

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

Proposed Resident Permit Parking Zone Kings Avenue & De Merley Road, Morpeth

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the introduction of proposed resident permit parking on Kings Avenue & De Merley Road, Morpeth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the following parking restrictions are introduced: Resident Permit Parking Zone.

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

- 1. Currently a Prohibition of Driving (except for access to off street Premises) restriction is in place. This is a traffic movement issue and as such is only enforceable by the police.
- 2. Given police resources enforcement of the current restriction is not seen as a priority. Residents have therefore requested residents permit parking is introduced.
- Residents have raised concerns about indiscriminate parking by non-residents, causing parking problems on Kings Avenue and De Merley Road.
- 4. This is being funded by Councillor Bawn, through his Members' Local Improvement Scheme allowance.

5. The proposed scheme is supported by Councillor Bawn, Morpeth Town Council and NCC's Parking Services Team.

Background

- A 'Prohibition of driving' restriction is currently in place. This is only enforceable by police but enforcement of this restriction is rarely seen as a priority. This has led to residents contacting the local Ward member with concerns regarding parking on Kings Avenue and De Merley Road.
- 2. Indiscriminate parking on the road is making it difficult for residents to park.
- 3. After meeting with Councillor Bawn, officers proposed that resident permit parking restrictions may assist in alleviating these concerns.
- 4. A consultation letter was sent to 65 residents and 24 statutory consultees on the proposed resident permit parking zone. A copy of the consultation letter and plan are attached in Appendix A.
- 5. 47 responses were received with 38 in favour 8 against the proposal. One consultee did not express a preference. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.
- 6. The results of the consultation were discussed with Councillor Bawn, who agreed that the restrictions should be introduced.
- 7. Councillor Bawn is funding the scheme through his Members' Local Improvement Scheme allocation.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Members Local Improvement allocation for Councillor Bawn
Legal	Preparation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)
Procurement	
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
(Impact Assessment attached)	
Yes □ No □ N/A □	
Risk Assessment	The scheme has been designed to minimise the road safety concerns that are caused by indiscriminate parking.
Crime & Disorder	Traffic safety concerns i.e. Obstruction / congestion of the highway
Customer Consideration	Scheme is anticipated to improve road safety for residents and road users in the area
Carbon reduction	N/A
Wards	Morpeth North

Background papers:

File ref: 2019/064 HO196679

Appendix Index

Appendix A - Consultation Letter and Plan Appendix B - Consultation Responses

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 Details

Report Author Sarah Hudson Technical Assistant (M.S.S)



Your ref: Our ref: 2019/064 Enquiries to: Ms Sarah Hudson Email: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk Tel: 0345 600 6400 Date: Monday 15th July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Resident Permit Parking Zone Kings Avenue & De Merley Road, Morpeth

Concerns have been raised by residents of Kings Avenue and De Merley Road in Morpeth about indiscriminate parking by non-residents, causing obstruction issues and parking problems.

Councillor Bawn has therefore agreed to fund the introduction of a residents permit parking zone only if there is a favourable consultation with residents.

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 proposals, to introduce a 'Residents Parking Zone' at Kings Avenue and De Merley Road, Morpeth.

Signs would be erected as necessary indicating where Resident Permit Parking is in operation. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To cover administrative costs, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £25 a year per permit, equivalent to $\pounds 2.08$ per month). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for residents and one for visitor parking.

A freepost response form is enclosed for you to return your views, or you can email them to HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk. I would welcome a reply by **Friday 30th August 2019**. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to all individual comments. You may also wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report and may be available for public inspection.

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.

Yours faithfully

S Hudson Sarah Hudson Technical Assistant (Members Small Schemes)





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Post Code	O R	S T	E R	Other Delevent Comments
			ĸ	Other Relevant Comments
NE61 1HX	1			This is a growing problem with parking in the upper road of Kings Avenue at the weekend, and regular congestion at the lower end at the start of the school day.
				We live at xx Kings Ave and if I do not park my car on the road outside my house people from the nursing home or their visitors do. This prevents our visitors or workmen
				parking several doors down the street - there should also be a no parking (double yellow lines) on the bend in the road as this causes a blind spot for vehicles going up or
				down Kings Ave and is very dangerous. I should add that my wife is a guide dog owner and she finds cars parked your front gate a serious obstacle. The other concern is the number of permits per household as Kings Ave is a long street with some homes having 3 or more vehicles - There is also a question of workmen who need to park in
NE61 1HX	1			front of the house especially if all visitor permits are used.
NE61 1HZ	1			We would like the permit parking zone to include No Parking Any Time
NE61 1HZ	1			
				In full support of the scheme, particularly now Cottingwood Lane has been restricted. This has pushed out unlawful parking to our adjoining roads. Lastly we also get a
				number of people that are working nearby at shops such as hairdressers, nail bars etc parking for long periods of time as well as those not wishing to pay £2 for a parking
NE61 1HZ	1			disc for town centre parking.
NE61 1HX	1			We strongly support this scheme as we live at the bottom of Kings Avenue and are significantly inconvenienced by people using the street as a town centre car park. Many
				of the cars parked here belong to workers in the town and are parked all day. This proposal would not be acceptable to our household for the following reasons; 1. We are a three vehicle household, two of which are required for extensive travel for
				work but not every day of the week. We also have grandparents who regularly provide childcare from lunchtime and need to park outside the property. 2. Unlike most
				properties we DO NOT have a driveway therefore have no other alternative to street parking. This is discriminatory. 3. We cannot afford to pay for parking permits on top of
				extortionate council tax. 4. We DO NOT have problems at the middle / top of De Merley Road with illegal parking. 5. I would never have purchased a property with parking
NE61 1HZ		1		restrictions.
				Restricting permits to 2 per household is a good idea. Providing more than 2 permits is incompatible with the environmental need to reduce car usage. Many of the
				households on Kings Avenue and De Merley Road have 2 or more cars but also have off-street parking, restricting the number of permits will encourage this to be used.
NE61 1HY	1			We also feel that it is important that the introduction of permit parking does not make it more difficult for people to visit the care home at the top of King's Avenue.
				The councils parking study report "WYG Transport Planning" for Morpeth Dec 2018 mentions RPP schemes and their design. It welcomes suggestions made by residents
				and so thereby implies flexibility to allow sufficiently voiced and reasonable requests to be part of any plans for RPP on a street by street basis. (See paragraph 5.7.43p.87)
				We support with a strong suggestion that provision be made for extra residents, visitor parking on the ample kerb space (already acknowledged by the councillor) of these roads perhaps by affording additional permits and/or additional shared spaces. A few of our neighbours presently have the need for more than two cars on road; I would
NE61 1HX	1			wish that permit limits were afforded to avoid an otherwise untenable situation for them.
NE61	1			Agree with principle. The outline of the proposed zone doesn't look like it incorporates the most affected residents on the ordnance survey outlined map? I'm also not keen
NE61 1HX	1			on another charge for permits. I think they could be provided free of charge.
	<u> </u>			Since Cottingwood Lane has been permit parking, you can already see that their parking problems have moved to Kings and Demerley, We support the permit parking
NE61 1HX	1			plans.
NE61 1HX	1			
	<u> </u>			I support this ONLY if the scheme is incorporated into the M1 zone for residents parking. This is because, as a resident of Greystoke Gardens which backs on to De Merley
				Road, we often have to park on the road at the back of our houses. Most of us have more than one vehicle and the provision at the front is woeffully inadequate for the
NE61 1JB	1			number of eligible cars. We already pay for residents parking so it is essential that we are part of the Kings Avenue / De Merley Road scheme too.
				We request two parking permits for myself and my husband plus two visitor permits. We fully support neighbours requests and any arrangements required by residential
				care home at the top of Kings Ave. Car parking is difficult in the Ave as people working in Morpeth use it as a free car park for all day parking despite the all day parking
				which is free below Morrisons Supermarket. Residents then have difficulty parking their own cars and often visitors can not get parked at all. We request parity with
NE61 1HX	1			Cottingwood Lane which had similar problems and have been granted permit parking. Thanking you in anticipation of your help to solve this long - standing problem.
				We don't currently have a parking problem with on street parking although we appreciate that this may change with the introduction of the permit parking zone in
NE61 1HZ	L	1		Cottingwood Lane.

	1		I think this is a great idea, we have difficulty parking near our residences on a daily basis, we seem to have the same cars parked outside our properties every day, also at school pick up and drop off the situation becomes very dangerous with restricted viewing and parking. To conclude I believe there is adequate parking provided in Morpeth and the neighbourhood would benefit greatly from this scheme.
NE61 1HZ	1		I would support an increase in the number of visitor permits as the wide roads would enable such an arrangement.
NE61 1HX	1		Not happy about Care Home parking on road between nos 23 - 31 Kings Ave. This obstructs access out of my drive.
NE61 1HX	1		 I would make the following comments: Consideration needs to be given to residents of Greystoke Gardens. The bottom of De Merley Road is used by them when insufficient space is available on Howard Road. I suggest the parking zone is the same as Howard Road to provide this flexibility. Several homes do not have driveways, consideration should be given to increasing the number of parking permits for such homes to 3/house. Allowance needs to made in some way for visitors to Northlands Care Home to provide parking for visitors.
NE61 1HZ	1		I strongly support this proposal. When there are vehicles on both sides of the road it is impossible for emergency vehicles and large delivery vehicles to pass. Further vehicles not visiting premises would add to this problem.
NE61 1JB	1		The proposal cuts across our property and access to our garage at the rear entrance, which is our only vehicular access so we would need to be part of this scheme. At the front of our property there are double yellow lines on our side of the street and therefore not sufficient car parking for residents on both sides of the street, i.e. Howard Road and Greystoke Gardens. Our available roadside parking at the bottom of De Merley Road / Kings Avenue is presently compromised by parking by those working or shopping in Morpeth.
NE61 1HZ	1		I may have sent this already, sorry for any confusion if I have. Parked cars on De Merley Road and Kings Avenue can cause problems seeing and sometimes double parking can make access to my house difficult.
NE61 1JB		1	The restriction to two permits is too limiting. This is the most affluent area of residential property in Morpeth and most houses, if not all, have two cars. It is a great shame and a disgrace that the Police are derelict in their duty policing these streets. They cite lack of manpower. That lack of power does not seem to affect speeding traps.
NE61 1HX	1		I am emailing in response to your letter of 15 July regarding the permit parking zone for Kings Avenue/De Merley Road. We strongly support the proposals, particularly given a similar scheme is soon to start in Cottingwood Lane that will undoubtedly move more of the parking problem to our road. Ideally, we would also like to see an agreement to cap any future increases on the cost of the scheme to be at no more than inflationary levels.
NE61 1HZ	1		
NE61 1HY	1		We strongly support the proposal. The current restrictions are not enforced and therefore almost completely ignored, often to the inconvenience of residents. Ideally each household be allotted two car-specific permits plus a visitors' permit.
NE61 1HX	1		We fully support the proposal to make Kings Avenue and De Merley Road a resident permit parking zone and request that special consideration be given to the following: 1. The provision of additional parking spaces and / or permits for the staff and visitors to Northlands Nursing Home; and 2. Higher permit limits for households with insufficient off-road parking facilities for the number of vehicles they have.
NE61 1HX		1	If we could have more passes (visitors) as we have two cars at the household. We will need at least two visitor passes as we have family looking after our children.
NE61 1HZ	1		Parking can be very difficult for myself and visitors. I feel this scheme is much needed.
NE61 1EQ	1		
NE61 1EQ	1		
NE61 1HZ	1		

1	1	We summer the interval attend of a standard as well as the King Avenue and De Marley Deed and . The Level Avthetic has been advected the model for any line
		We support the introduction of resident permit parking for the Kings Avenue and De Merley Road area. The Local Authority has long acknowledged the need for parking restriction in this area, having gone to the trouble and expense of passing a bylaw and erecting signs at the entrance to Kings Avenue giving notice to the public of its terms.
		For just as long we (My wife & I) have written and spoken to officers of the Local Authority and Northumbria Police advising that the effort and cost involved in the process has effectively been wasted as significant numbers continue to enter and park in the area with complete impunity and in utter contempt for the statutory body and those of us living here have the temerity to bring to their attention that by doing so they are in fact breaking the law. Accordingly whilst "obstruction issues and parking problems" are clearly relevant to this matter, these were, we anticipate, relevant considerations when the decision was made to introduce the bylaw with supporting signage in the first place. The case for the control of parking in this area has therefore already been made.
		The issue accordingly is not whether entry into and parking within the area should be restricted but how this restriction might best be imposed and, it follows, enforced. It is clear from our many years of involvement with this issue that enforcement, which it is understood is the task of Northumbria Police, has not been and simply will not be effectively undertaken, whether due to resource issues or otherwise, and that without effective enforcement the current provision is largely worthless, ignored by those who choose to and persist in parking here in preference to the parking provision elsewhere in the town, many of whom mock us who challenge them and in turn in effect mock the Local Authority itself. The bylaw which covers this area was well intended seeking to address a problem, which the Local Authority clearly acknowledged, but has failed
		and is destined always to fail in its objective for want of effective enforcement. Whilst issues unique to the Cottingwood Lane area will have been present, it is noted that resident permit parking has recently been introduced there notwithstanding the bylaw and support signage at the entrance to that street. With a resident permit parking system comes enforceability and with enforceability comes effective parking control in the area and in turn respect for the principle behind the bylaw, which sadly is now regarded by many with utter derision.
1		As stated we are in full support of resident permit parking for this area which, respecting the provision introduced by the bylaw and unlike that in place for the Cottingwood Lane area, should we feel cover the full week without restriction as to certain days or hours within the day; the same issues relevant to the requirement for parking control being present at weekends as during the working week.
1		I certainly support permit parking in De Merley Road, as it gets quite congested. Although I do have off-road parking for my car, I would welcome a permit for visitor parking
	1	 We do not support the proposed parking restrictions. Cllr Bawn has stated that only two permits per household will be issued. We have three vehicles so this will be an untenable situation for us with no explanation of how it could be resolved. Evening / overnight parking will not be monitored which is as much of a problem as daytime parking as is weekend parking. Not all households have equal parking capacity on driveways and will therefore have to incur extra costs it thus being an unfair system. Residents of Greystoke Gardens and their visitors regularly park in De Merley Road even though they have access to parking permits on Howard Terrace. This has never been addressed. Will they be able to purchase parking permits on De Merley Road? Between 3:15 - 4:00 pm term time people illegally park on the double yellow lines on Kings Avenue and De Merley Road causing disruption and obstruction. This is a safeguarding issue for the pupils of KEVI and also the general public. To sum up, the implementation of permit parking appears to cause more problems than it solves.
1		At present there are many cars kept on the street all day by local employees or business owners - the sheer volume makes it difficult for the residents to park. Considering the extent of available parking plus the new additional site next to Lidl & Stobhill (Goosehill) School, residential streets next to the town centre should be a permit zone.
	1	We will have to pay for something that we do not feel we will benefit from: it will not solve the problem of residents or their visitors parking inconsiderately; two permits is not sufficient and even if increased, we do not want to be inconvenient with having to ensure visitors, some of whom may not be visiting for long, have a permit displayed; the cost of permits may increase over time; and if it only applies 9-5pm on weekdays, it will have no benefit as we are at work all day.
	1	I do not support the concept of the "hybrid scheme" encouraging visitors to the care home and residents to park on the road opposite 25 - 29 Kings Avenue. There should be no differential in my opinion - if a scheme is instituted, it should apply to the whole area in the same way. Cars frequently park on the pavement in this area. This needs to be discouraged as it obstructs footpaths / pavements. This is particularly important as we have a blind neighbour.
1		In principle we support this initiative. We are however concerned about one of the proposals, which we believe has been suggested as part of these considerations regarding the care home parking suggestion, ie the proposal to site some on street care home parking opposite 25, 27, 29 & 31 Kings Avenue. The care home has existing land which, as a starting point should be better managed to maximise on site parking rather the inevitable 'easier' parking onto the roadside. We see that formalising care home parking in such a way runs the risk of increasing congestion around our home rather than reducing it. It also potentially carries issues with regard to the width of the street at this location. Presently when the other side of the street is used for parking, people tend to park on the pavement - which clearly has knock on effects to pavement users, people with guide dogs being a prime example. Furthermore the width of the street makes getting into and out of drives far more difficult. We would also offer that some workable suggestion on the 'worker's permits' needs to be formulated. I would guess when you take into account a weekly cleaner, a weekly gardiner, window cleaner, roof maintenance, tree surgeons, general ongoing maintenance work etc - we probably have maybe 100 - 150 'worker's visits' per annum - this is a massive requirement to consult on (both for us and for the council), not least when people change their car etc etc.
		Several cars belonging to people who work in Morpeth are parked Monday to Friday 8am - 5 / 6pm on a regular basis. These people have no regard to the sign stating parking is for residents or visitors only. This restriction has been pointed out to drivers but it is completely disregarded. Traffic wardens have said they are unable to enforce this. This parking interferes with street and drain clearing so much that after any rainfall all the drains on Kings Avenue are blocked and there is flooding and ice in winter at the corner of Kings Avenue and De Merley Road. Several of the regular parkers leave their car half on the pavement causing dangers for people with children, prams, walking
1		aids and visual impairment. We would support provision for extra residents visitor parking.

NE61 1HY	1		We both work and need a car each for our jobs - many of our neighbours are in a similar position. Hence the possibility of having two permits for the residents and one for visitors would be useful.
NE61 1HX	1		I am more than happy with the proposed resident permit parking zone in Kings Avenue and De Merley Road. I am also in agreement with each address having an entitlement to two parking permits together with the cost of £25 per year per permit. I would like to point out the difficulties as regards to my own property in that my own driveway is very narrow and pure safety reasons I have to reverse into my drive because inevitably I will find that people have parked right up to the line of my exit which creates a blind spot until the front of my vehicle is at least level with their offside for any possible view of traffic coming from the left. Were I to drive onto my drive and therefore have to reverse out onto Kings Avenue, the danger of experiencing an accident would in fact be very high indeed and therefore to alleviate this problem is in my opinion a very high priority and cannot come early enough.
			A solution is really necessary. The careless and indiscriminate parking witnessed now belies the instruction signs at the entrance and will only increase with the restrictions on Cottingwood Lane. This results in both inconvenience and more worryingly safety issues. It is inconvenient when residents cannot park outside their own home. Cars are left on pavements restricting pedestrian access and when on the road dangerously limit the width with residents' cars already parked. Safety issues include delivery vans and wagons unable to negotiate the corners and quite regularly having to reverse up De Merley Road to find a route to exit. The need for fire or ambulance access could be severely restricted and a growth in the number of families with young children playing outside add to the need to limit the people rushing to park to meet appointment times in the town centre. Because of the size of house fronts and the available space for residents, and some with lack of drivers, an increase in the number of permits available per house could be
NE61 1HZ	1		beneficial.
			No evidence of any significant problems. If any issues only in bottom from 4 The Grove to 2 De Merley Road. I have monitored situation since 15/07/2019 & could see no major issues. The road from 4 The Grove up, around & down De Merley Road cars (residents) park freely without issue. Residents parking oppressive and downward spiral as eventually whole of old town will become residents parking. People will naturally park in Olympia Gardens & Hood Street causing problems in already congested area. No evidence of issues at weekends or after 5pm. We have three cars & these always park outside our house (which has room for three cars). Daughter going to university, but will come back at term time. Unfair to be
NE61 1HZ		1	penalised about this. Please reply individually to me with evidence of problems. We already pay a significant amount of Council Tax. Unfair to have to pay any additional.
NE61 1HZ	1		We support the proposal in principle subject to further details regarding the operation of the scheme. As the problem is primarily one of workers and students parking we suggest the scheme only operates Monday to Friday or possibly Monday to Saturday to allow family & friends visiting at weekends to park outside on the road. We assume as with Cottingwood Lane scheme the hours of operation would be 8.30am to 5.30am. The plan outlined in blue excludes the bottom of De Merley Road - Is this an error?
			 I am very aware of the difficulties surrounding parking at the bottom of Kings Avenue and De Merley Road. Some people park in this area and go into town despite the signs for Access only. In my view it is worse in the afternoon when parents collecting children from school park on the double yellow lines with their engines running. I am aware that this parking has , on a number of occasions, almost caused accidents as other traffic has tried to off Howard Road or into Howard Road. Before being able, however, to make a decision about permit parking could you advise if the permits would be for 24 hours 7 days a week or only working hours or limited hours or days? If households are only allowed to buy one permit and one visitors permit how do residents manage if they have two cars or more within the household?
NE61 1HZ			How do they cope if they have more than one visitor arriving by car? I feel that the indiscriminate parking that takes place at the bottom of Kings Avenue and De Merley Road is not only a nuisance but a danger. People regularly park on the double vellow lines and there is a clear potential of an accident. The access to the two streets is often difficult and restricted due to the illegally parked cars.

Road in Morpeth. The reasons we are opposed to this are varied as per below points: I do not feel that there is a need for permit only parking in this area. I have not witnessed any obstruction issues on my regular visits to the home and I am not aware of any visitors to our home experiencing obstruction issues. The many observations the vast majority of houses in this area also have off road parking available. We have on-site parking at the home but there are busy periods where we would need the option of parking on-street due to the size and nature of our property. For example: we have regular visits from GP's, District Nurses, Social Workers, DOL S Assessors, Dieticians, Parametics, Commissioners; as well as family members for our residents who are encouraged to visit at any time, and our staff team. Restrictions on parking would adversely affect the ability of these people to access the home quickly and conveniently during busy periods. If there are several professionals visiting at once as well as families and staff, then we need the option of on-street parking for these peak periods or special events such as our Summer Fair. As a result if the scheme where to go ahead we would need more than two-permits for our property, which is home to up to 35 elderly and nursing clients. One visitor permit to share between all residents would be not be sufficient and would after triends and relatives visiting the home and may put people off visiting. Less visitors would be detrimental to the wellbeing of our vulnerable client group and would potentially restrict their access to the community and their friends and families. There might be a need for some parking scheme which can address issues that are perhaps felt more on certain parts of the street stopecific times, built our testic times people can park on the street to advises some of these specific issues. This would deter people form using the streets to advise the people form using the streets to advise the people form using the streets to advise some of thes
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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer:

Service Director, Local Services

Subject:

Proposed Resident Permit Parking Zone be introduced on Kings Avenue & De Merley Road, Morpeth

Consultation

For:38Against:8Neutral:1

Decision Taken:

To introduce the resident permit parking zone as proposed.

Signature of Director

H/2/20

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Date