



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

17 December 2021

Fore Street Hexham Proposed 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Only' and 'Loading Only' Restrictions Permanent Order 2021.

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the requirement to implement parking restrictions in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare and Market Place Hexham on a permanent basis following an Experimental Order.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposals introduce a 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Only' scheme operating at all times (everyday) and 'Loading Only' between 5pm and 10 am (everyday) in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare Hexham and No Waiting At Any Time and No Loading 10am to 5pm on Fore Street/Market Place Hexham on a permanent basis.

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. Concerns have been raised that the existing restrictions are not being enforced causing road safety concerns.
2. This scheme has the support of County Councillor Trevor Cessford and Hexham Town Council.

Delegated Decision

Background December 2021

An Experimental Order was prepared and implemented in September 2020. Full details of these experimental restrictions are included in the following Decision Report and Addendum:

Fore Street Hexham Proposed 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Only' and 'Loading Only' Restrictions Experimental Order 2020.

7 July 2020 – signed off 8th July 2020.

Fore Street Hexham Proposed No Waiting At Any Time and No Loading 10am to 4pm Restrictions Experimental Order 2020.

September 2020 – Signed off 2nd September 2020

Extract of July 2020 Decision Report

There have been a number of concerns raised by local residents via their County Councillor and the Town Council, regarding vehicles driving through and parking on the busy shopping area of Fore Street and St Mary's Chare Hexham, which is currently a 'Pedestrian Zone'. The existing traffic restrictions are inadequate and unenforceable, thereby causing road safety issues.



Entrance to Fore Street Hexham from the junction with B6305 Cattle Market Hexham

Delegated Decision

The existing restrictions shown above are predominantly for a “moving traffic offence” only enforceable by the Police, which is particularly frustrating to NCC Parking Services.

It is evident that the Police do not have sufficient resources to enforce on a regular basis. However, the Police have actively tried to explain the dangers of indiscriminate parking in the area to offenders, but with minimal results.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of parked vehicles are those of business owners from the area.



Fore Street Hexham - Congestion example showing a mid morning Saturday in March 2020

It is proposed to remove the existing restrictions and replace them with:

1. A 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone' operating at all times (everyday), thereby allowing pedestrians to shop safely during the busiest part of the day.
2. Allow Loading (unloading) between 4 pm and 10 am (everyday) outside of the busy shopping period. Thereby allowing shops and business to re-stock during the quieter trading periods and providing a safer environment for all road users.
3. 'No Waiting at Any Time' would be imposed within the restricted area.

Delegated Decision

4. No through traffic would be allowed i.e. vehicles would only be allowed between 4 pm and 10 am (everyday) to stop load or unload.
5. The Traffic Orders made would be on an Experimental Basis for a maximum of 18 Months. This provides the flexibility to obtain feedback on the scheme throughout the period the restrictions are in place. It provides the opportunity to closely monitor the scheme and carry out minor modifications if required.

Please note: The proposed restrictions would:

- A. Enforce a 'Proposed Pedestrian and Cycle Zone' restriction which would operate at all times every day. This would effectively restrict all vehicles parking/waiting between these times, with the exception of pedal cycles and mobility scooters.
- B. Enable deliveries to be carried out between 4 pm and 10 am daily.
- C. Permit exceptions i.e. essential repairs and maintenance via an exemption issued by Parking Services
- D. Enable enforcement to be carried out by Parking Services and Northumbria Police.

An information letter will be sent to all affected businesses prior to the order being implemented.

Delegated Decision

Proposed Permanent Restrictions December 2021

Following a review involving NCC Officers and local County Councillor Cessford of the Experimental Order which commenced in September 2020, it is proposed to implement these restrictions on a permanent basis.

Councillor Cessford canvassed opinion from local businesses, fellow local Councillors and the Town Councillors, those who responded supported the implementation of the restrictions on a permanent basis.

However, there was one minor amendment requested: to move the upper limit from 4pm to either 4:30 pm or 5pm. After further discussion with NCC Officers it was proposed to make the upper limit 5pm. A revised plan of the permanent restrictions is detailed in Appendix A.

The Highways Programme Team received no direct feedback from members of the public during the implementation of these experimental restrictions.

It is concluded that the Experimental Restrictions has been on the whole a successful scheme:

- A. by introducing restrictions that provide a safer environment for the travelling public.
- B. Introducing restrictions that can be monitored and enforced by NCC Parking Services, thereby not relying totally on enforcement by Northumbria Police.
- C. Conducting a cost effective Experimental Order, providing the opportunity to receive feedback and make amendments, prior to make the restriction permanent.
- D. It has gained general support from all parties including NCC Parking Services who will carry out the primary enforcement of the restrictions.

Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these permanent restrictions as part of the process for making the permanent 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 current LTP funding.
Legal	Traffic Regulation Orders (reference TRO_28 and TRO_007_84
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	The proposals will improve road safety for pedestrians at peak times.
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement by NCC Parking Services and Northumbria Police
Customer Consideration	It is anticipated the proposals will lead to a safer environment for all road users.
Carbon reduction	Restriction of vehicles in a built up area will assist with carbon reduction
Wards	Hexham

Delegated Decision

Background Papers:

File reference –

Decision Reports and Addendum

Fore Street Hexham Proposed 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Only' and
'Loading Only' Restrictions Experimental Order 2020.

7 July 2020 – signed off 8th July 2020.

Fore Street Hexham Proposed No Waiting At Any Time and No Loading
10am to 4pm Restrictions Experimental Order 2020.

September 2020 – Signed off 2nd September 2020

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TROs\HE203423D-03 Fore Street Hexham Pedestrian Zone\TRO and
Notices

Appendix A – Scheme Location Plan - Permanent Restrictions

Author and Contact Details

Report Author: **Terry Luck - Programme Officer**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services

Subject: Proposed introduction of a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone At All Times (everyday) and Loading Only between 5pm and 10 am (everyday) in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare Hexham and No Loading 10am to 5pm on Fore Street/Market Place Hexham on a permanent basis following an Experimental TRO.

Consultation: Not required, the proposal was carried out initially on an Experimental basis and feedback was encouraged throughout the duration of the Experimental Order. Local canvassing has taken place by the local Councillor and Town Council and the scheme has been notified to Northumbria Police and other Statutory Consultees.

Decision Taken: To introduce a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone At All Times (everyday) and Loading Only between 5pm and 10 am (everyday) in Fore Street/St Mary's Chare Hexham and No Loading 10am to 5pm on Fore Street/Market Place Hexham on a permanent basis following a successful Experimental TRO.

Signature of Director

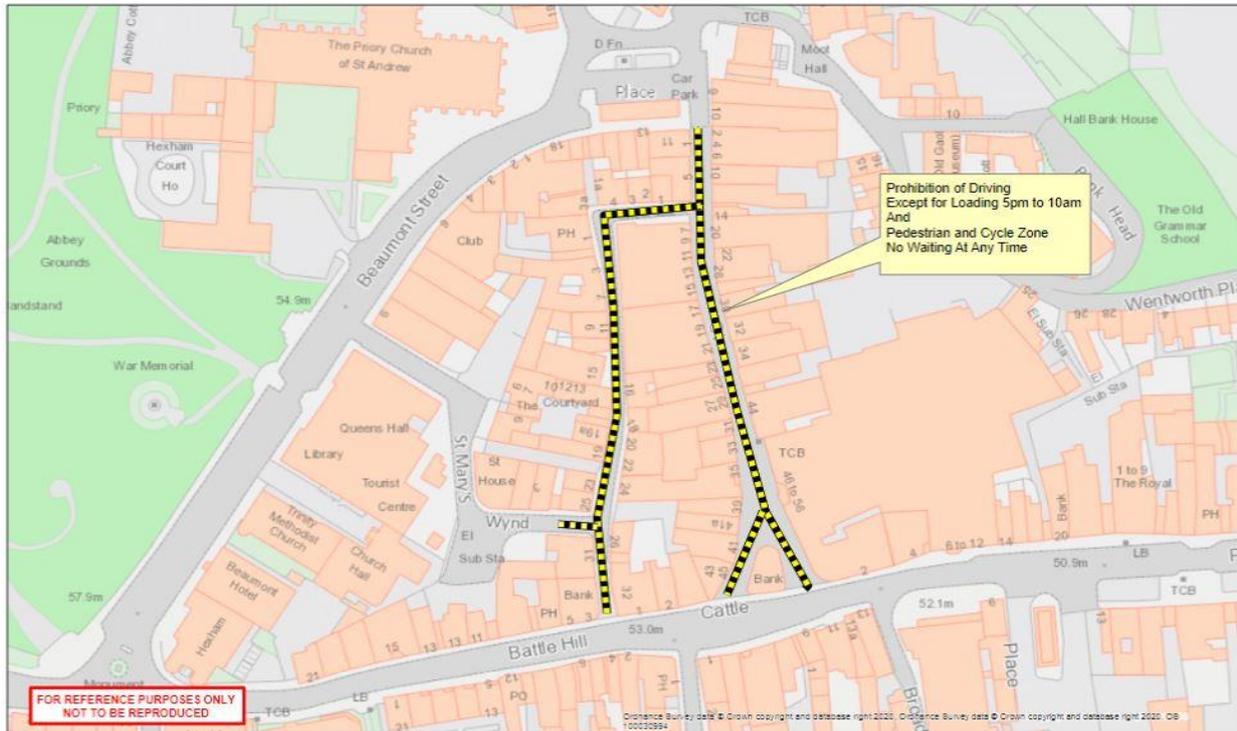


Date

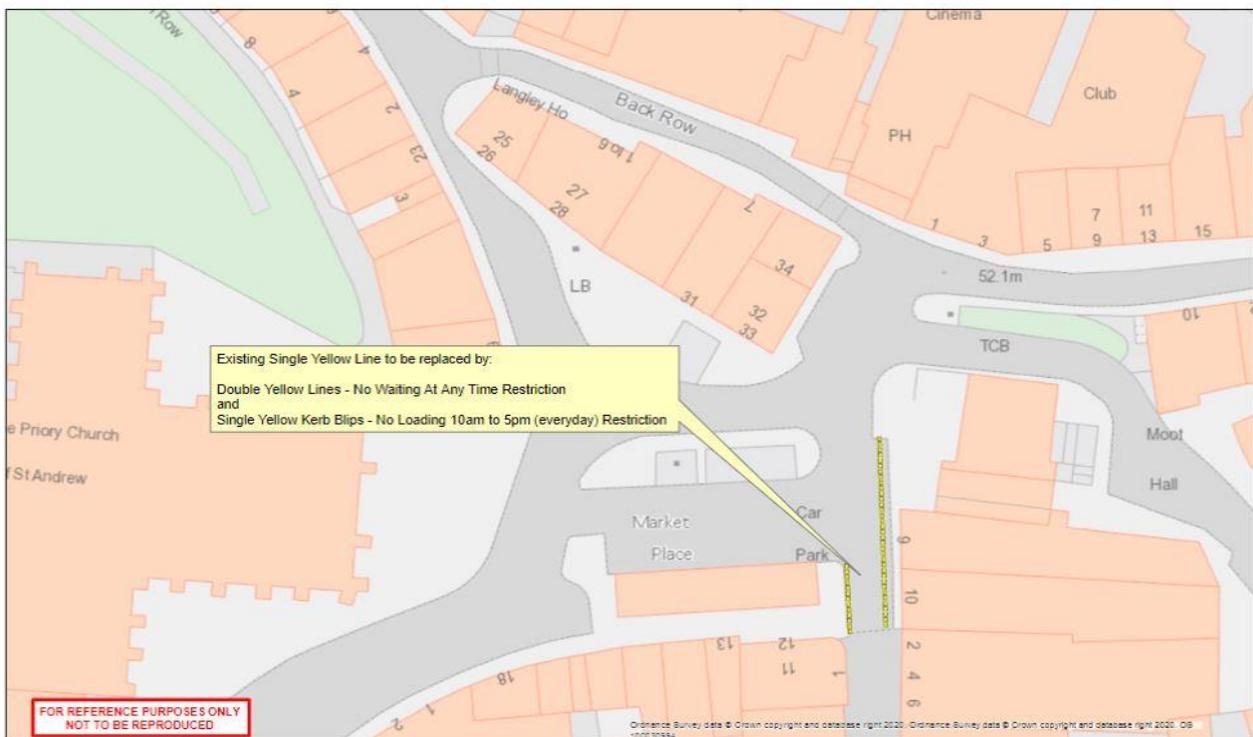
19th January 2022

Delegated Decision

Appendix A – Scheme Location Plan - Permanent Restrictions



Network Management Information System		Title: FORE STREET, ST MARY'S CHARE, ST MARY'S WYND HEXHAM PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE ZONE (PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING) PERMANENT ORDER 2022 (TRO_028) - Jan 2022		
Dim:		Date:	Scale:	



Network Management Information System		Title: Fore Street- Market Place Hexham		
Dim:		Date:	Scale:	

TRO_007_84
Permanent Order
Jan 2021