



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Quay Road & Ballast Hill, Blyth

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

22 November 2022

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to provide waiting and loading restrictions on Quay Road and Ballast Hill in Blyth.

Recommendations

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

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

1. The County Council has received concerns regarding obstructive and indiscriminate parking at Quay Road between its junction with Bridge Street and Ballast Hill in Blyth.
2. 'No Loading at Any Time' restrictions were subsequently installed on the western side of Quay Road to alleviate these issues.
3. Following concerns raised by members of the public who access the Auction House situated on Quay Road relating to reduced facilities to load and unload as a result of this, new proposals have been consulted on.
4. The scheme is to be funded by Councillor Cartie through her Members' Local Improvement Scheme Allowance.

Background

The section of Quay Road between the roundabout on the B1329 Bridge Street and Quayside is a built-up area within Blyth town centre, consisting primarily of local businesses and an emergency services station within the properties situated there.

Waiting restrictions in the form of double yellow lines to prohibit parking have been in place on the western side of Quay Road to maintain the free flow of traffic, especially for emergency services when entering or exiting their service station. Concerns have been raised with the local County Councillor regarding vehicles stopping on the existing double yellow lines directly outside the ADG Auction House, which, when other vehicles are parked opposite on the derestricted side of Quay Road, presents road safety issues through obstructing the flow of traffic, limiting forward visibility and, when mounting the footway, forcing pedestrians onto the live carriageway to navigate through the vicinity.



Fig. 1: Original layout of Quay Road between Bridge Street & Ballast Hill

As a result, loading restrictions were introduced via a Traffic Regulation Order in the form of double kerb blips alongside the existing double yellow lines on the western side of the carriageway. This prohibits any loading or unloading at all times in order to mitigate the issues that were experienced by road users. Whilst this practice of introducing waiting and loading restrictions on routes where emergency services require access is consistent with other areas across the County, it is acknowledged that kerbside space is subsequently reduced for the purposes of deliveries.

The County Council undertook a consultation in March 2022 where views were sought in response to proposals which would provide a Loading Bay at the bottom of Ballast Hill, 'Keep Clear' zig-zag markings outside the emergency services access and double yellow lines and double kerb blips on the eastern side of Quay Road between Bridge Street and Ballast Hill, details of which are outlined on the plan in Figure 2.

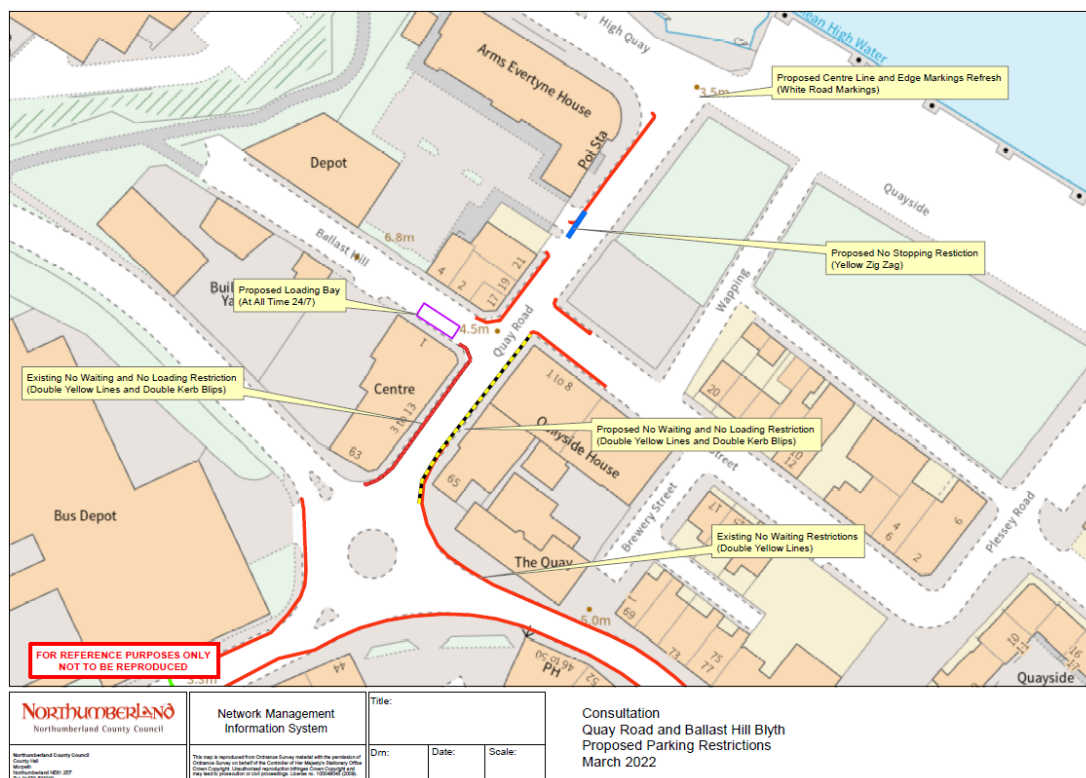


Fig. 2: Consultation plan for Quay Road & Ballast Hill, Blyth

Whilst the majority of responses were against the proposal, we still propose to proceed with the introduction of the proposed parking restrictions. This is due to the fact that many consultees have indicated that their preference would be for a Loading Bay to be provided directly outside the Auction House premises, however this would not alleviate the concerns that were originally raised on Quay Road. The provision of a Loading Bay on Ballast Hill continues to allow businesses to load or unload as close to the properties as possible in a safe manner. A summary of the responses received can be found in Appendix A.

Details of the final scheme can be found in Appendix B. The local County Councillor, Blyth Town Council and Northumbria Police support the proposals, which are intended to increase road safety, maintain the free flow of traffic where possible and to protect the amenity of the area overall. Other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments 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 through the Members' Local Improvement Scheme Allowance.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders.
Procurement	Signs 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 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 properties have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Wensleydale

Delegated Decision

Background Papers:

File reference – S:\Highways\PROJECT\21\HE Minor Improvements\HE213537D - TROs\HE213537D-61 Quay Road Blyth 2022

Appendix A – Consultation Responses

Appendix B – Scheme Plan

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **William Binks, Programme Officer**

Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services

Subject: Proposed parking restrictions at Quay Road & Ballast Hill, Blyth

Consultation: For: 4 (33%)
Against: 12 (67%)
Neither: 0 (0%)

Decision Taken: To introduce new 'No Waiting or Loading at Any Time', 'Loading Only' and 'No Stopping on Entrance Markings' restrictions at Quay Road & Ballast Hill, Blyth in order to address road safety concerns in this location.

Signature of Director



Date
5 January 2023

Delegated Decision

Appendix A – Consultation Responses (F = For; A = Against)

F	A	Comments
1		I have looked at the proposal and it seems very sensible to me generally. I have just one query, does the car park behind the auction room not belong to them, with access to premises? If it does, why is there a need for a loading area?
	1	The loading bay on Ballast Hill is not appropriate for our business, which is an auction sale room. We bring in and take out [a significant amount] of items large and small through our doors every fortnight. Many of our clients are disabled and have to carry their items from their vehicles. Closer access to our front door is necessary. If we have to transport goods from Ballast Hill, then we will be causing an obstruction to the pavement, which is what I believe has caused all the previous trouble. As you will be restricting parking on both sides of Quay Road, a loading bay outside our door would allow us and our clients to load and unload without blocking the road or the pavement. I have spoken to the Police and they have no objection to a loading bay outside our premises, as the opposite side of the road to our building will have no parking there giving them clear access to the roundabout. I can't understand why you cannot give a loading bay to a business that needs access to their only viable entrance especially when you remove the problem of vehicles parking opposite us, unless of course this is a personal attack by a person within the Highways department. We need to be able to unload vehicles straight in to our entrance. We unload and load large amounts of goods. If we have to transport goods form Ballast Hill loading bay and it's raining or inclement weather, some goods will get damaged and be unsaleable. In these difficult times businesses need help not hindrance especially from Council or Highways departments. We need a loading bay on Quay Road adjacent to our entrance especially as you are proposing no loading, unloading or parking opposite our entrance. ADG Auctions and their clients need a loading bay adjacent to their front main entrance on Quay Rd. As you propose to restrict parking or loading opposite our main entrance, there will be ample room for a loading bay on our side of the road and then there will be not need to park on the pavement to load and unload. A lot of our clients are disabled and need to be able to load as near to our main entrance as possible. Why have we just received written notification at this stage 22/03/22 when this has been online since 04/03/22? Also why has there been no notifications in the street area?
	1	I am writing regarding the parking restrictions outside ADG Auctions at Quay Road Blyth. Due to the new parking restrictions outside these premises, customers now have to carry goods across a dangerous main road, or for a ridiculously long distance. This poses a health and safety issue with people dropping off and collecting goods. The proposed loading and unloading bay would be more realistically placed adjacent to their main entrance. A loading and unloading bay adjacent to their main entrance is the most viable and obvious safety solution.
	1	A loading bay is required adjacent to the main entrance on Quay Road, not on Ballast Hill.
	1	Do you think of helping business to grow by making it so awkward for customers to collect goods purchased at ADG Auctions? Think again.
	1	Due to new parking restrictions at the main entrance of ADG Auctions Quay Road, we now have to carry goods across a dangerous main road or for a ridiculously long distance. Would you please place a loading bay adjacent to their only viable entrance, the main door to make it safe when we load and unload.
	1	Due to new parking restrictions at the main entrance of ADG Auctions Quay Road, we now have to carry goods across a dangerous main road or for a ridiculously long distance. Would you please place a loading bay adjacent to their only viable entrance, the main door to make it safe when we load and unload.
	1	I don't believe where the loading bay [would be] has been thought about properly and has been rushed as part of a bad original job. This won't stop the original problem, [but will] just make it worse.

Delegated Decision

	1	Due to new parking restrictions at the main entrance to ADG Auctions on Quay Road, we now have to carry goods bought across a dangerously busy road to our car. Both my husband and myself are disabled and any heavy items can no longer be carried to our car - we cannot expect the auction staff to carry our purchases to the car park on the riverside, and cannot carry them ourselves. In the interests of common sense, would you consider placing a loading bay outside the main entrance of the auction house to enable safe loading and unloading of goods to our vehicles? I understand there was no consultation or notice given to ADG management - is there a reason why this was not done as is usual when planning road safety and restrictions?
	1	Due to the new parking restrictions at the main entrance of ADG Auctions Quay Road we now have to carry goods across a dangerous main road or for a ridiculously long distance (250mts). Would you please place a loading bay adjacent to their only viable entrance the main door to make it safe when we unload.
	1	This is an objection to the new parking lines that have been painted and enforced in Blyth on Quay Road outside of ADG Auctions. I just cannot believe or understand the new yellow lines prohibiting parking outside of ADG auctions. Their fortnightly sale has over 1200 lots, the majority are collected from the site. How does anyone expect buyers to transport items from the sale room over a main road, a very busy main road. To where ever they can get a vehicle parked. It's only a couple of weeks when I was collecting purchases on the Monday walking back over Quay Road to Sussex [Street] / Wapping when a Police car half way up Quay Road decided to hit the blue lights and klaxon, the vehicle was past half way up Quay Road having left the Police Station heading out onto Bridge Street. I dropped two boxes I was carrying in an effort to get out of the way, the car swerved to miss me, hitting one of the boxes. Next time it will be a pedestrian, why can't the yellow lines be changed over, from one side of the street to the other, stick a 10 minutes sign up loading / unloading, problem solved. It takes some comprehending who passes and why decisions like this get passed, approved and implemented. Please act now, it's not easy carrying stuff, sometimes quite large stuff and the person's view becomes severely restricted. Sorry you have created an accident just waiting to happen, problems for the purchasers who use the auction. It would be so easy to exit the front doors and have access to your transport, not staggering down the street or worse still down onto the quayside itself. Get the lines changed, create a loading bay with restrictions, and provide access and apply some common sense.
	1	Thank you for the letter of 11 March 2022. The proposals are definitely an improvement and will be less hazardous for drivers accessing and exiting the roundabout. With regard to the yellow lines leading up to the loading bay, I think they need to be extended, I am not sure of the length of the loading bay, because if there are two tail lift vans, they need to be within the lines (I think it would be advantageous allow two vehicles within the loading bay) as the tail lift is hanging over the end of the kerb, where obviously pedestrians walk off the kerb. This may be a separate issue, what is the speed limit down Quay Road and what is the speed limit on the Quayside? It is like a race track at times - from the corner near The Police Station through to the gates by Plessey Road. This is also a pedestrian area. Thank you.
	1	As a regular visitor the loading bay really needs to be on Quay Rd adjacent to the main entrance of the Eric Tolhurst Centre on Quay Rd, not Ballast Hill. Please can you record my objection.
	1	Due to new parking restrictions at the main entrance of ADG Auctions, Quay Road, Blyth I now have to carry goods across a dangerous main road or for a long way to walk carrying goods (which sometimes can be large and heavy). Would you please consider placing a loading bay adjacent to their only viable entrance, their main door, to make it safe when loading / unloading.
	1	I wholeheartedly support the introduction of these restrictions for the following reasons: clear access and egress for emergency services who use this road frequently, this should be the most important factor; a safe environment for all road users; and it will still provide a suitable point for ADG Auction to service their business.
	1	We would support any reasonable changes that were put forward to prevent double parking within the street. This would allow ourselves and also the Ambulances from the building ready access to the road and prevent any potential delays to our response and also allow sufficient room for our vehicles to pass without there being an elevated risk of a collision.
4	12	

Delegated Decision

Appendix B – Scheme Plan

