry into the junction which could lead to an accident. Visibility is certainly impeded significantly.</p> <p>It also restricts access to the driveway at the back of Holy Island House.</p> <p>In addition there have been problems when access has been required for maintaining the flood defences situated at the junction. This is of high importance in order to protect the surrounding properties from the risk of flood damage.</p> <p>Also telecommunications repair/maintenance is impeded as a result.</p> <p>I have been issued and used 'polite notices' issued to me by Northumberland Council but to no effect with the same perpetrators continuing their behaviours.</p> <p>I do not believe there is any alternative to addressing the issues above other than to proceed with the proposed restrictions.</p> <p>Myself and my wife would also request consideration of extending any 'no waiting at any time' restrictions to the front of Holy Island House (number 2). This grade 2 property built in the 1500s is the oldest residential property in Hexham and of significant historical importance. It also serves as a tourist feature for the town. Unfortunately the view of the property is consistently spoiled by cars parking in front of the property. In particular it is used by commuters as a day long parking area on a daily basis.</p>
1		<p>I am writing to support the proposed placement of double yellow lines on the Alexander Place/Tanners Row junction of Hexham.</p> <p>It has been suggested that the double yellow lines will curve around and extend in front of Holy Island Cottage (1) on Gilesgate (sometimes referred to as Holy Island due to the House of this name).</p> <p>I would like to recommend for your consideration that the lines are extended to cover the front of Holy Island House (2) as well, and perhaps all the way up that strip of houses for the following reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holy Island House is a Grade II listed building and is reputed to be the oldest residential dwelling in Hexham. It is of great historical importance and was built in the late 1500s. It was used as a safe house for Roman Catholics (during the persecution) by the Kirsopp family who commissioned the house (likely as a wedlock present hence the date of 1657 above the door). 2. Holy Island House is on the town's historical tour and many tourists to the town take great interest in viewing and taking photos of the building. It usually has 4-5 cars parked outside it on a daily basis for a full work day. The house itself is sunk a couple of feet below road level. The strain of the vehicles on a daily basis over decades and centuries will negatively affect the structure of this building which should be protected by the council in both short and long term. 3. The cars are unsightly and obstruct the view and take away from photos taken of this historic building. 4. The road in front of the House is narrow, and then it is obstructed by a row of houses called Giles Place. Cars park all over this road and it is a danger because it only has room for one lane of traffic and yet it has two way access. 5. The council will not issue a permit for works in front of this historic building therefore the council is already aware of the tight space and overlap onto the main Gilesgate road. 6. This area is a stone's throw away from The Tannery pub. Cars park around this area (and against The Highway Code, no less) on an evening and weekend. People stay in the pub for hours, come out drunk and oft times disorderly, get in their cars and drive home. Not only is this loud for the residents but it poses a high risk of drink driving. It is my observation that many of these pub goers DO NOT have a designated driver. The residents are kept from quiet enjoyment of their properties with drunken shouting and slamming of car doors. 7. There is a private parking driveway at the rear of Holy Island House. It ought be kept clear for access purposes yet cars park in the most obstructive manner making the entire roadway in that area a danger. 8. Because of the obstructions caused by cars, the council have trouble parking to clear the grate of Cockshaw Burn which has to be performed on a regular basis. 9. As above, Telent (telephony agents) cannot easily access the telephony units at situated at the rear of Holy Island House due to inconsiderate and dangerous parking. <p>Now, I understand that parking in Hexham is a contentious issue, but for the safeguarding of an historic dwelling and for the reduction in drink driving I would appreciate if you consider the above points in your planning meeting. Thank you.</p>
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1		I am in full agreement to the suggested "No Parking". Coming out of Tanners Row at times you are in the middle of the road to get out onto the main road and if traffic is coming down Market Street you have to brake to avoid a bump.
1		This part of the road has been dangerous for some time. Traffic coming out of Tanners Row can be dangerous as they have to go to the middle of the road to see to their right. Also for residents as you can't see traffic coming down Gilesgate. We have to go to the middle of the road to cross to go to shops. It's bad for ambulances to enter or any traffic too large.
1		People are parking at the back of No. 10 Tanners Row which sometimes extend over the entrance so we can't see traffic coming down the lane.
1		
1		
1		This is very good news and not before time. There has been many a time we have driven out of Tanners Row and been unable to see if there has been any traffic from both sides of the road because of parked cars. This is very welcome news for us elderly people coming from the same direction in mobility scooters etc as we love to go onto the road to get passed parked cars on the paths.
1		This would be a very beneficial restriction as cars park on the corner creating a blind spot in both directions. Also as a wheelchair user I find it impossible to get passed these cars as they park ON the pavement. I tried to respond to this letter online at the web address given in your letter, but it was impossible to find the relevant page. Sorry.
1		As an elderly resident of Tanners Row any vehicles entering the courtyard need unrestricted access. For example ambulance, fire department, ADAPT special buses, refuse collection, any deliveries, residents and our families. The proposed plan for example double yellow lines is what is needed.
1		Excellent idea. Both taxi drivers and a friend turning right out of Tanners Row cannot see traffic descending the hill - usually in excess of the 20mph limit. It's an accident waiting to happen.
14	3	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, TANNERS
ROW/GILESGATE/ALEXANDER PLACE
JUNCTION, HEXHAM**

Consultation


- For: 14 (74%)
- Against: 4 (21%)
- Neutral: 1 (5%)

Decision Taken:

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

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

Date


5/4/19

* delete as appropriate