



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS, U3124 PERCY TERRACE, ALNWICK

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to provide experimental 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions in Percy Terrace, Alnwick.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed experimental parking restrictions are implemented for a period of one year so that their effectiveness can be assessed in advance of a decision being made on whether they should be retained 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"

Key Issues

- The County Council has received concerns via the local Ward Members about roadside parking on Percy Terrace which prevents vehicles from safely accessing or exiting South Street.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. The County Council has received concerns via the local Ward Members about roadside parking on Percy Terrace which prevents vehicles from safely accessing or exiting South Street.
2. Percy Terrace is a narrow residential street that varies from 4m to 4.5m in width near its junction with South Street. On-street parking takes place along its full length. The location is shown in Figure 1.

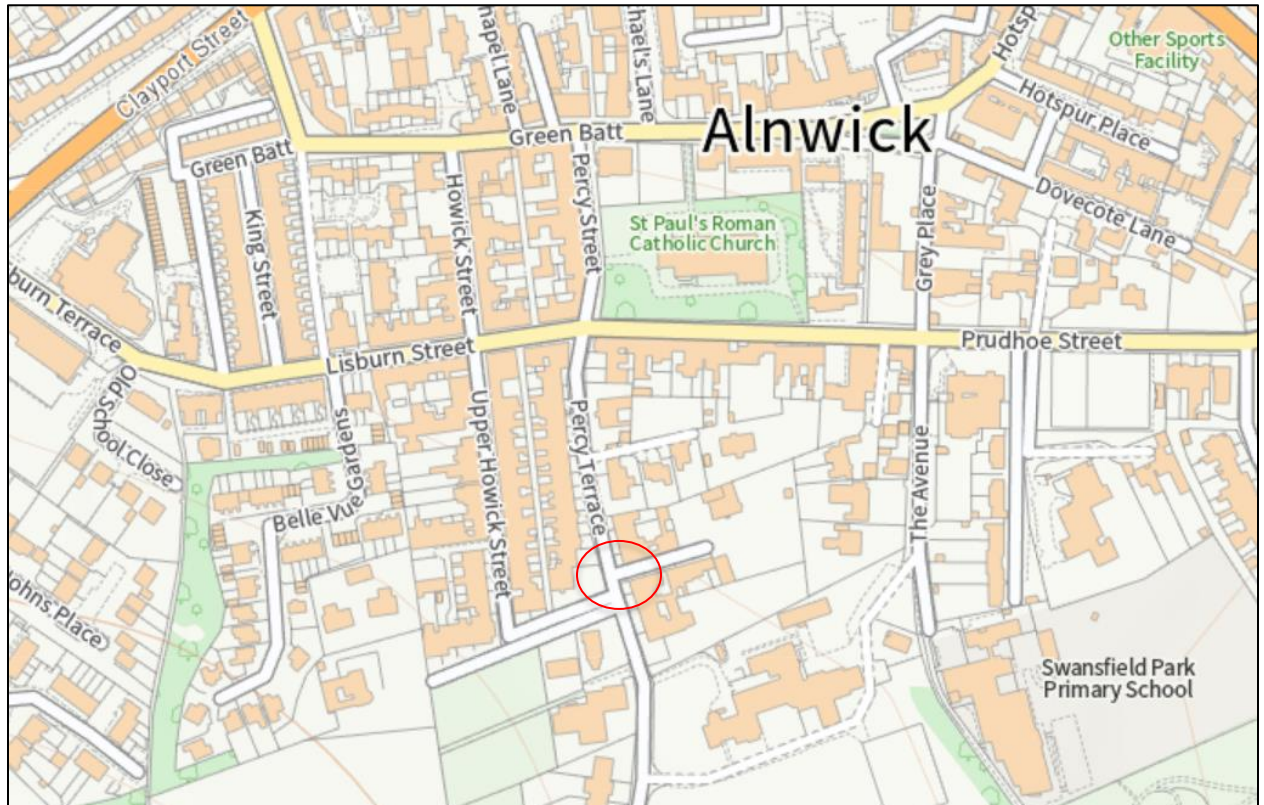


Fig.1 Percy Terrace/South Street Junction, Location Plan

3. The majority of properties in the area do not have off-street parking. Significant on-street parking therefore takes place. In Percy Terrace, it is customary to park on the west side of the road.
4. Because Percy Terrace is narrow, when parked cars are present opposite the junction with South Street, the available road width remaining is insufficient to allow safe or practical turning manoeuvres into or out of the junction. There have also been occasions reported when it was impossible to get a car out of South Street. The picture in Figure 2, below, demonstrates this.

Delegated decisions



Fig.2 Effect of parking opposite South Street junction.

5. The reduced space available has resulted in significant damage to the footways on the corner of South Street as vehicles are forced to overrun them.
6. Parked cars have also caused problems for refuse collection vehicles, and recently attempts by utility companies to carry out works in South Street were delayed when vehicles were unable to get to the site.
7. In response to the issues raised residents were consulted on a proposal to provide 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions to keep the junction clear. A copy of the consultation plan is shown in Appendix A.
8. Given that there is high demand for off-street parking in this area, the restrictions are proposed to be provided on an experimental basis initially, so that the effect can be monitored before a decision is made on whether to make them permanent, and to allow for the extents to be altered if necessary.
9. All directly affected residents were consulted on the proposal. Six responses were received, all in favour of the proposed restrictions. A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix B.
10. Both local Ward Members are in favour of the proposed restrictions.

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11. It is therefore recommended that the proposed parking restrictions are implemented on an experimental basis for a period of one year so that their effectiveness can be assessed in advance of a decision being made on whether they should be retained on a permanent basis.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	None
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	Residents and Statutory consultees have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Alnwick

Background papers:

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File ref: HE213537D

Report sign off.

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

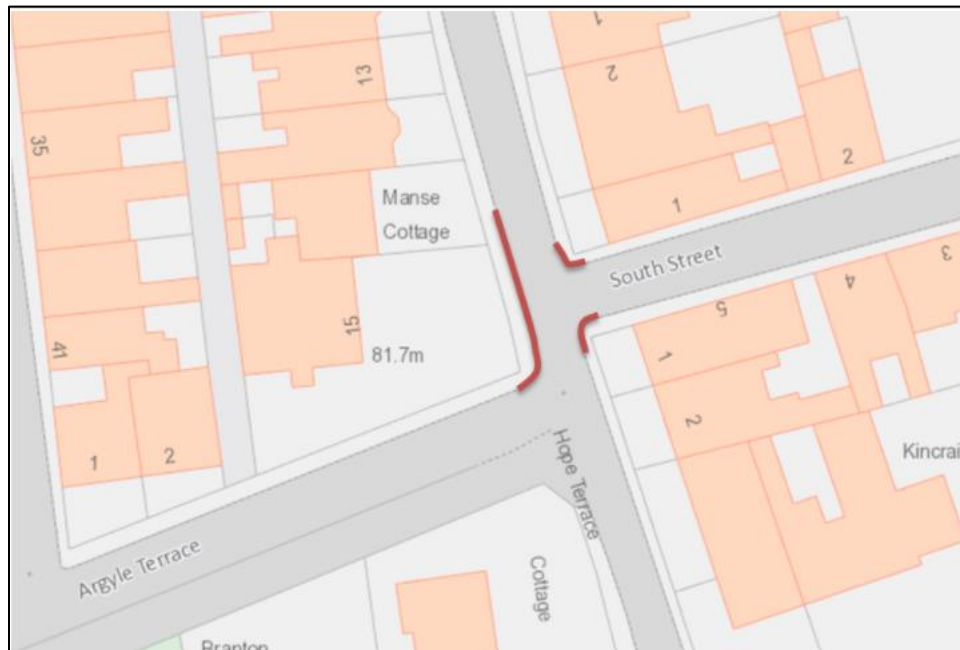
	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

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Appendix A – Consultation Plan



Proposed Experimental Parking Restrictions, Percy Tce/South Street, Alnwick

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Appendix B

Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>I feel these yellow lines are essential for the safety of all residents entering and exiting from South Street The extra parking from holiday lets , visitors and extra car ownership in Percy Terrace have made it increasingly dangerous and at times impossible to access our homes in South Street . Without being able to reach the top off our street we cannot safely view the traffic using Percy Terrace . We have to mount the pavements to enable us to get our vehicles out or work, shopping etc . We desperately need the entry to South Street made. No parking area to allow residents normal safe access . Recent difficulties have made it impossible for emergency repair vehicles to enter South Street . Council vehicles used to empty bins have found impossible at times to gain access .</p>
1			<p>Thank you so much for sending me your proposals for addressing concerns over roadside parking on Percy Terrace. I must tell you how much I welcome these proposals. I live in XX and nearly every day I have the greatest difficulty entering and exiting our street because of the number of cars parked opposite. On several occasions it has proved almost impossible to exit the street because of vans and lorries parked opposite. On one occasion I had an important hospital appointment and I was unable to drive there because I could not get our vehicle out of the street with the size of the vehicles parked opposite. One of my major complaints is the fact that certain drivers persist in parking opposite the street even when there are glaring parking spaces further down the street. On these occasions it seems to me both careless and thoughtless. One further point I would like to make is the fact that having to drive over the pavements at the corner of the street to avoid these parked vehicles is causing considerable damage to these same pavements. This must be a very unwelcome outcome to our Council as well as to ourselves. As you can imagine this situation causes both my wife and myself some unwarranted stress and we are both retired pensioners. If you can help us alleviate this problem with your proposals we would both be most grateful. Many thanks for your letter regarding Proposed Restrictions on Percy Terrace. We welcome this proposal whole heartedly, and have brought up our concerns at a recent meeting with local councillors who recorded our concerns and seemed very supportive. Access to and from out cul-de-sac South St. Is constantly blocked by cars parking opposite the exit – often large 4X4 vehicles or vans. This causes my husband considerable concern each day. Either we have to drive over the pavements, or at times are unable to leave our street. It is challenging to see oncoming vehicles and we are worried that an accident may happen. We are also concerned that essential services are unable to freely access our street – this summer an ambulance had to wait on Percy Terrace late at night when a neighbour had to be rushed to Cramlington Hospital. This is unacceptable. There have also been several occasions when B.T or Gas services have been unable to access the street and a neighbour has had to call the police to have a car moved. Delays in planned work therefore occur. We hope therefore that this proposal will be accepted by the Council and welcome any support you can give us as long term residents on this matter. We very much appreciate the support given recently by our local councillors</p>

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1		<p>Thank you for your letter ref HE213537D with details of the proposed experimental parking restrictions around the end of South Street. This proposal must follow from a meeting with Cllrs and convened by our neighbour which I attended, along with all our neighbours in South Street, and we thank the Councillor for their support. We are delighted to see the proposal and to have the chance to comment. South Street is a very short cul-de-sac (though not indicated as such to road users) and the exit from it and entrance into it from Percy Terrace have been made difficult and dangerous for decades owing to the almost constant parking of cars on the far side of the junction on (see Photo 1, taken last week). There is a local convention in Percy Terrace that cars park only on the west side of the street. It is often necessary to mount the pavement in order to make the turn to/from South Street, and sometimes it is actually impossible to navigate the corner at all. So at the least, there is damage to the pavement at the corners which raises a trip/safety hazard to pedestrians, and at the worst, it is impossible to drive into our street, or to drive out by car, meaning that important appointments can be missed. The significant recent increase in tourist traffic parking in the area has exacerbated the basic problem of congestion around the junction. This is a location with easy access to the town centre and some “unknown” cars have been observed to be left parked for several days. There have also been problems over the years with access into South Street for emergency vehicles. On 2nd September, after our garage was flooded with sewage from a blocked drain in South Street, Northumbria Water (NWL) were prevented from deploying their jetting wagon into our street to undertake emergency drainage works owing to an unknown car being parked (for several days) at the junction on between Percy Terrace and Argyle Terrace (see Photo 2). The Police were informed and attended (Incident No 061102/09/21) but were unable to take any action since the parking, although utterly inconsiderate, was not actually illegal. Both we and NWL raised with the Council the problems of the consequent delay to the essential work and the cost to NWL of a wasted day for their operatives and equipment. So we very much welcome the strategically placed double yellow lines being proposed in the three locations to improve the access between South Street and Percy Terrace and look forward to seeing the results of your monitoring of their effectiveness. We shall also be keen to see where the cars “displaced” by the new restrictions will choose to park. In this context, while monitoring of the area is underway, it may also be useful to monitor the area around the junction between Percy Terrace and Argyle Terrace, into which the double yellow lines extend, to see the impact both on parking and on local parking conventions. In conclusion, we strongly support the proposed experiment and the associated monitoring, and thank you very much for your helpful consideration of this issue which has blighted our and all our neighbours’ lives for decades</p>
1		<p>I agree with these proposals. It is a problem and while, by nature, I dislike endless double yellow lines/parking permits etc there is clearly a problem here and this is the obvious way for rectify it.</p>

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1		<p>I would like to give my views on the proposed Double Yellow lines opposite and around the corners of South Street. Exiting South Street has always been unsafe as looking right then left does not work. The cars coming down Percy Terrace are on the wrong side of the road accelerating down before something comes up. The proposal will significantly reduce the risk of a collision when cars are exiting South Street. The cars coming down Percy Terrace will no longer be on the wrong side of the road and they will be able to get a clear view of Percy Terrace before overtaking the parked cars. Cars exiting South Street will no longer need to cross the pavement. Thank you for your proposal to provide double yellow lines, it will make the situation much safer. It was a pleasure to receive your proposal for Double yellow lines opposite and around the corners of South Street. It addresses the concerns raised by the residents of South Street and will improve everyone's safety when accessing and exiting South Street. The attached document shows some recent problems caused by cars parking and unknowingly obstruction the highway. - In addition to the improved safety when accessing and exiting there are a number of other benefits - 1) We will no longer have to do three points turns to get into or out of South Street. 2) People will no longer unknowingly park and obstruct access to South Street for emergency vehicles and deliveries. 3) We will be able to turn right down Percy Terrace rather than having to turn left the do a three point turn to go down Percy Terrace. 4) The residents try to park and allow space at the corners of South Street to enable cars to enter and exit the street. The yellow lines will prevent people parking in this space which makes access and exit impossible. 5)We will no longer need to take up valuable police time resolving the parking issues. 6) The weekly refuse collections will be able to access South Street and the men will no longer have to pull the bins to Percy Terrace to empty them. 7) our deliveries will be able to be made rather than returned to the supplier because they could not access South Street. 8) Drivers coming down Percy Terrace will get a clear view of the traffic coming up the road and hopefully reduce the need to accelerate down the road before someone comes up. 9) Had the yellow lines been in place Northumbrian Water would not have had 8 men and 4 vehicles unable to access South Street to work on the sewer due to a car obstructing the Highway. We are pleased that our concerns have been supported by our local councillor and Northumbrian water. Thank you for considering our issue and for your proposal for the double yellow lines.</p>
1		<p>With reference to "Double Yellow Lines" on Percy Terrace, Alnwick I am of the opinion it is essential that we proceed with the lines for the following reasons. 1) the safe accessing & exiting of South Street. 2)The accessibility for the emergency services as happened recently when an ambulance was needed for a resident of South Street. 3) Viewing the traffic when leaving South Street. In the past I have indicated to turn left up towards "The Dunterns" when a car came down at speed and in trying to avoid me when I was inching out hit a vehicle parked on Percy Street at the entrance to South Street. Like everybody else in the vicinity of South Street think it is a no brainer that yellow lines be applied and cannot understand why there is any argument about it.</p>
6	0	0

DECISION TAKEN

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

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

Subject:

PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS,
U3124 PERCY TERRACE, ALNWICK

Consultation

∅ For: 6

∅ Against: 0

Decision Taken:

The proposed experimental parking restrictions are implemented for a period of one year so that their effectiveness can be assessed in advance of a decision being made on whether they should be retained on a permanent basis

Signature of Director



Date

14th February 2022
