



# Northumberland County Council

## **RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

**Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport**

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**Proposed Parking Restrictions – Abbeyfields First School, Morpeth**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle, Improving Our Roads & Highways**

**13 October 2023**

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### **Purpose of Report**

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce new parking restrictions directly outside Abbeyfields First School in Morpeth.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the proposed parking restrictions are implemented in order to improve road safety in the area.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2023-26:

‘Thriving Places and Culture – Neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained’

### **Key Issues**

1. Northumberland County Council has received concerns from Northumbria Police and residents in the area regarding obstructive and indiscriminate parking during school start and end times outside Abbeyfields First School in Morpeth.
2. Additional parking restrictions have been proposed on Abbots Way in Morpeth as a result in order to alleviate these concerns.
3. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor.

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4. The scheme is to be funded through the 2023/24 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

### Background

Abbots Way is a single carriageway situated directly outside Abbeyfields First School and includes a school entrance access along with an informal turning circle area with an informal lay-by used for parking. The school is located on the northern side of the road, whereas the southern and eastern side is primarily residential, meaning there is a relatively high demand for parking within the area.

The area is used as a pick-up and drop-off point by parents accessing the school during peak start and end times, with parking restrictions in the form of 'School Keep Clear' zig-zag markings currently in place to prohibit dangerous parking on Abbots Way at the school entrance.



**Fig. 1: Existing parking restrictions outside Abbeyfields First School, Morpeth**

The 'School Keep Clear' restrictions are prescribed at minimum and maximum lengths by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016, therefore the markings must stop at a point before the corner of the road leading from the school's access into Abbots Way derestricted, meaning vehicles are often parked there during a time period where vulnerable pedestrians such as schoolchildren are more prominent on the highway and visibility is subsequently restricted.



**Fig. 2: Example of parking on the corner of Abbots Way, Morpeth**

### **Proposal**

Officers from Northumbria Police have informed NCC of observed obstructive and indiscriminate parking on both sides of the road at this location. In order to alleviate these issues, further parking restrictions are proposed outside the vicinity of the school's entrance gates.

'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions in the form of double yellow lines were initially proposed on both sides of Abbots Way, extending from the existing 'School Keep Clear' markings and can be observed in Appendix A. During the consultation, one response requested that the double yellow lines on the north side were less restrictive. Full consultation results are listed in Appendix B. As a result, the waiting restrictions on this side of the carriageway are proposed to operate Monday-Friday between the hours of 8-9:30am & 2:30-4pm i.e. single yellow lines. Details of the proposed amendments with an overview of the final planned extents are outlined in Appendix C.

The proposal is intended to increase road safety, maintain the free flow of traffic where possible and to protect the amenity of the area overall. Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the permanent Traffic Regulation Order.

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### Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Scheme will be financed through the LTP 2023/24 programme.
<b>Legal</b>	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The proposal is designed to reduce the risks associated with obstructive and indiscriminate parking.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Statutory consultees, directly affected residents and the school have been consulted.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Morpeth Kirkhill

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### **Background Papers**

File reference – S:\Highways\PROJECT\22\HE Minor Improvements\HE223606D - TROs Countywide\HE223630D Castle Morpeth (Central)\HE223630D-03 Abbeyfields School, Morpeth

Appendix A – Consultation Plan

Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Appendix C – Post-Consultation Plan

### **Author**

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**Report Author**    **William Binks, Programme Officer**

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### DECISION TAKEN

<b>Title of Officer</b>	Director of Environment & Transport
<b>Subject</b>	Proposed parking restrictions at Abbeyfields First School, Morpeth
<b>Consultation</b>	For: 2 (100%) Against: 0 (0%)
<b>Decision Taken</b>	To introduce new parking restrictions at Abbeyfields First School, Morpeth

**Signature of Director**



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**Date**

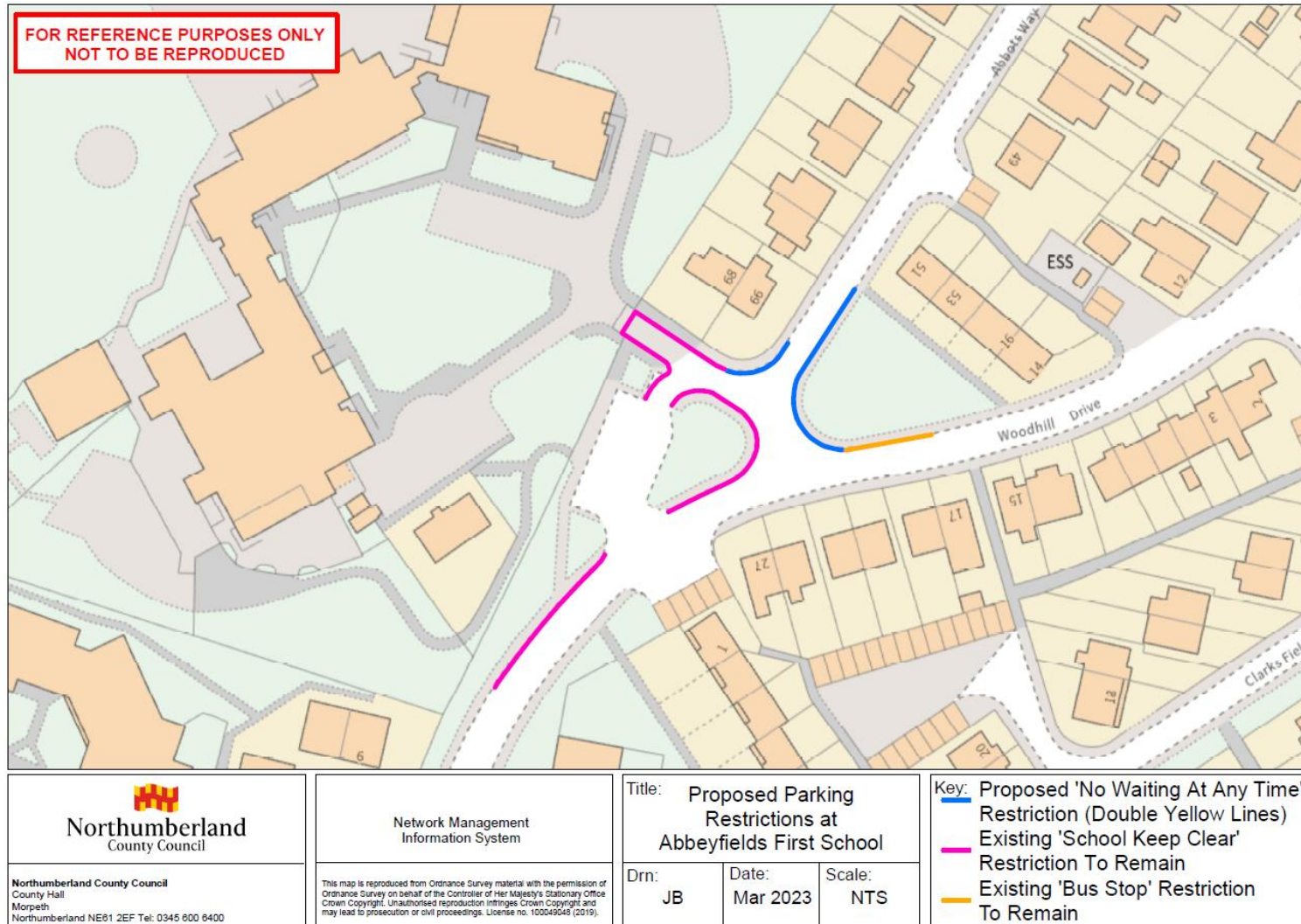
13<sup>th</sup> Novemer 2023

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## Appendix A – Consultation Plan





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### Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Key: F = For; A = Against

<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
	1	I would like to register the support of Abbeyfields First School for the proposed introduction of yellow lines as shown on your plan.
	1	<p>We welcome the proposal of introducing double yellow lines in certain areas of Abbots Way. We wish to register our opposition to the implementation of double yellow lines on the corner of Abbots Way directly outside of our property. We feel this is unnecessary as the current yellow zig zag lines are more than adequate controlling parking outside of the school gates, which could be extended to the corner and be less restrictive, if parking restrictions are required to be implemented at all.</p> <p>We also have concerns that implementing double yellow lines outside of [our property] could possibly de-value our property and any future planning applications we may have.</p> <p>I understand that it may not be possible to reply directly though would welcome your feedback regarding any decisions made prior to the implementation of the parking restrictions.</p>
2	0	

Appendix C – Post-Consultation Plan

