



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS, BOULMER

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to implement parking restrictions in Boulmer village.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed 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

Boulmer village is experiencing significant numbers of parked vehicles due to its popularity as a visitor destination.

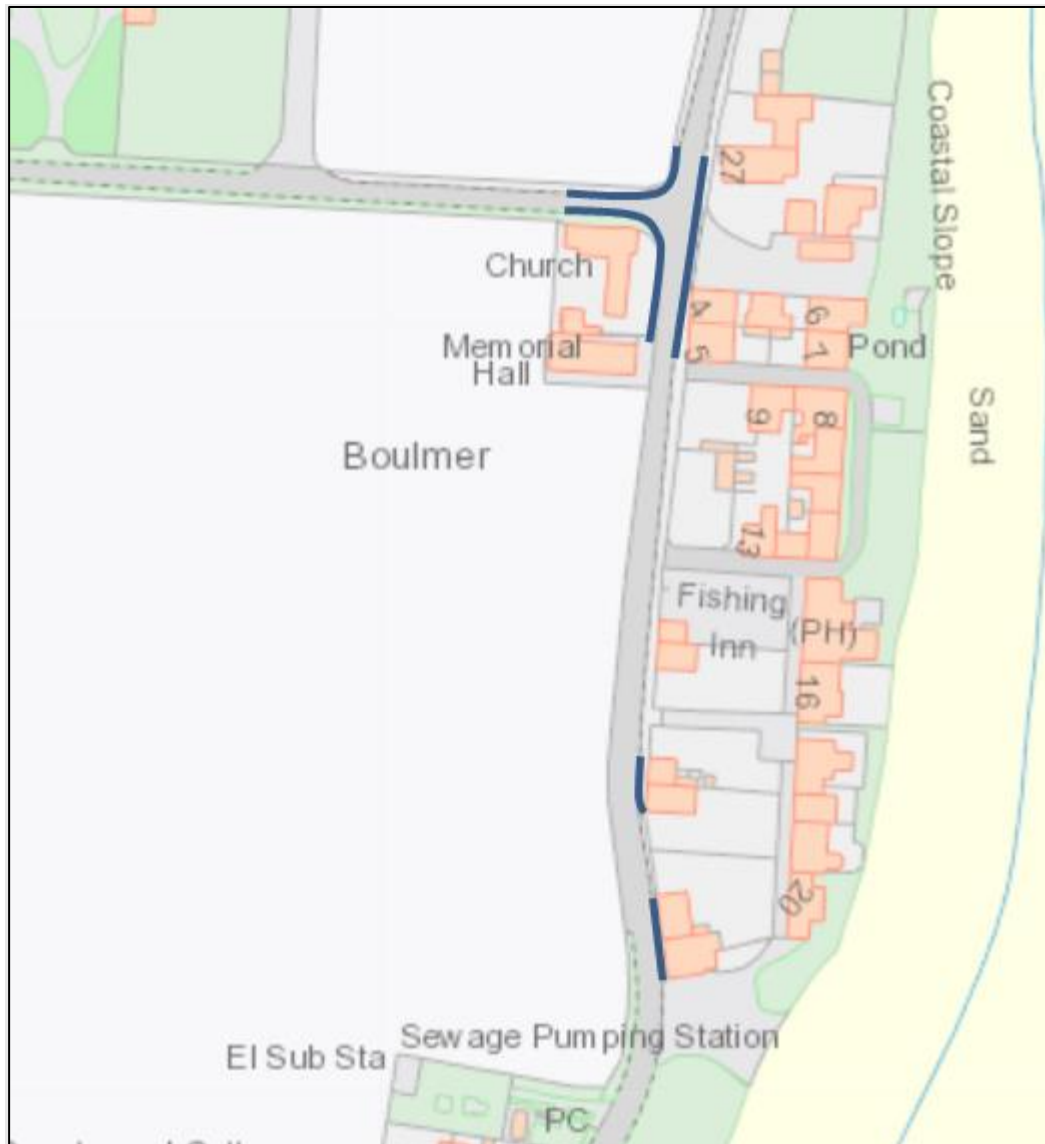
In certain locations parked cars affect sightlines leading to conflict between passing vehicles.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. Boulmer is a popular visitor destination due to its location on the Northumberland coast.
2. There is limited off-street parking available in the beach car park, leading to on-street parking throughout the village.
3. In certain locations this on-street parking can obstruct forward visibility, leading to conflict between oncoming vehicles. It can also adversely affect those residents who do not have off-street parking.
4. In response to the concerns over vehicle conflict, the County Council provided temporary traffic cones at problem locations last summer. This appears to have worked well.
5. Following discussion with the Parish Council and local ward member, a letter was sent to all residents describing the type of parking restrictions that could be implemented to address the issues. Residents were asked to indicate which, if any, of the types of parking restriction they consider appropriate. They would then be consulted on any firm proposals that arose as a result.
6. The types of parking restrictions described were:
 - Limited Waiting (single yellow lines)
 - No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow lines)
 - Residents Permit Parking.
7. 84 letters were sent out. 27 replies were received which is a response rate of 32%. The responses are shown in Appendix A.
8. 30 of the properties in the village are holiday lets, however, removing these from the calculation still leaves a low response rate of 50%.
9. Of those who responded, there was consensus that restrictions would be appropriate at the problem locations previously identified (i.e. those where the temporary traffic cones are in place).
10. There was no support for wider restrictions or residents permit parking.
11. Residents and statutory consultees were therefore consulted on double yellow lines at those locations currently subject to temporary traffic cones, as shown on the plan below.

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12. 27 responses were received to the consultation. A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix B. The results were:

- For 23 (85%)
- Against 2 (7%)
- Neutral 2 (7%)

(Figures may not add due to rounding)

13. The local ward member and Longhoughton Parish Council support the proposals.

14. It is therefore recommended that the proposed parking restrictions should be implemented.

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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	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
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	Statutory consultees have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Longhoughton

Background papers:

File ref: HE203423

Report sign off.

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

	initials
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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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Delegated decisions

Appendix A – Initial Consultation Responses

Thank you for your letter 29/09/2020 outlining the potential measures that can be taken to resolve the various traffic and parking problems in Boulmer. Regarding your potential measures I would be in favour of double yellow lines and residents parking permits. My reasons for double yellow lines and residents parking permits are that as a blue badge holder getting in and out of our drive has become quite dangerous an accident waiting to happen.

Thank you for your letter regarding the present traffic issues at Boulmer. Something needs to be put in place to try and resolve the parking problems that meets the needs of the residents. Double yellow lines are needed from the Church corner to south of the bridge because of the safety aspect, allowing parking bays for residents. As a family we would like to see residents parking only, the only problem being we have 3 cars in our household 1 of which is parked on the grassland opposite our house. We do not have a drive or rear access, so only having 2 permits doesn't allow us to park anywhere else. I think it would be acceptable to pay for permits providing the car park becomes chargeable. Thanking you for your time and support.

Further to you enquiry re traffic restrictions in Boulmer. Permit parking would be too restrictive and the location of the bays is unlikely to be adjacent to the residents location in the village which could cause friction within the residents affected. Single yellow lines sections or Keep clear areas to allow passing could be implemented from the corner at the old Church to the BVLB including the bridge allowing sufficient space for the residents who already park here. The area to the north of the village on the track to Sugar Sands has been "posted" so that parking is impossible. This area could be easily developed into additional parking as an overflow from the main car park. If the village parking is too restrictive it will cause friction within the village residents and between the residents and visitors. There is already a split in the village on this issue which any decision is likely to exacerbate.

In response, we are very concerned about the parking problems that have been seen this year. If this was a "one off" it would be bearable, but it looks as though UK holidays will be more popular for the foreseeable future so something must be done to accommodate the visitor influx without spoiling what they have come to see. Other villages such as Craster and Newton by the Sea have solved the problem by having car parking at a reasonable walking distance from the shore and double yellow lines on approach roads to the beach. This works well and would be fairly easy to put in place in Boulmer. Many residents do not have off-road parking though, so residents parking bays are essential. I am concerned that simply putting yellow lines and resident only parking bays in Boulmer village without providing a new formal car park, will leave visitors having to park outside the village wherever they can thereby simply displacing the current problem to the approach roads. Therefore I think any solution must include a proper new parking area probably near the village hall. Certainly, there should be no enlargement of the present sea shore parking area. This would ruin the village for residents and villagers alike

1) Any new restrictions should be comprehensive through the whole village including North End and extending to the settlements limits to prevent existing problems being displaced to other areas. 2) An additional parking area for 20/30 spaces near to the village hall would be beneficial in accommodating demand in that part of the village. 3) The existing and new car park should have pay facilities and management for example in relation to overnight parking and campervans

Delegated decisions

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the above. Firstly, it is important to recognise any additional congestion within the context of the current pandemic and until that is resolved No restrictions should be imposed. Ongoing from then, should there still be a requirement for excess parking, it can easily be accommodated on the area of land recently known as the "meadow". Prior to this new designation the area used as overflow parking. Restoring this area to its former status would involve minimal expense and require no further maintenance beyond that which currently applies and is carried out by the Parish Council ie grass cutting twice a year. Boulmer has an almost unique situation in that the road is near the sea and can therefore be enjoyed by young and old alike. The elderly and less mobile can often be seen in the car park taking in the view from the comfort of their car and young children can access the beach without road safety fears. Unfortunately, there appears to be a concerted effort taking place in Boulmer to prevent visitors from enjoying the coastline with even a suggestion to close the existing car park! Surely the A.O.N.B and the Northumberland Tourist Board would not support such a measure. Finally, Boulmer has a residential population that includes many less "tech savvy" people and therefore your responses are likely to be incomplete, with this in mind a residents group has been suggested to help represent the true feeling within the village, but obviously with the current restrictions this will take some time to organise.

With regard to Potential Traffic Restrictions raised in your letter we do not agree with all three measures suggested. As an alternative we would prefer an enlarged car park with a reasonable charge. We can understand how parking does affect some residents but feel parking permits are not the answer.

Thank you for your opportunity to put forward my views on the parking problems experienced in Boulmer from June 2020 to the current time and, in fact, to a lesser extent prior to this. The current parking issues, as you are no doubt aware, have been unprecedented in all of the coastal areas of Northumberland due to the volume of traffic from visitors and locals. However, other coastal areas: Craster, Seahouses, Bamburgh have parking restrictions in place and, in most cases, adequate car parking facilities. Ideally, before any parking restrictions are put in place, Boulmer needs additional car parking facilities. It has long been apparent that Boulmer Village Hall needs a car park close to the building for events at the Hall and public use. Residents of the village voted for a car park two years ago. Why is this still being discussed? If off street parking cannot be put in place within one year then some immediate temporary measures need to be considered to deal with the parking problems in Boulmer which will probably re-occur next year and are still apparent. I have witnessed the danger caused by parked cars from early morning to late evening from June 2020 and these are still ongoing during a wet and cold late September/early October. On occasion, I have extreme difficulty reversing out of my drive because of cars parked on both sides of the road completely blocking visibility. It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. Long term, I would support measure 1. There are, however, certain exceptions to measure one that would need to be considered, some of these are detailed above. Also, there are some people who do not have off street park and historically have parked outside their homes. I am sure that such minor problems could be accommodated in any new parking scheme. Perhaps a combination of one Double yellow lines and 3 Residents permit parking would be appropriate. One other point, I note you are a disability confident employer. Your letter only allows people with access to email to put forward their views. Presumably you are also accepting letters regarding this matter. I am personally aware of one person who cannot use email because of her dyslexia. There are others who are more vulnerable because of illness or disability, who will find it difficult to express their views by email or letter. If we were living in "normal times" a drop in session at the village hall would have been an ideal way of allowing a majority of people to ask questions and put forward their views. This letter is not an ideal way of obtaining a true indication of what all people in Boulmer really think

Delegated decisions

1. Thank you for your letter dated 29th September 2020 inviting views on the potential measures that are available to control on-street parking within Boulmer village. A summary of my views are set out in section 2 below and the remaining sections back up my views with logic. The questions that you are asking are straight forward but no guide is given to residents on the potential changes that are likely to lead to the need for parking restrictions in Boulmer in the coming month and years. In view of this I feel that your letter will not bring forward a response that is mindful of these potential changes. I do appreciate that an exercise like this is difficult to achieve by letter for there is a limited amount of information that can be portrayed. It is more suitable for a drop-in event at which residents are able to hold a dialogue with NCC representatives but in view of Coronavirus, I appreciate that this is not possible. 2. Summary - The introduction of Parking Restrictions in Boulmer. In my view the answer to this is a definite YES. However, a parking restrictions scheme should be phased in over a period of time to link in with parking developments within the village as follows. Road Safety Issues - With immediate effect Double yellow lines should replace the 'no parking' cones that were installed in August 2020 for road safety reasons in three places between Church Corner and the Public Toilets. Double yellow lines should be installed on either side of the bridge. Residents voted in favour of this in 2018. Volume of Traffic in 2021 - If the volume of traffic coming to Boulmer in Spring 2021 is at the same level or greater than June to August 2020, NCC should be prepared to introduce a parking restrictions scheme throughout the Boulmer 30mph zone. To achieve this the scheme will have to be agreed and designed several months in advance. New Off-Street Parking and the Introduction of Parking charges - At the time of opening new off street parking the opportunity should be taken to incorporate charges for parking. To encourage visitors to use the car parks and pay for parking, a parking restrictions scheme should be introduced throughout the 30mph zone, unless it has been installed before this time. The Type of Parking Restriction Scheme - It is my view that the most flexible parking restrictions scheme is a combination of double yellow lines and residents parking bays/zones. Previous Consultation - In response to the August consultation I gathered a significant amount of information from residents about their needs for residents bays/zones and this should be updated and extended to all other residents. There are nine households who do not have sufficient off-street parking and have to park on the roadside. There needs to be a detailed discussion with these residents to find a mutually agreed solution for their parking. 3. The key issues - The likely volume of vehicle parking in Boulmer that is needed over the coming years. New off-road vehicle parking. Finding ways to limit the number of vehicles parking in Boulmer. Parking restrictions - should Boulmer have them? 4. The Volume of car parking that is needed over the coming years - Since the lifting of the lockdown in May 2020 we have seen an unprecedented volume of vehicles coming to Boulmer and needing parking. The existing car park that holds 29 vehicles has been full by 10.00am most morning and from that time the vehicles park on the village street and anywhere they can find. June, July, August were the worst with vehicles parking throughout the village and on many occasions up to the 30mph signs including on the grassed-verge on the east side of Beach Road. September has not been at the same level but it has well exceeded what was a busy day pre-COVID and if the sun shines we can expect half term week to be very busy along with good days and all weekends and bank holidays. So, there has been a step change in vehicles coming to Boulmer. Pre-COVID, the signs were there that this was happening. The evidence: Sixty six new houses have been built at Longhoughton and eleven more are on their way. A similar number have been built at Lesbury and a much larger number at Alnwick. Many of the new house owners are retired and Boulmer is the beach and they visit. The Coronavirus pandemic has changed the world we live in. The impact on the economy is likely to result in significant unemployment and a step change in what people can afford to do. More people will come to Boulmer and similar places for recreation, walking, cycling, outdoor hobbies, or just a day out and to experience the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The damage that has been done to the Aviation industry will cause many families to holiday in the UK and due to the increasing popularity of Northumberland we can expect the number of people coming here to continue to increase. For all the reasons above we can forecast that the volume of visitors to Boulmer is going to stay at the post COVID lockdown level and we are likely to see an increase over the next few years. We should not wait for this to happen before we do something to deal with the problem. 5. New Off Road Parking - The need for additional off-road parking was identified in the Boulmer Parish Plan Review of 2017. The county council held a drop-in event in January 2018 and confirmed that new additional car parking spaces were needed in Boulmer. In 2017/18 the vehicle congestion was primarily caused by vehicles attending events at the newly refurbished Boulmer Memorial Hall (BMH) plus popularity of the Fishing Boat Inn (FBI). It was clear that BMH needed a car park close to the village hall to get the vehicles off the road side and also to provide for the overspill from the FBI and for general use by visitors. In June 2018 residents voted in favour of a new car park and the

Delegated decisions

Parish Council asked the County Council to pursue this proposal. Two years have gone by and there is still no firm proposal for new off-street parking in Boulmer, what is more, the need for new additional car parking is much greater now that it was in 2018 and we now have congestion throughout Boulmer. Northumberland County Council (NCC) has failed to meet the known needs for additional off-street car parking in Boulmer. NCC should give this task the greatest priority to solve this problem. It is getting more acute and the people of Boulmer should not have to put up with another year such as the one they have experienced in 2020.

6. Find ways to limit the number of vehicles parking in Boulmer - For a small village and community like Boulmer (49 permanent households, 10 second homes and 20 holiday lets) there is a limit to the number of visitors it can reasonably accommodate without significant congestion. The daily influx of visitors from June to September 2020 was something like 90 to 100 parked vehicles at peak times. This results in the number of people in the village increasing three fold and this puts a strain on the infrastructure and facilities bearing in mind that the only commercial businesses in the village are the FBI plus a small art gallery. From observation many people who park in the existing car park use it as a point to start coastal walks, cycle rides and for dog walking. Many use it for sea-based activities, bird watching and other leisure pursuits. On most days there are a number of campervans who use the car park. Many treat it like a Country Park and get out chairs, Barbeques and fully enjoy the wonderful scenery. There is nothing wrong with these uses, it is the number of vehicles and people arriving in Boulmer that cause the problems. We have to find ways to limit the number of visiting vehicles. Identifying a maximum number of vehicles that can be accommodated in the village must be a starting point. Charging for Car Parking - The main car parks at the neighbouring villages of Alnmouth, and Craster charge for parking. Boulmer is free parking. This sends out the wrong message and some people will head to Boulmer because they know it is free parking. Some residents have suggested that there should be a charge for parking and the Parish Council has now accepted this suggestion. When the new off-street car park is ready it is suggested that it should be a charging car park. Many residents, who have considered the Residents Parking Scheme where they have to pay £25 for a permit for each vehicle, also feel that they are being forced to accept this scheme due to the volume of visiting cars in Boulmer, therefore it seems only fair that those parking in the car parks should pay for parking. However, a charge for parking in the car park(s) will result in some visitors deliberately parking on the village street to avoid parking charges. To counter this there are two possible outcomes: Charging for parking on the village street, or parking restrictions to prevent parking on the village street. If charges are made for parking on the village street this will require the necessary infrastructure for issuing tickets and collecting the charges throughout the village. This would disadvantage many residents who park on the village street but it would also contribute to changing the character of the village. The alternative would be to introduce parking restrictions throughout the village with parking bays or parking zones designated for residents. There would be little space for public parking within the 30mph zone other than off-road car parks. Publicity on the limited Car Parking Available - LPC should work with NCC and the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to fix a maximum number of vehicles that can be accommodated in Boulmer and to publicise that number so that visitors are aware that they may not be able to stop because there will be no spaces to park once this number is taken up. This information should be available through the internet and other sources of information.

Consideration should also be given to the development of modern technology that monitors the number of parking places available and for this to be made available real-time. Central Points for the Start of Cycle Rides - Car parking away from the main coastal towns and villages should be considered for those who come to the coast by vehicle for cycle rides. This could be done by NCC and the AONB.

7. Parking Restrictions - Should Boulmer have them? This is the question that is being asked by the consultation, which type and where. In my view the answer to this is a definite YES to the introduction of a parking restriction scheme. However, a parking restrictions scheme should be phased in over a period of time to link in with other parking developments.

Road Safety Issues - In August NCC responded to what were perceived as road safety issues between the Church corner and the public toilets, by placing 'no parking' cones in three locations. These have definitely improved road safety and have allowed the occupiers of the old church to turn into their parking area with ease. However, cones are troublesome in that people interfere with them and move them around and there is a constant need for residents to keep an eye out to correct any interference. These cones are performing the same purpose as double yellow lines. They should be replaced by double yellow lines so that their purpose is permanent and the road at these locations continue to be safe. The same argument applies to the double yellow lines on either side of the bridge. Residents voted in favour of these in 2018. They should have been installed before now on the grounds of road safety. When to implement a more comprehensive Parking Restrictions Scheme throughout Boulmer - I have argued above that the

Delegated decisions

opening of new off-road car parking or the introduction of parking charges both call for parking restriction throughout Boulmer. To be realistic, both these changes may well not take place for two or more years. The third issue that could result in the need for parking restrictions to be introduced is the potential volume of vehicles parking in Boulmer in 2021. If the level is similar or higher than in 2020 then, in my view, a parking restrictions scheme should be implemented in the Spring of 2021. There are detrimental consequences of introducing parking restrictions before additional off-street parking is available. The main losers would be the Boulmer Memorial Hall the Fishing Boat Inn and St Andrew's Church Gallery. Nevertheless there are ways, even within a comprehensive parking scheme, that some public parking could be provided on Longhoughton Road. What type of Parking Restrictions Scheme - It is my view that the most flexible parking restrictions scheme is a combination of double yellow lines and residents parking bays/zones. In response to the August consultation I gathered a significant amount of information from residents about their needs for residents bays/zones and this should be updated and extended to all other residents. There are nine households who do not have sufficient off-street parking and have to park on the roadside. There needs to be a detailed discussion with these residents to find a mutually agreed solution for their parking. 8. Other Issues - The volume of visitors coming to Northumberland is going to increase over the coming years. Other locations are equally affected. Restricting parking at Boulmer is likely to increase parking at Seaton Point, Sugar Sands/Howdiemont Sands and Howick Seahouses Farm Corner. It is the balloon effect. Push in at one place and it comes out somewhere else. For this reason whatever is done at Boulmer should be part of a strategy for dealing with vehicle parking elsewhere in Longhoughton Parish and adjacent parishes.

I would like to see traffic kept to a minimum in Boulmer Village by providing an over spill carpark either at Scots Gap with a natural entrance into fields behind Bowmere Estate or behind the old church at the North end of the village with an entrance opposite the farm on the Longhoughton Road. Both these suggestions would greatly help to keep the traffic in Boulmer Village to a minimum. Signage would need to be provided at the junction from Longhoughton to Boulmer and at the Foxton junction to Boulmer Village stopping all excess traffic from entering the village. One more thing I would like to see is double lines at the bridge, both stopping all parking on this narrow part of the road and also maybe stopping cyclists from speeding through the village. There certainly has been a big increase in aggressive behaviour from speeding cyclists who appear to use the village as a speed track! Regardless of how busy the village is with people and traffic. There is absolutely no way I want to see the existing car park closed in favour of a new car park location.

I do not believe any of these measures are really necessary at Boulmer. There was a bit of a problem for a short time in 2020 but this was due to a unique set of circumstances which is unlikely to be repeated in summer of 2021. The introduction of yellow lines whether double or single will in my opinion spoil the appearance of the village. I would also question what problem will they help to resolve? If the County Council believe that there is insufficient off street parking, how does stopping vehicles from parking on the road help this problem? Visitors to Boulmer will find somewhere to park, possibly by ignoring the yellow lines or parking on residents own off street parking. With regards to residents permit parking, I am fortunate in that I have off street parking available at my property. I am very concerned that the introduction of yellow lines would cause this to be abused for the reasons outlines above. The northern area of Boulmer where my property is located is known as Boulmer Village. This area is charming victorian setting with many of the buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth century. The appearance could easily be spoiled by the introduction of additional off street parking or other provisions such as those set out in your letter. The visitors to Boulmer come to enjoy the seaside. If additional off street parking is to be provided, then it should be adjacent to the beach, possibly by extending the existing car park.

Delegated decisions

As a household that has been a resident and homeowner in Boulmer Village since the 2nd July 1995, for over 25 years now, I have seen many changes imposed onto the village whether it be to the lifeboat or the fisherman but this proposed change to restrict parking is simply not feasible.

1. The parking permit scheme - I wholeheartedly do not agree with this. Why not impose parking charges within the carpark and regular wardens on the coastline rather than what seems like penalising residents who have given back to the area for over two decades. A limitation of 2 permits per household as well does not seem fair considering there are a lot of residents who own multiple vehicles for personal and business use so now putting the charge on those residents (including myself and my family) would suggest that the parish council values the visitors more than those who inhabit the area.

2. The double yellow lines throughout the village - I strongly disagree with this. The double yellow lines are not required all through the village itself. The area where these ARE required are at the church corner & kelp house roadside (near harbour), where the cones are at present and also across the small ridge between the public toilets and the lifeboat hut. More parking space is needed so why not extend the car park and impose parking charges, furthermore setting a guideline of no parking between the hours of 8pm until 8am thus preventing any overnight stays. If there's no want for visitors in the village itself then why not look for a car parking site outside the village? There genuinely seems to have been no thought for how this might affect the residents in the long run and opinions and views have been requested in the past and have not been taken on board so I don't see how this will be any different now. If it's not broken currently why make any moves to implement fixes.

I am in favour of the double yellow lines to prevent this nightmare of cars parking and causing a danger, I object to the fees for permits as this is I feel targeting residents.

I am unhappy about the suggestion of permits for parking or yellow lines. The initial problems with parking during lockdown seems to have been exacerbated by closure of the car park. The problems seems much easier now. I think yellow lines will spoil this pretty village. The suggestion of a new car park was presented as just for the community centre and only for about 8 cars and only open when events were on. The new idea of a large car park in a beautiful field without access to beach which is main reason people come to Boulmer seems bad. The entrance would cause problems from traffic as there are 2 entrances opposite. Also access to beach would be down a very narrow path past the pub and a danger from traffic passing to the pedestrians. The memorial hall does hold events but not that often so the plans seem odd if the reason was to help for these events. Please maintain the beauty of this unspoilt village.

We have noticed a great increase in the volume of traffic especially where parking is concerned once the car park is full people are using the village as an extended carpark regardless of the inconvenience or danger to the pedestrians who are forced onto the road. Therefore my choice for restrictions are: No2 Single yellow lines with restricted parking between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00hrs. No3 Residents parking for those that require it.

We have been affected greatly with people constantly parking outside our houses. We have 2 cars and able to park one behind our house the other is parked on the road in front of house. My eldest son is also learning to drive in the near future he will probably have a car too! Number XX has car parking for 1 car but sometimes needs parking for 2 cars. So I think double yellow lines is out of the question. Single yellow lines is an option depending on the restrictions. We would certainly pay for a parking permit, but would want to be able to park outside our own house! Parking has become a major issue in Boulmer and I think certainly need to be addressed. A possible solution has to be another carpark!

In our opinion Boulmer needs additional off-street parking, we do understand this will take some time. Yellow lines would cause more problems to some residents than solutions to the problem therefore we are not in favour of them. Now the weather is changing there is less traffic coming into the Village, hopefully there will be less parking problems in th winter. Until the virus has gone and we are able to hold a meeting in the village hall with the representatives of the HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT where all residents can attend and give thier views any decision concerning our village need to be put on hold.

Delegated decisions

If double lines are put in the village we also need to have them at the north end of the village again crucial to field access. Single yellow lines seem too confusing and open to abuse. We feel everyone has a right to park outside their own house but reserve comment on parking permit as it does not affect any of us at the north end. We all have private parking. For those who live opposite the village green and don't have access to private parking at the front or rear, could there be strips marked out on the village green for residents only? Regarding car parks it is the south of the village that need investigation. There is a considerable amount of unproductive, derelict land beyond the existing car park. Entry could be accessed from opposite Scots Gap and any car park would be hidden by a hedge already there, give perfect access to the beach and yet still be close to use public facilities in the village. This removes any need to take productive land at the other end of the village which would also make a very unattractive approach to a traditional fishing village. On another issue at the north end for the village the reference maps are out of date therefore there is much confusion about access. Numerous vehicles enter the road on the understanding they are following the coast on the sat navigation. Signage at the junction is inadequate and needs to be discussed as a separate point of discussion the road is for access for residents, agricultural, utility and emergency vehicles only. No one else should be along here. As for the speed at which vehicles come along here and indeed through the village is yet another topic for discussion. A quote from Northumberland Coast AONB page 44, paragraph 3.10. "Where the parking of cars, in villages or open countryside detracts from the quality of life of residents or the natural beauty and tranquility of AONB a collaborative approach will be taken to design and implement an appropriate solution".

We live on Beach View and think there should be double yellow lines throughout the village and parking bays available for residents due to the increased amount of vehicles visiting Boulmer. The car park needs resurfacing or an alternative car park could be built next to the memorial hall to prevent people parking on the pavement who are attending events in the memorial hall. A charge could be put in place to pay for the up keep of the car park. There has been a definite increase in the number of vehicles visiting Boulmer, causing blocked pavements and driveways and narrowing of the access route through the village.

Many thanks for your letter of 29/09/2020 outlining the traffic issue in Boulmer. Our initial view is that if someone buys a property in a tourist location then by default they have to accept some disruption from non-resident parking. We understand that Covid outbreak is clearly making the parking problem worse - but hopefully this will be relatively short term, although could easily be for all of 2021. We quite like the current car park on the sea front at Boulmer as it's quite informal - and wouldn't like it to be replaced with some more formal - ie tarmac, kerbstones etc. We think some yellow lines close to the Pub car park - as it can be difficult for lorries & farm equipment to pass in peak times. But we feel the yellow lines should be kept to a minimum. Residents Permit Parking is interesting and we would support this idea, but we would need 3 permits for our household - a restriction of 2 permits would cause us some disruption. We understand that residents don't have a legal right to park in front of their own house, but if the Permit Scheme achieved this by default, then I think you would please the majority of the residents. Many thanks for taking the time to look into the parking issues.

We do not think that any of these measures are needed in Boulmer, this year traffic has been unprecedented due to COVID-19 which will eventually settle down. We do not want our village ruined with yellow lines like some other villages in Northumberland.

I do not want yellow lines in Boulmer village, they would cause problems to many of the residents. We need a bigger car park for visitor to the village.

Measures are needed sooner rather than later

Delegated decisions

My knee jerk reaction as to the shocking amount of cars on the village throughout the summer and still ongoing parking, where they feel like with some having no thought for the residents would be to say allow double yellow lines throughout the village. However when we think about this sensibly this is not the time to make any long term decisions this is extraordinary times and hopefully this will resolve as we have never before complained of the numbers in the village. I feel that no decision should happen until a decision can be discussed until there is a village meeting where this can be discussed sensibly with the residents as this is going to effect long term and future generations. If asking however our answer of option For residents parking would be beneficial to each house only if that parking space was by each house, and if there was no extra charge. As we already pay council tax as residents which the large number of holiday cottages do not, therefore is is fair to penalise residents because we live in an area of outstanding natural beauty we should be supported to continue to live peacefully in these areas. Tourism is important but so are the residents a lot of whom my wish for yellow lines but certainly can't afford more to pay especially in the current climate. Therefore I feel this decision as there would need to be discussion around all these options needs to be taken carefully after a meeting of some form with the residents not representatives from the parish council.

As a resident, I would like to see double yellow lines where the cones are currently placed. Unfortunately, no easy answer to the parking situation is possible as there are too many conflicting local views. A more long term answer would be needed, and when this happens, further traffic restrictions would be required. I believe the least controversial would be a large car park in the land immediately behind the dunes (requiring payment) in the land south of the shore car park. This land is agriculturally poor and because of the height of the dunes would be screened from the road and the beach (similar to the car parking south of Bamburgh). This could have a height barrier, and be locked at night to prevent overnight camping. The beach car park should still remain open as it allows people with reduced mobility to enjoy the view.

We are very much in favour of double yellow lines at certain points in the village where parking is dangerous, and have found that the cones placed in these locations have proven effective in enabling traffic to pass safely through those areas. There is still an issue with parking at the bridge, which would need to have double yellow lines added. We do not see the need to double yellow lines and parking permits for residents throughout the whole village. Concerning the village green car park - we would ask that it is enlarged to accommodate more cars, and that a charge is made for parking in it. There is no need for such a large amount of grass (we have not seen much evidence of wild flowers at all this year) when it is only used for hay which the parish council has to pay for. There is a proposal to take land next to the village hall - we would only agree to this if the village green car park has already been extended to its full potential and we would be totally opposed to losing agricultural land for parking if the village green car park was to be closed, as has been suggested by some residents who live near the green. The village is approached from the West, and the view has remained unchanged for decades - should the first thing a visitor sees be a car park running across the front of the village?

Delegated decisions

Appendix B – Double Yellow Lines, Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			I would support the double yellow lines, shown in blue on the map on the reverse side of your letter
1			My wife and I are in favour of the proposal for some targeted double yellow lines in the areas outlined on the plan
1			We write in support of the proposal for double yellow lines as shown in the plan.
1			Double yellow lines Boulmer Village I do agree with your proposal
1			We support targeted double yellow lines at problem locations in the village
1			<p>With regard to your proposed plans for double yellow lines on the road through Boulmer. First of all I think the marking of the lines you propose make sense. However, I think it would be important to continue the double yellow (you have proposed at the south end of the map) further south past the toilets and to (maybe) the lifeboat station. The bend where the toilets are narrows quite considerably and is also a blind bend. I have noticed that a few inconsiderate motorists tend to park on this bend for easy access to the beach. I would therefore consider putting double yellows here as an even more important addition to your proposed ones. Maybe even on BOTH sides of the bend. Also, if the Council are prepared to paint these yellow lines, can you assure us that they will be regularly visited by traffic wardens? Otherwise, if not monitored the whole exercise will be a total waste of money.</p>
1			<p>I am very surprised at the numbers you quote given all the traffic and parking issues in Boulmer during 2020. As you do not confirm responses by email how do you know these figures are accurate? Regarding your proposals I am in favour of double yellow lines as indicated but in the overall scheme of things it is totally inadequate. Even during the so call lockdown Boulmer is faced with ever increasing parking on the streets and often on the pavements and grass verges and facing the wrong direction. I repeat my earlier statements that it will only get worse over time and cannot help feeling we have been let down by all parties all looking after their own interested instead of working together to find a suitable solution to the problem. Boulmer must have one of the few Village Halls with no parking facilities, despite being surrounded by wide open space. We have now seen local residents place their own traffic cones outside their houses and even thier own "No Parking " signs. Just imagine if every resident did the same and they might well do, if no action is taken. I suggest you repeat the exercise and find a better way than email to collect people's views and get a more representative response to the main issue which is road safety and off street safe parking. As I have said there is plenty of room in Boulmer for visitors and all are welcome but adequate off street parking should be provided and the residents should not have to face a rat run trying to get in and out of their houses. I voted in favour of double yellow lines and did not require a parking permit as I have a suitable drive. I took it that if anyone wanted a parking permit that would also indicate they were in favour of double yellow lines but your survey responses do not suggest that to be the case Boulmer needs to be brought into line with other coastal villages who provide adequate parking, which helps maintain these communities.</p>

Delegated decisions

		1	The reason is people in this village do not like change yet they moan when anything goes wrong. More important I would have supported Gas to be installed into the village which is more important than anything else but there is no support for that yet they all use Gas tubes to cook it just doesn't make sense so I have given up with the Village. Let me give you another example. Why don't you fix the drive way to the Beach car park so people like myself who uses wheel chairs can wheel through without struggling to get there because of the unfinished road, you should be doing things like that. These are the two things I think you should be doing as we should not be living in the early 19th century with no "GAS".
1			I refer to you letter asking for support for the proposed double yellow lines in Boulmer old village. I am very much in favour of those lines being put down to replace the 'no-parking' cones. I am also of the view that the double yellow lines on either side of the bridge in Boulmer should be put down. There were agreed by residents in 2018 and should have been put down before now.
1			We would be happy with proposals for the targeted double yellow lines in the designated places (in blue) that you have specified on the map on the reverse of the letter. We would not be in favour of the lines being any more than the proposed area.
1			Thanks for the revised traffic restrictions. They seem a very useful start to controlling village parking.
1			I write to confirm I am in favour of double yellow lines as indicated. Given all the traffic and parking issues our village is having, even during lockdown, the need for additional parking by the village hall has never been greater. I voted before in favour of double yellow lines throughout the village allied to residents parking spaces and very surprised there has been no uptake on this as the situation will only get worse as you will understand.
1			I am writing to confirm my agreement to your recent proposal for parking restrictions in Boulmer Village. I would just like to add that some parking restrictions on the bend/bridge area would be very advantageous as people are inclined to park on grass/pavement on that bend which makes visibility near impossible. Thank you for your efforts to resolve our parking problems in Boulmer Villager
1			In reply to your letter we agree to the yellow lines at the church corner, also the kelp house in the village, the two places should be sufficient. When the coronavirus is over a meeting with the highways department would be appreciated.
1			Accordingly, we would like to express our view of strongly agreeing with the proposed double yellow lines in the locations as detailed with the accompanying plan. We also note that residents have previously voted in favour (2018) of double yellow lines on either side of the Bridge where the road becomes particularly narrow. As such we understand that these double yellow lines will also be introduced in addition to those proposed in the aforementioned plan. These will both be very welcome by the village community to help negate the longstanding traffic restrictions that have been experienced. Many thanks for your help on behalf of NCC Highways and we look forward to seeing the restrictions in place at the earliest opportunity.

Delegated decisions

1		<p>I can confirm that I completely agree with the placement of these lines, although more would have been better, but would also ask if lines are to be placed either side of the small bridge. The road narrows here when people park their cars it becomes extremely dangerous. I have had many, many occasions when driving through my village that I have had a close call accident. Drivers, quite often, do not realise that the road narrows and it has always been a potential accident spot. I know our village will once again be overrun with visitor and cars this year and would hope that at the very least this area could be looked at too. I know I am very lucky to live where I do but for a small fishing village we become swamped with cars and people. I had hoped to see the closure of the current car park which is on natural sand dunes in an area of outstanding natural beauty. This car park is quite often full of camper vans! A new 'pay to park' car park beside our village hall would benefit locals and visitors. I'm aware this would be costly but feel our village needs some help and support to combat the amount of vehicles we contend with daily. So sorry to rant as I appreciate you will be doing your utmost to support us.</p>
1		<p>With regard to your letter with reference potential traffic restrictions in Boulmer, it stated there was no support for yellow lines or residents parking permits. However I emailed to show support for both. Boulmer simply cannot cope with the current number of visitors we have had over the last year. Cars park the entire length of the village, even on both sides of the road, causing traffic congestion and a hazard. On several occasions we have not been able to park near our own home. We agree with your proposal for double yellow lines but believe further actions needs to be taken.</p>
1		<p>This response represents the views of the trustees of Boulmer Memorial Hall in relation to the impact such proposals may have on the Hall and its future operation. In general terms, the trustees welcome the attention the council is giving to address parking issues in the village. The number of visitors arriving by car to park in the village has been high for some time and has continued to increase. The trustees recognize that parked cars at the church corner and throughout the village present a significant safety problems as the cars obscure visibility at the junction and for residents trying to egress their properties. However, the issue for the continued operation of the Memorial Hall is that any parking restrictions within the vicinity of the Hall will severely limit its future use. For this reason, the trustees ask that before any parking restrictions are implemented, additional car parking is provided within the village in the form of a new car park. In addition, improvements to the existing links car park would also create further space for safe parking. The surface of the existing car park has seriously deteriorated and suffers from large areas of flooding. If you wish to discuss these comments further please do not hesitate to get in touch.</p>
1		<p>Thanks for the recent letter, we would like you to add more double lines to the corner past the church North along the coast and West up the Longhoughton road to the farm. The problem we found last year was that many cars parked on the pavements at the North end of the village, which led to problems with farm access for tractors and moving sheep and cattle quite dangerous. We are pleased to hear that you will be adding double yellow lines at the bridge - will these continue across the Lifeboat house access?</p>
1		<p>As owners of XX we are responding to your letter reporting the results of your consultation of potential traffic restrictions in Boulmer. We can confirm that we are not in favour of a residents parking scheme nor the extensive use of single yellow lines. We would however, support the targeted use of double yellow lines the locations shown on your plan.</p>

Delegated decisions

1		We are in receipt of your letter and are in support of the double yellow lines as per the plan and over the bridge as previously agreed on 2018. Going forward we feel these measures are not enough, double yellow in these areas will result in the problems of parking being moved to other areas of the village. A new car park, double yellow lines and residential permit parking is required throughout the whole village not just bits here and there.
1		We are in favour of double yellow lines as shown in the plan and would also like them on Beach View to prevent congestion.
1		We are in support of the double yellow lines as shown in red on the plan for Boulmer
	1	Our views would be against double yellow lines in the proposed area as this will have a huge impact on the south side of the village. This last year has been horrendous as a Boulmer resident! if the car park is full people are parking right outside of your front door, which in our case is 4 meter's away from the road, and that was in lockdown! We feel there is a need for car parking before you get into the village, either north or south side and this should get rid of some of the traffic problems
	1	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your parking proposals in Boulmer Village. I strongly object to the proposed yellow lines from the Church Corner to the Kelphouse this would impact on the rest of the village as it would push the parking further up the village causing further congestion therefore moving the problem not resolving it. The proposed yellow lines would also restrict parking for me as I only have off-street parking for one vehicle and friends and family would not be able to park outside my home. The current parking cones that are in place have proved to be ineffective and have restricted parking for my family. The cones also have a mind of their own and are constantly being moved by visitors to allow them to park. Would it be possible to have them removed? Finally I think it is very important to delay any permanent parking decisions until the current pandemic has settled down and we are able to have a village meeting to allow all residents to contribute as there are many residents who do not have access to IT. Moving on from there. I believe the way forward is an overflow car park as it the case in other coastal villages grateful if this is considered as a first option before any other decision are taken. Please reconsider the proposed yellow lines.
1		I am writing in response to a letter regarding the proposed traffic restrictions in Boulmer. As a household we agree with the proposed plans for the double yellow lines as shown on the plan

Delegated decisions

			<p>Further to your letter and diagrams regarding the potential double yellow lines at Boulmer, I would be grateful if you would take my comments into consideration. None of the ideas put forward by the County Council to the residents of Boulmer has addressed the overall parking problem and again I ask that a fully thought out plan be developed, not one which just seems to address issues piece meal and then result in the issue being pushed into other areas of the village. I know that an overflow carpark is being explored and if this is going to be the case then perhaps looking's at putting the overflow carpark to the south of the village where there are several small fields, one of which could be developed into an overflow carpark may be the way forward. After all visitors visiting Alnmouth, Craster and Newton by the Sea have to park outside the village and walk in. I am in no way supportive of stopping vehicles parking on the village links under any circumstances, I know this is being pursued very strongly by Council XX. With regard to the diagram and proposal for double yellow lines. I have no issue with the lines placed around the church corner, or the ones placed along south, north of the boat landings. The yellow lines in the middle will cause severe problems for a resident who lives in the middle of the row of cottages as they have only off street parking for one car - what does this resident do when her family comes to stay? therefore I do not support the double yellow lines in the middle section unless they are placed outside number 17 boundary only. The double yellow lines which are being proposed for the bridge are not shown on the diagram and therefore I would wish to ensure that they do not encroach on the boat landings or if the lines are to come near the boat landings then a special exclusion must be put in place for the articulated lorry, which comes into the village daily to pick up the fisherman's catch issued. This is articulated lorry has no other option but to park on the side of the road to load and unload shellfish.</p>
		1	
23	2	2	

DECISION TAKEN

Delegated decisions

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

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

Subject:

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS, BOULMER

Consultation

- For 23 (85%)
- Against 2 (7%)
- Neutral 2 (7%)

Decision Taken:

The proposed parking restrictions should be implemented.

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



Date

10th February 2021

* delete as appropriate