



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones

Proposed Parking Restrictions – U6109 Challoner’s Gardens, Morpeth

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

04 August 2023

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to provide an extension to the ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ (double yellow lines) restrictions at Challoner’s Gardens in Morpeth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ parking restrictions are implemented in order to improve road safety in this 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 via the local County Councillor regarding obstructive and indiscriminate parking at Challoner’s Gardens in Morpeth.
2. A consultation has been undertaken with a view to address the situation but lacked enough support to justify its full implementation.
3. As a compromise, a short section of ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ restrictions are proposed to be extended on both sides of the road.
4. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor.
5. The scheme will be funded from the 2023/24 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme and is supported by the local County Councillor.

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Background

The U6109 Challoner's Gardens road is primarily residential in nature with limited off-street parking facilities available. As such, vehicles from residents and visitors to the area park on both sides of the road which obstructs the flow of traffic and limits forward visibility for road users.

The south-eastern section of the road is already covered by 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions to prohibit any parking here.



Fig 1: Double yellow lines on Challoner's Gardens indicated in red

The rest of the carriageway remains derestricted on both sides thereafter, leading to congestion issues and residents often being unable to access their own driveways on a regular basis.

Proposals to extend waiting restrictions for the full length of the road to assist in maintaining the free flow of traffic did not receive sufficient support due to concerns relating to the potential for displaced parking or a lack of on-street parking being available as a result. Responses to the consultation can be found in Appendix A.

Several of the responses requested 'Residents' Only' parking as a solution, however as local businesses and commercial properties are situated around the vicinity, this would not meet the Council's criteria. Only a 'shared use' approach would be considered, and this would not resolve the issue of obstructive parking in areas where residents require the carriageway to be clear to access/egress their properties. It is anticipated that additional off-street parking facilities in the town centre that recently opened may reduce congestion levels in residential streets situated here compared to the historic situation.

Proposals

In order to alleviate concerns raised by some residents, it is proposed to extend the existing restrictions for a short section only which would improve the maneuvering of vehicles accessing/egressing properties at this location and afford visitors, many of which are carers for residents living there, the

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opportunity to continue parking nearby. The new proposed plan can be found below in Figure 2.

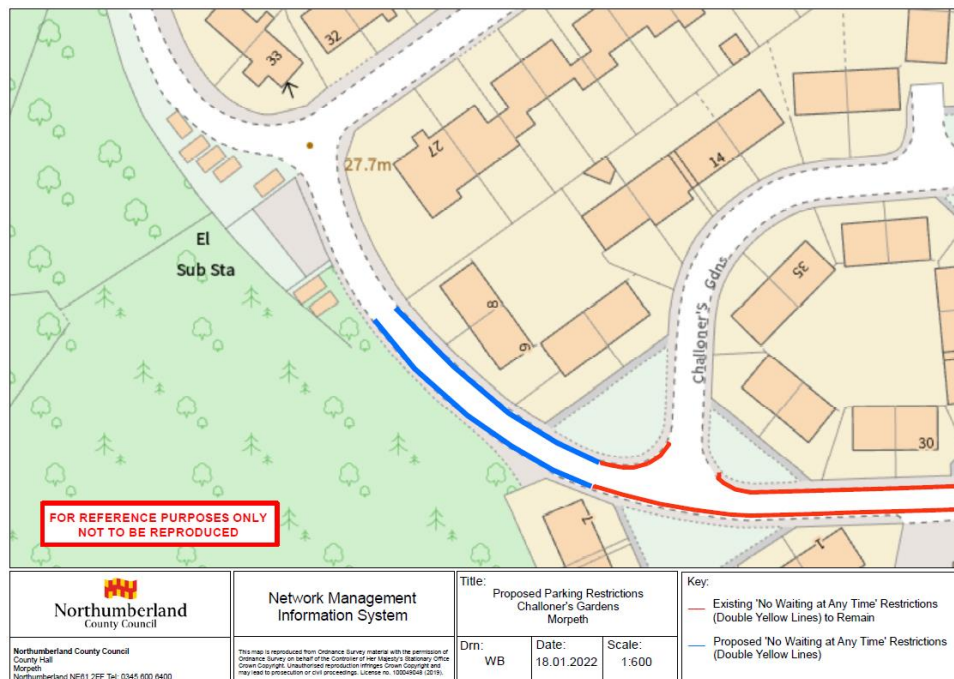


Fig 2: Proposed extended double yellow lines indicated in blue

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 Orders.

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Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies.
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the LTP 2023/24 Programme.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders.
Procurement	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 proposal is designed to reduce the risks associated with obstructive and indiscriminate parking.
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
Customer Consideration	Statutory consultees and directly affected residents have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Morpeth North

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Background Papers:

File reference – S:\Highways\PROJECT\21\HE Minor Improvements\HE213537D - TROs\HE213537D-36 Challoner's Gardens Morpeth

Appendix A – Consultation Responses

Appendix B – Original Scheme Plan

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **William Binks, Programme Officer**

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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Director of Environment and Transport

Subject: Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at Challoner's Gardens, Morpeth

Consultation: For: 4 (25%)
Against: 12 (75%)
Neither: 0 (0%)

Following the consultation exercise, the extents of the proposed restrictions were amended.

Decision Taken: To introduce extended 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at Challoner's Gardens, Morpeth

Signature of Director



Date

23rd August 2023

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Appendix A – Consultation Responses

Key:

- F = For
- A = Against

RESPONSE	F	A
<p>I'm writing in about the "Proposed 'No waiting at any time' Parking Restrictions on Challoner's Gardens, Morpeth. I live at number X Challoner's Gardens on the opposite corner to the proposed yellow lines and even from where I live I can hear the banging of car doors from morn till night. I can only guess what it is like to live beside the proposed area...a constant banging of doors and loud voices late at night and people turning nasty if anything is said to them...but it can't be very pleasant. I'm sure of that. It is for the above reasons that I am in full agreement of the proposal with a couple of caveats. First; and an obvious one is; 'where do the residents of the adjoining bungalows park their vehicles? Second; the people that habitually parked there and aren't from Challoner's Gardens, will start to park in front of the bungalows on the other side of the proposed restrictions from number X and around as shown on the map. Thirdly; will the residents affected by the proposed restrictions get a 'parking pass', that is, a FREE parking pass? This is a good idea simply because it is 'common sense' which I find in short supply nowadays. Sorry I sound like a right grumpy-old-man there.</p>	✓	
<p>I'm sending this to you in reference to HE213537D-36. I'm contacting you on behalf of my mother who lives at X Challoners Gardens, and the residents who live in the bungalows X, only one of these dwellings has access to of road parking and you're going to put yellow lines really you have not thought this through. All the residents in these properties have mobility problems and need regular contact with the outside world where are you suggesting there visitors park???? My thinking would be resident parking only or taking down the rails and have parking for X Challoners Gardens. Be advised that residents with drives park their cars on the road and not even in there drives even though they have access. Your reasons for putting up yellow lines is response to the minority who have access to off road parking and the majority who aren't lucky enough to have this, so people with drives get the best of both worlds. Hopefully this email will let you think about these changes and think about everyone.</p>		✓
<p>I am contacting you in response to your letter dated Monday 6th September regarding proposed new parking restrictions at Challoners Gardens in Morpeth. I have been a resident for only a few weeks at this address. There is only one possible place to park and that is the area you propose to put the yellow lines. This area is already a difficult distance for me because I am disabled and also for the other residents of bungalows X because we are all either elderly or suffering with mobility issues. To make it so that parking is even further away is going to cause huge problems for us all. It seems that this is happening because of the complaints of only 2 or 3 residents. These people have driveways that they claim they can't access but they can and do. They are very lucky to have driveways in an area where parking is limited. I would like to clearly state my concerns about this proposal for the following reasons; There is quite literally nowhere else for us to park. Disabled and elderly people will be forced further away than they already are. There are only 3 people who live opposite the proposed lines which seems unfair when they are the minority (and they have driveways). It feels discriminatory to all of us, including the carers who need to park to look after the two ladies who require constant care on the street. This will have an effect on visitors to the elderly and disabled who are already suffering from loneliness and mental health issues due to isolate on caused by limited contact with the outside world.</p>		✓
<p>I approve of your proposals for no waiting at any time parking but I feel they do not go far enough to solving the problem as the people who abuse the system will only move into the cul-de-sac where there are no restrictions and add to the existing problems with people using the High Stanners and river side for parking plus the over flow from the restaurant at the bridge. I feel that the addition of 2 sign posts stating resident parking only may solve the problem completely.</p>	✓	
<p>Many thanks for the correspondence I received with respect to the proposed parking restrictions on Challoners Gardens High Stanners Morpeth leading to Hollon Street, which can only be regarded as a good thing though long overdue. However, some meters at the beginning of the extension of to the double yellow lines on the wooded side of the road could cause come some concern for the residents and their health care visitors. There are easy ways around this minor problem. As you will see there are elderly peoples bungalows numbers X near or adjacent to the wood which don't have any parking area. A few, not many, own cars and health care workers arriving by car are regular visitors. Could a small section of the road near these bungalows be designated for residents only and signage indicating this, for example "Resident Parking only" to accommodate say 5 cars or some sort of permit or windscreen sticker for this small stretch of road. Another potential solution is to utilize the triangular area between house numbers X Challoners gardens for resident and visitor parking only for bungalows X and signs indicating this. Then there would be no controversy over a certain area of the proposed double yellow lines as per your plan. But for sure, double yellow lines are badly needed both sides on this section road leading to the junction with Hollon street as it continues to be used as a public car park. Actually myself and quite a few others would like to see the proposed double yellows extended by several meters around the bend where the road curves from Challoners Gardens onto Hollon Street opposite side to the sub-station. You can bet your life if no lines are present, the nuisance parkers will leave their cars on the bend and pavement where the yellow lines end. They have done this many times in the past causing a blind spot on the junction. I have included a picture of the bend where the yellow lines really ought to extend to, which is only a few meters past the point on your plan. Please see attached pictures of what residents have had to put up with over the years. As you will see, even a mini bus driver had the audacity to park his vehicle in front of somebody's drive. The elderly gentleman whose car was boxed in by the bus had to take his wife for a medical appointment and had such a job getting his car out. I was so angry I personally wrote a letter to PCL travel who the bus belonged to with a photograph of where one of their idiot drivers had parked his bus. Despite the "For Access Only" sign close to the Riverside Lodge pub at the entrance to High Stanners, nuisance parkers have, and continue, to totally ignore the sign (there were two of these signs either side of the road but one was removed by the council for pavement maintenance or whatever and for some reason never replaced?). As a result, elderly residents in the old peoples' bungalows have had to endure noisy motorists returning to their vehicles late at night, car alarms sounding, doors being slammed and loud music from cars is not unheard of either, particularly at weekends. Apart from that, the nuisance parkers are effectively making this stretch of road single file traffic, see photos, which can lead to friction between other road users. For example, if two cars meet, who is expected to reverse and let the other past. As the resident of X Hollon Street I myself have frequently had to reverse my vehicle sometimes 20 or 30 meters in order to let oncoming vehicles past. Some of whom flatly refuse to compromise. At the junction of Challoners Gardens and Hollon Street I have seen some near miss collisions again due to nuisance parkers causing blind spots who have no compunction about parking on, or very close, to the junction. Also electrical power supply workers have been unable to get near the substation to perform essential maintenance work and I have personally seen them having to carry tools and equipment quite a distance as they have not been able to get their works</p>		✓

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<p>vehicles near the substation, again because of inconsiderate nuisance parking. Yes the extension of "No Waiting At Any Time" yellow lines is a welcome proposition, however it must be remembered, these lines are not a physical barrier and I have no doubt whatsoever that some of these arrogant nuisance parkers will take not a blind bit of notice. So, enforcement of the No Waiting At Any Time will be a requirement for the yellow lines to be effective and the situation monitored as often as possible by the Civil Enforcement Officers or Parking Warden whatever they are called. Otherwise, if there is no consequence, the nuisance parkers will carry on as normal for sure as double yellows mean nothing to them. As is the case outside, and on the gable end of, the Riverside lodge pub. Actually, the yellow lines were renewed on the road at the gable end side of the Riverside Lodge a couple or so years ago but an inferior job was done and the lines have crumbled so stretches of the lines are now missing .Another consideration is council road sweeping machines cannot effectively clean this section of road as nuisance parkers are invariably there during the day denying accessibility. Thus leaves, especially in the autumn, and other debris tend to accumulate. Hopefully I have highlighted some points for your interest and consideration which should support the need for enhanced parking control on this stretch of road in High Stanners which for years has been used as a public car park for shoppers, night time revelers, etc., much to the inconvenience and annoyance of the residents. Kind regards.</p>	
<p>From my perspective the only residents to gain from the plan are numbers X and will only bring more cars into the cul-de-sac. My home is number X and already I frequently have cars parked half way and sometimes completely parked across my driveway. I installed this driveway 13 years ago, with the written permission of the then Housing Ass. but am at a loss as to how to solve the growing problem of parked cars. it is not the delivery vans that cause the problems but people parking and walking into Morpeth. It would be beneficial for me to have the yellow lines extended passed my driveway but can see that would of course mean more cars parking further into the cul-de-sac. Somewhere ago "Residents permits" were muted which I would have welcomed but unfortunately most residents objected to being asked to pay for them. Sorry I cannot be positive about the proposed scheme and can clearly see the monumental problems the County Council needs to overcome to solve them. Best of luck!</p>	✓
<p>This email is being sent to you in reference to the proposed yellow lines at Challoner's Gardens Morpeth. As a resident of Challoners Gardens I would like to pass on my views as I am not agreeing that double yellow lines will be the option for this. A good solution to this problem would be resident parking only not yellow lines or parking spaces where the railings are for those residents that don't have drives.</p>	✓
<p>I am contacting you in regards to my client of X Challoner Gardens. Ms. X was in very serious road traffic accident in January 2020. As a result of this accident Ms. X is now in a wheelchair and suffers with PTSD. The latter manifesting itself. Ms. X therapy team are currently working with Ms. X in order to make car journeys easier for her and they have just leased a vehicle to work on this area. If Ms. X can no longer park outside her property, we are concerned that she will have enhanced anxiety especially if having to look for spaces to be able to park. We have been advised that the parking in this area can be quite difficult. We had thought it might be worth applying for a disabled space to be added beside the property however as the bungalows in Challoner Gardens house mainly older/vulnerable clients it is a possibility that other residents may use this space. Please would you consider the above.</p>	✓
<p>As a resident of X Challoners Gardens I am responding to your letter dated September 6th putting yellow lines further along Challoner's Gardens will be unfair for the residents in X who don't have driveways or anywhere else to park we have disabled tenants in X number X is a lady of 93 year old who had family visiting every day to take care of her, number X is a severely disabled girl who has two carer's 24/7 also number X has learning disabilities and needs a career 24/7. Number X have their own driveways so this does not affect them in any way I would just like to point out that number X was renovated for the purpose of disabled resident at the cost of well over X so that they have somewhere to live and park. Yours sincerity a resident at number X.</p>	✓
<p>Regarding your letter to the proposed No Waiting At Any time parking restrictions for Challoners Gardens Morpeth. I agree with concerns of vehicles affecting visibility and access. However what you are proposing is not going to solve this ongoing parking problem for residents, as the cars will just drive into Cul de sac of Challoners Gardens and park outside of our homes, which we already have a huge problems with e.g. shoppers parking to go into town. Parents parking to take children to park, employees from town parking all day. This proposition is going to cause even huger problems for us residents, bearing in mind some residents have full time careers, and district nurses who also need to park. Nearly all residents have their own car to. I would only be in agreement with this proposal if residents were given a resident only parking permit for each household, bearing in mind a lot of residents are disabled and desperately need to be able to park at their door. Unfortunately this does not always happen due to shoppers people going to pub, sometimes parking overnight and town employers parking at our doors whilst they are at work. I do hope you will think clearly about the proposition and try to solve these parking problems for us residents.</p>	✓
<p>Thank you for your letter. Your proposal to extend the yellow lines will in my opinion create chaos in Challoners Gardens. Your proposal will not solve the problem it will only move it round the corner into Challoners Gardens. People are creatures of habit if they can't park there they will just park elsewhere. Challoners Gardens is a Cul de sac which is already chaotic. Have you considered the fact that the refuse collectors already have problems reversing into Challoners Gardens into the Cul de sac, that is not to mention emergency vehicles like ambulances, fire brigade etc. When you add more vehicles to an already congested Cul de sac only congestion can result. Someone is going to die just because someone parks a car and walks away. Surely it would be better to have some form residents only parking signage or to extend the yellow lines into Challoners Gardens as well</p>	✓
<p>I am writing to you about the yellow lines you are proposing to put in Challoners Gardens. I live at number X I am X years old and have a disability I cannot walk far due to back and hip problems which makes it difficult for me to get about I also have a blue badge for life due to limit of movement I can do. Where am I supposed to park my car? I got this bungalow to make life easier for myself to get about, if this happens where am I supposed to Park? How am I supposed to get to my home? Its ok for the other residents who have drives but on our side this is only place for us to park! Can I suggest you make this residents parking only so that us folk who live around here who all have some form of disability have somewhere to park, we all have a right for somewhere to park and I need a place to park near my home so I can easily get to and from my car!</p>	✓
<p>Residents parking has been long overlooked. The properties are designed in nature for disabled and frail occupants many having severe mobility problems [and] carers in attendance. Access to vehicles [is] essential for quality of life. Views and questions: 1. Yes to restricted parking extension to double yellows. 2. Where will residents / carers park? 3. Three hour blue badge still applys. 4. Residents would need to access parking. Is it proposed permit parking say two per household at annual small cost to each individual bungalow? 5. My fears are that non-residents and residents would park over the road and cause even more problems if provisions for residents [are] not addressed.</p>	✓
<p>I am writing about the proposal no waiting at any time in Challoners Gardens, I live there and if you put yellow lines you take away the only parking places for some of the residents. I sometimes have visitors and they have to park where the yellow lines are going to be. So I am not in favour.</p>	✓
<p>I wish to comment on the parking restrictions - Challoners Gardens, about extending yellow lines up to Hollon Street. This is</p>	✓

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<p>the only parking space available for Challoners Grds, if this goes ahead we are not allowed to have visitors, they will have to park in Town Centre and walk to Challoners Gardens. Elderly people need visitors or we are isolated. Hoping the above change does not go ahead.</p>	
<p>There is barely enough parking spaces for our street alone, No X parks just past the yellow lines as there is nowhere else for him to park. Carers need to park two cars for change over which I think is no X, where do they park? The elderly residents in my street, often need nurses visiting the last count was 4 nurses visiting 4 people, in any one week. There are only two spare parking place in my street, I will show on the map. If no X gets visitors which is every day that can be the street full of cars. If my sons visit form different area, thats the parking for two cars mainly on an evening. If X gets visitors it can be any time of the day or evening. I propose you take away the grassed area nearest no X and make proper residents parking available. No X needs visitor/nurse parking. No X need visitor/nurse parking. No X need visit/health workers parking. Thats without regular food delivery vans, karbon vans, and ambulances which are frequently here due to are ageing community. As most who have cars also have blue badges it is really awkward when you can't park outside our own doors, disabled parking bays should seriously be considered to stop people from the pub parking when there is weddings and entertainment nights. At the end of school days people park near to the riverside pub, to collect children which can seriously restrict residents getting into Challoners Gardens which is quite a nuisance too. Another area that could be used for parking is marked on the map with a P</p>	✓

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Appendix B – Original Scheme Plan

