



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones

Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Rothbury Road & A697, Longframlington

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

12th May 2023

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Rothbury Road & A697 in Longframlington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions be introduced with the amendments agreed by Councillor Thorne and the parish council.

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. The parish council and police have raised concerns about road safety on Rothbury Road and A697.
2. They have reported that there have been a number of near misses, due to restricted visibility at the junction.
3. The current parking situation is narrowing down the junction, making it difficult for HGVs to join the main carriageway. As well as increasing the risk to pedestrians crossing the carriageway.
4. Councillor Thorne and the parish council support the proposals
5. The scheme will be funded by the Local Transport Plan 2023/24 programme.

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Background

Rothbury Road runs perpendicular to the A697 which runs through Longframlington. Along with the residents of Rothbury Road, it is also used as a cut through route to Rothbury and therefore carries significant volumes of all types of traffic.

On Rothbury Road, from its junction at the A697 to Church Lane, vehicles park solely on the right-hand side of the carriageway. In one section outside the church this narrows down the carriageway to a single running lane. This section acts as a traffic calming measure, slowing down vehicles approaching the junction.

However, vehicles parking on the junction and on the A697 outside the Running Fox are significantly reducing visibility at the junction. As well as narrowing down the junction, making it difficult for HGV's to safely join the A697.

Concerns have been raised via the parish council and police regarding road safety on Rothbury Road and A697. They have reported that there have been a number of "near misses" with vehicles not having sufficient visibility to safely pull out of the junction. In addition, the volume of parked cars at this location is making it increasingly difficult for pedestrians to safely cross the carriageway at this location.

The parish council and the police have therefore requested that 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions be considered in order to improve road safety in the area.



Google images of Rothbury Road & A697

Consultation

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The proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions were the subject of a consultation exercise which concluded on 24th of February 2023. The involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 78 residents and 28 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and disabled and transport associations and organisations. A copy of the consultation letter and plan is attached as Appendix A.

Responses were received from 20 consultees with 15 (75%) in favor and 4 against the proposals, 1 consultee did not express an opinion. A summary of the responses received is attached as Appendix B.

During the consultation, a number of consultees requested the restrictions to be extended further into Rothbury Road. This was discussed with the parish council, and it was agreed that removing the parking in this area would be detrimental to residents and businesses in this area. As previously mentioned, the parking in this area is slowing vehicles down.

Comments were also raised that the restrictions around the shop would mean that elderly and disabled patrons would struggle to access the shop. After a discussion with the Parish Council and Councillor Thorne, it was agreed that the double yellow lines would be removed. They would be replaced with white lines that demarcate the junction/parking areas more clearly and a hatched area to allow sufficient room for HGV's to safely join A697. This measure will also increase the overall visibility at the junction.

Recommendation

Given the concerns raised, and in view of the favourable consultation, it is recommended that the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions be introduced as shown in Appendix C as agreed with Councillor Thorne and the Parish Council.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
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Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the Local Transport Plan 2023/24 programme
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"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	The proposal is designed to improve road safety in the area.
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement
Customer Consideration	The proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time; parking restrictions will lead to a safer environment for all road users. 75% of consultees were also in favor of the initial proposal.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Shilbottle

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Appendix Index

Appendix A – Consultation letter and plan

Appendix B – Summary of consultation responses

Appendix C – Amended layout of proposed ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ parking restrictions

Background Papers:

None

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Michael McMonagle, Programme Officer**

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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Director of Environment and Transport

Subject: Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Rothbury Road & A697

Consultation: 20 responses received
15 in favour
4 against
1 no opinion

Decision Taken: To introduce the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Rothbury Road & A697 as shown in Appendix C as agreed with Councillor Thorne and the parish council.

Signature of Director



Date:

7th August 2023

Appendix A – Consultation Letter



Your ref:
Our ref: Rothbury Road
Enquiries to: Highways Programme
Email: Highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel direct: 0345 600 6400
Date: 8th February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Rothbury/A697

Concerns have been raised regarding vehicles parking in and around the junction of Rothbury Road. Vehicles being parking in these areas are narrowing the junction, causing issues for larger vehicles. As well as reducing the visibility for vehicles safely joining the A697.

In order to address ongoing road safety concerns, the County Council is proposing the addition of double yellow lines in the areas highlighted yellow on the plan overleaf.

I am therefore writing to you to ask for your views on this proposal. Please visit <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Roads/Traffic.aspx> or send your views via email to HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk. For those who don't have access to emails, a free post response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report to the Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection.

This consultation is open until **Friday the 24th of February 2023**.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Yours sincerely,

MC McMonagle

Michael McMonagle
Programme Officer





Northumberland County Council

Proposed parking restrictions – Rothbury Road/A697



Appendix B – Summary of consultation responses

Thoroughfare	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
			1	Thank you for your correspondence dated 8th February 2023 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
Church Street	1			As a compromise for shop parking is there room to allow a parking space in front of bank house for the A697 passing trade to the shop, or is this within 10m of the junction. Also, should lines be added opposite the junction to the south of the pub delivery access, to stop parking on the kerb by the block paved area north of Lilac Cottage?
Harecross Park	1			The parking on this junction is a major hazard to both vehicles entering and exiting Rothbury Road and pedestrians who have to cross at this point to reach NHS surgery provision.
White Cottages	1			The corner right by Carrs shop is a real problem - further back from the junctions not so much
Wardle Terrace	1			no comments
The Elms	1			We broadly support the proposal as we believe it will make the junction in general and access to and from our driveway in particular safer. Our only query is whether the area down the side of Carr's Corner, opposite the Village Inn on the A697, could be left available for customers to park. That area doesn't seem to cause many safety issues and it would I'm sure be helpful to the shop, who may otherwise lose custom.
Harecross Park	1			The parking makes this corner ever MORE dangerous than it already is. It blocks the ability for drivers and pedestrians to see effectively in both directions making the possibility of a serious accident more likely.
Enver Cottage	1			no comments

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	1			Better do it before there is a bad accident - Prevention is better than cure.
		1		I also disapprove because of my holiday let which should have parking outside my buildings as many older people use it and the walk will put some of my clients off using my holiday let all together, will also decrease the value of my buildings so massively disagree. However next to the butchers along the road parking is so bad and you struggle to drive past without stopping and no double lines are their along the A697.
	1			We live in Longframlington and strongly support the Proposal which we believe is essential for road safety. However, we would like to see the double yellow extended further along the North side of Rothbury Road. We would like it extended at least to the Church noticeboard. If there was an exemption for buses this would ensure that when buses have to stop, they will be able to stop at the side of the Road hence they won't hold up the traffic.
		1		The proposal for double yellow lines, I DO NOT SUPPORT. These restrictions would have a severe impact on the businesses, the shop customers park outside the building, there are also many deliveries during the day which range from small vans to HGVs. Deliveries to elderly, housebound and vulnerable customers are made throughout the week and the loading of groceries is required outside. There is no rear access to the shop therefore all vehicles need access to the front. The majority of my customers to the shop are elderly or have mobility issues and rely on being able to park outside the shop. The nearest car park is at the tank turn in the park further up Rothbury Road this is too far for people to park and walk back with bags of shopping. The side of the shop on the A697 actually has a layby, I do not understand why there is a need for parking restrictions being placed there. I agree that here is a need for double yellow lines on the A697 from the south and round that corner onto Rothbury Road. The area across the road from the shop on the A697, in 4 years I have never seen anyone parking there. If all the lines are agreed, I think people will use the car park at the back of the shop, which is an area for residents in Old School Court, this then would cause problems. There are six businesses that are hugely supported by the locals, this would affect all of them. Lonframlington is a small close-knit village and if the local businesses suffer to the point of closure, we will find a village and the surrounding villages with no local facilities. This has happened to many places due to large shopping centres

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				opening and taking business away from small family run shops, pubs and cafes. I feel that if the bollards were removed from Rothbury Road opposite the shop, this would then help as there would be more room for maneuver. I totally agree something needs to be put into place to address this issue, but not at the expense of local business footfall.
		1		I do not support these proposals. Double yellow lines will be detrimental to businesses in Longframlington. They will also be detrimental to the population of the village, especially for those whose mobility is comprised. To the best of my knowledge this notification was not mailed to every person/household within Longframlington and the surrounding area. I am sure there is a softer option which would keep the integrity of the village.
	1			We are emailing in support of the proposal to introduce parking restrictions in Longframlington
	1			Having lived in the village 41 years I have seen the safety of this junction deteriorate over the years. This has been caused by imposed over development resulting in more vehicles and the national problem of inconsiderate parking thus ignoring the highway code. My comments are as follows - 1. The parking restrictions on the south side of the junction need to be extended further into Rothbury Road up to the access to White Cottages (i.e., just before the bus shelter) 2. The parking restrictions around the grocery shop, Carrs Corner is a no-win situation. Delivery vehicles need somewhere to park, and the only suitable place is in the widening in front of the building on the A697. Maybe you could consider this area to be for loading only if that was possible. The give way line at this point is well beyond the kerb line giving space to park. Therefore, double yellow lines are not the answer on the A697 northbound on the west side. 3. Another option to consider is restricting parking to 30 minutes on Rothbury Road north side from the shop westwards alongside the Church. People who wish to park for longer should be encouraged to park on the Tank Turn in the village playing field. However, I believe the Parish Council have some issues if it were to be made an official car park. The other problem for businesses is that able bodied people might not be prepared to walk from the Tank Turn to the shops. 4. With the ever-expanding village the long-term solution is a car park on the east side of A697 next to the Telephone Exchange unless the proposed Longframlington bypass scrapped in 1990 was ever resurrected! 5. As you are no doubt aware

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				<p>unless illegal parking is penalised sections of the community will ignore the restrictions. That is unless you could afford to have a visiting traffic warden or a camera. 6. Finally I hope the yellow lines will be the 50mm wide suitable for rural areas. I hope you will consider my comments.</p>
Rothbury Road	1			<p>Could the lines be extended may be along Rothbury Road up to Gateway to Church entrance where the road narrows even more so.</p>
Lynn Cottage	1			<p>I think it would be better if the yellow lines were on both sides of the road.</p>
Willow Brae	1			<p>I don't drive and frequently have to cross the A697 which is often difficult and dangerous due to the reasons you have stated. I even go so far as to ask you to extend the double yellow lines in front of the Church as very often cars/vans park there and the x14 bus cannot pull into the bus stop and often have to stop in the middle of the road or way before or after the official stop. Also, the school buses have problems stopping to pick up the school children resulting in children panicking and running for the bus. Mums with babes and toddlers are also caught up in this as they try to see young children onto the bus.</p>
Rothbury Road		1		<p>I agree with the double yellow lines being added to the road of the A697. However, the businesses will be majority affected by this decision. I find it greatly disrespectful that you haven't thought about at all, when deciding to put these measures in place.</p> <p>The Way it can affect the small businesses. There is no car park in the village, and if there is a funeral there is even more limited parking. Therefore, I disagree and do not support the proposals of parking restrictions.</p>

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White Cottages		1		<p>I support part of these proposals, namely the need for double yellow lines on the north bound approach and corner of the junction (from the doctors surgery and around the corner past the Running Fox).However the parking outside the shop (on both Rothbury Road and A697) has never posed an issue for me and I would imagine this would impact the shop.</p> <p>Across the road on the southbound approach out of the Village, I have never noticed any parking. However, I could imagine the restrictions to be beneficial to the residents of Wardle Terrace. In my personal opinion, double yellow lines would be of more benefit further down Rothbury road particularly outside the Church and around the bus stops, it would also be good to have aa clearly marked bus stopping area for the buses going to Morpeth/Newcastle as they are often forced to stop in the middle of the road which causes traffic issues and is dangerous for those disembarking from the bus. However there probably would not be any need for any of these parking restrictions if the Running Fox would take some responsibility and ask their patrons to be considerate.</p>
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Appendix C – Amended layout of proposed ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ parking restrictions

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