



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

17 February 2021

Proposed Introduction of Traffic Calming Measures in Craster Village **Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson – Leader of Council**

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposed implementation of new traffic calming measures in Craster Village.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed new traffic calming measures in Craster Village be introduced on an Experimental basis, including a new Gateway feature to the Village and Prohibition of Driving restrictions.

Link to Corporate Plan

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

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

Learning - "We want you to achieve and realise your potential"

Key Issues

1. A continued presence of indiscriminate parking has been identified to NCC Officers by the Craster Parish Council and Local County Councillor
2. The introduction of the proposed traffic calming measures on an Experimental basis, has a number of benefits.
3. The scheme is supported by County Councillor Wendy Pattison and Craster Parish Council.

Background

Craster Village – Parking Issues

It has been brought to the attention of NCC Officers over a number of months by Craster Parish Council and County Councillor Pattison, the growing problem of indiscriminate parking in Craster Village. This factor has been exacerbated by the current pandemic. Craster, like many other villages and towns in Northumberland is a hot spot for visitors throughout the whole year.

Craster Parish Council carried out a Resident Survey for a Parking Permit Scheme in 2020, there was strong support from residents for such a scheme. The information and results from the study were passed to NCC Officers. This was used in developing an overall strategy in dealing with the issues raised.

Proposals

As detailed previously, Craster, like many coastal villages in Northumberland, is having to deal with a range of pressures due to its popularity and rising visitor numbers. As such there are many considerations to take into account including: the village residents, businesses, visitors and all road users.

The approach proposed by NCC Officers aims to benefit all road users. In doing so we propose a traffic calming scheme on the approach to the village incorporating traffic restrictions, by way of a Prohibition of Driving Except for Access and gateway treatment. See Appendix A.

The aim is encourage visitors to use the existing car parking facilities and walk into the village, thereby being more environmentally friendly and health conscious. Changing the mindset and attitude when visiting the area can be difficult to achieve with any new scheme. However, this approach has been particularly successful in an unrelated but similar context elsewhere under the new School Streets Initiative. This is a move away from the more traditional introduction of inflexible parking restrictions, which sometimes benefit a minority of road users.

This proposal has a number of advantages especially in a tourist orientated destination of Craster Village:

Delegated Decision

- An Experimental Order offers the flexibility to amend at any time throughout the period in place, monitor the impact and review after 6 months.
- By introducing a “gateway” to the village including road narrowing, road markings and signage. It is anticipated this will encourage visitors to use the large Quarry Car Park.
- The Parish Council has arranged the provision of an overflow Car Park to operate at peak times. This will be most beneficial and critical to any scheme introduced in Craster Village e.g. any restrictions required an alternative parking facility for visitors to the area. See Photo below
- The reduction in sign clutter and environmental approach is supported by AONB Officers.
- This scheme will be quicker to install and enforceable than the traditional Resident Parking Scheme and is anticipated to be operational for the Easter weekend 2021.
- This scheme aims to complement the existing parking restrictions in Craster, where the majority of Highway has No Waiting At Any Time Restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) - See Photo below
- Enforcement of restrictions within Craster may be carried out by both NCC Parking Services and Northumbria Police (dependent on the infringement).

Details of the proposals are shown on the scheme plan - see Appendix A.

Overflow Car Park at south end of Craster operating 2020



Craster Village Centre – Existing Parking Restriction (Double Yellow Lines)



Existing approach to Quarry Car Park Craster



Delegated Decision

Council Officers have worked closely with County Councillor Pattison, (who has contributed to the funding of the scheme via her Members Budget allocation) and Craster Parish Council.

An explanation of the scheme was presented by NCC Officers at the January Craster Parish Council Meeting. Although there were some reservations to the proposal from the residents who would have preferred a Resident Parking Permit Scheme, the Parish Council members have listened to pros and cons of both schemes and appreciate the efforts of NCC Officers in presenting this proposal. They support the scheme and are encouraged by the fact that Officers are aiming for it to be introduced in such a timely manner i.e. Easter 2021.

An information letter was prepared by NCC Officers and supported by Councillor Pattison and the Parish Council and sent to all residents of Craster Village – See Appendix B.

Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the Experimental Orders.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from the 2020/21 Local Transport Plan and County Councillor Pattison's Member allocation
Legal	Traffic Regulation Orders – Experimental Order (reference TROM_211)
Procurement	Signage and road markings to meet Regulations for Traffic Regulation Orders
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	A reduction of traffic in Craster Village by way of a Prohibition of Driving will lead to a cleaner and safer environment for all road users
Customer Consideration	Residents and visitors in the area will benefit from a reduction in vehicle numbers in the village
Carbon reduction	Reduced vehicle numbers can lead to reduced vehicle emissions and potential moving towards more sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling.
Wards	Longhoughton

Delegated Decision

Background papers:

File reference -

S:\Highways\PROJECT\20\HE Minor Improvements\HE203423D
TROs\HE203423D-39 Craster Safety Zone Scheme

Appendix A – Scheme Plan

Appendix B – Information Letter and Plan to Craster Residents

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Terry Luck - Programme Officer**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services.

Subject: Proposed implementation of new traffic calming measures in Craster Village, by way of a new Gateway to the Village and Prohibition of Driving restrictions.

Consultation: Statutory Consultees have been notified of these proposals, these include Emergency Services and RNLI. Further feedback will take place throughout the duration of the experimental Order and a review will take place after 6 months if not before. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor and Parish Council. Local canvassing was undertaken by local County Councillor and local Parish Council.

Decision Taken: To introduce new traffic calming measures in Craster Village, by way of a new Gateway to the Village and Prohibition of Driving restrictions.

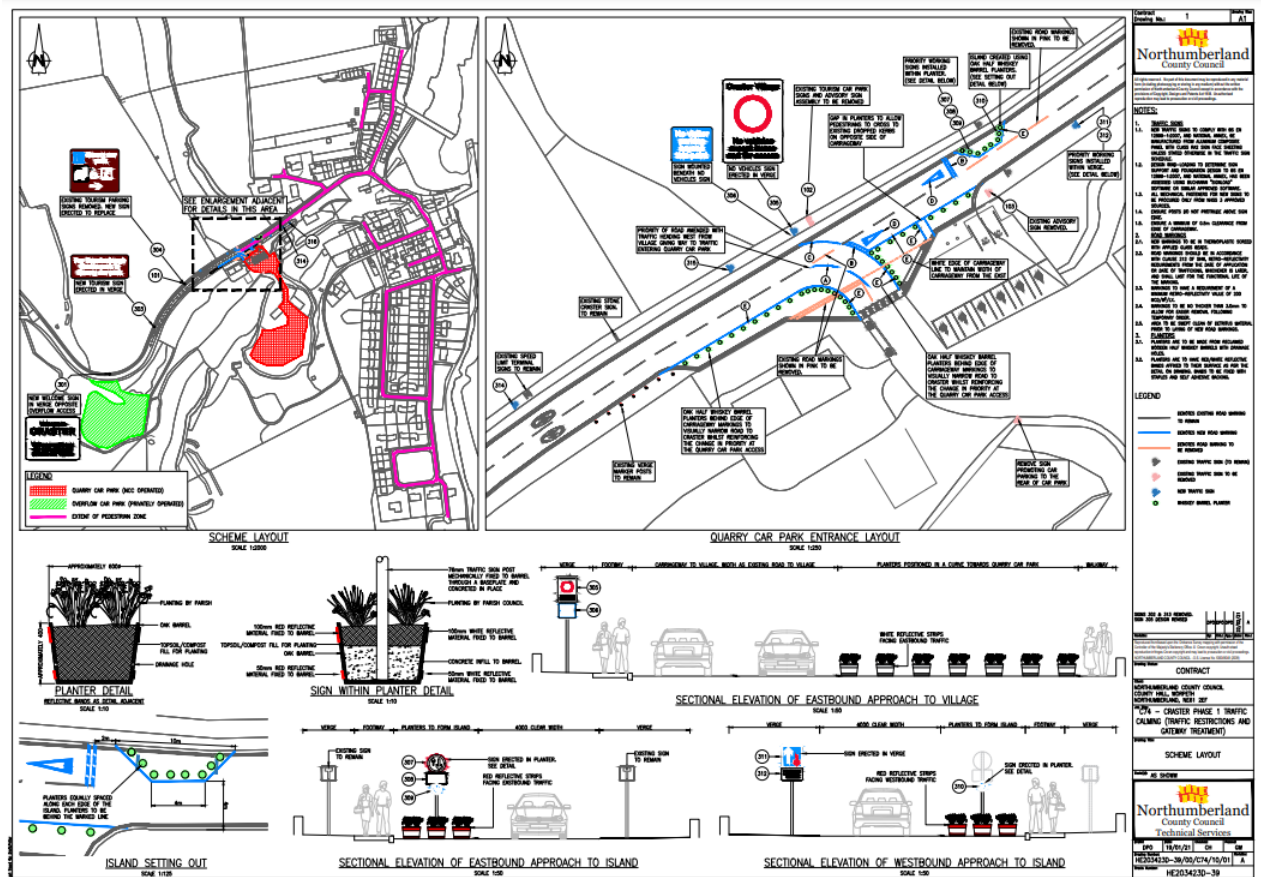
Signature of Director



Date

5 March 2021

Appendix A - Scheme Plan



Appendix B - Information Letter and Plan to Craster Residents



«AddressBlock»

Your ref:
Our ref: HE203423D-39
Email: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel: 0345 600 6400
Date: 8th February 2021

Dear Resident

Information Letter Experimental Pedestrian Zone Craster Village

We are writing to update you with details of the above proposed scheme, which is to be introduced on an experimental basis for 12 months, with a review after 6 months.

Craster Parish Council and County Councillor Wendy Pattison support this proposal, which is being funded jointly through Councillor Pattison's Members Local Improvement Scheme allocation and Northumberland County Council's Local Transport Plan funds.

We would like to thank Craster Parish Council for their efforts in carrying out their own consultation into Residents Parking Permits. While we appreciate the scheme, we are introducing it not what many residents voted for during this exercise, the work undertaken by the Parish has highlighted the need to investigate an appropriate scheme for the village.

The scheme details are highlighted on the attached plan. As discussed at Craster Parish Council's meeting of Monday 25th January, we anticipate that this proposal will benefit all road users, both residents and visitors. You will note that we are also changing the "entry" to the village, with traffic now directed into the car park which we feel will have a positive impact on visitor behaviour. Should the car park be full, vehicles will then be directed to the overflow car park.

For information, and as discussed at the Parish Council meeting, the proposed Experimental Order has a number of distinct advantages over a traditional Permanent Traffic Regulation Order:

- The Legal Process is much shorter and therefore may be introduced more quickly.
- The Order may be changed, if necessary, at any point throughout the duration of the Order
- There is "On-Going" feedback, which forms part of the consultation and review process – details below.
- A review of the scheme will take place between the Craster Parish Council, Local County Councillor and NCC Officers after a 6-month period.
- The scheme processes a number of Road Safety and Environmental advantages.
- This proposal and approach is supported by the ANOB.
- It is anticipated that this scheme will be operational by the 4th April 2021.



County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EP
E: highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk
www.northumberland.gov.uk



The County Council, Craster Parish Council and Councillor Pattison would like to thank all residents for their contributions to date. Going forward we do encourage all feedback on the experimental scheme both positive and negative. Feedback can be provided online after 4th April 2021 at the following link: <https://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>. Alternatively, you can email any comments to the address shown above, marking the subject Craster Experimental Order Feedback.

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.

Yours faithfully

Highways Programme

