



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR – LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

Amendments to Off-Street Car Park – The Terrace Car Park, Morpeth

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

28 November 2022

Purpose of Report

The following report sets out the background to the proposed amendments to the maximum length of stay restrictions at The Terrace Car Park in Morpeth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the amendments to the maximum length of stay in The Terrace Car Park are approved as proposed.

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. Northumberland County Council has approved the construction of a new leisure centre adjacent to The Terrace Car Park, which has also led to changes to its on-street parking restrictions on Gas House Lane.
2. The construction of these new facilities means the existing restrictions in The Terrace Car Park no longer reflect the needs of the surrounding area.
3. Changes to this car park are required in the form of the maximum length of stay in both the existing long-stay and short-stay areas.
4. The scheme is to be funded by the Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme 2022/23.

Background

Northumberland County Council gave planning permission for a new leisure centre to be built off Gas House Lane in June 2020. In order to carry out the works and as part of the planning application, it was agreed to close The Terrace Car Park so it could be used as part of the construction site for contractors. It is anticipated that this will be ready to re-open in early-2023.

To coincide with the new leisure centre facilities and on-street parking restrictions at Gas House Lane, amended restrictions to The Terrace Car Park are proposed in time for its re-opening.

Proposals

Currently, the car park is divided into two sections with differing restrictions on the maximum length of stay permitted within that area of the car park and the operating days/hours in which they apply. These are:

- The Terrace Car Park (Short Stay) – covers the majority of the car park, motorists parked in these bays may remain for a maximum of 3 hours, with no return within 4 hours. These restrictions apply from Monday to Saturday between 8am and 6pm, so there is no maximum length of stay in operation outside these hours;
- The Terrace Car Park (Long Stay) – smaller area which allows motorists to park for up to 72 hours, with no return within 6 hours.

Before the site was closed and when in operation, motorists were not required to display a disc on their vehicles. A location plan of the two existing off-street car parks and their proximity to the new leisure centre can be observed in Figure 1 below.

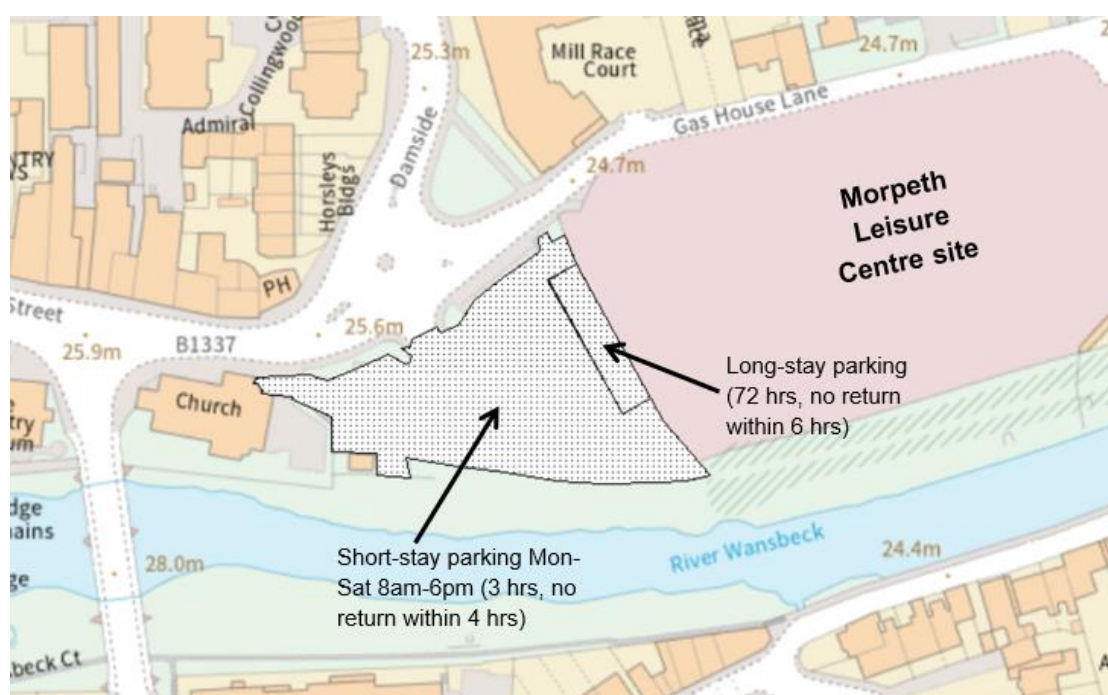


Fig. 1: Existing layout of The Terrace Car Park and location of Morpeth Leisure Centre

Delegated Decision

Visitors to the leisure centre travelling by car are likely to be using The Terrace Car Park as the main facility for parking and the existing restrictions referred to are impractical for this purpose. Whilst the current timescales of a permitted maximum stay of 3 hours within the short-stay car park are permissible, this does not apply outside the hours of 8am – 6pm or on a Sunday, which can be popular visiting times for leisure centre users before/after work or at weekends.

In order to accommodate the needs of the area and to encourage vehicular turnover affording users the opportunity to park during busier hours, the 3 hour maximum stay period is proposed to be implemented across the entire car park, operating all days and all hours, with the long-stay section to be removed completely and the car park to be renamed The Terrace Car Park. Motorists will be required to display a valid parking disc showing the quarter hour period during which a period of waiting began. New signage and road markings will be installed to reflect the new restrictions and the proposal is outlined in Figure 2 below.

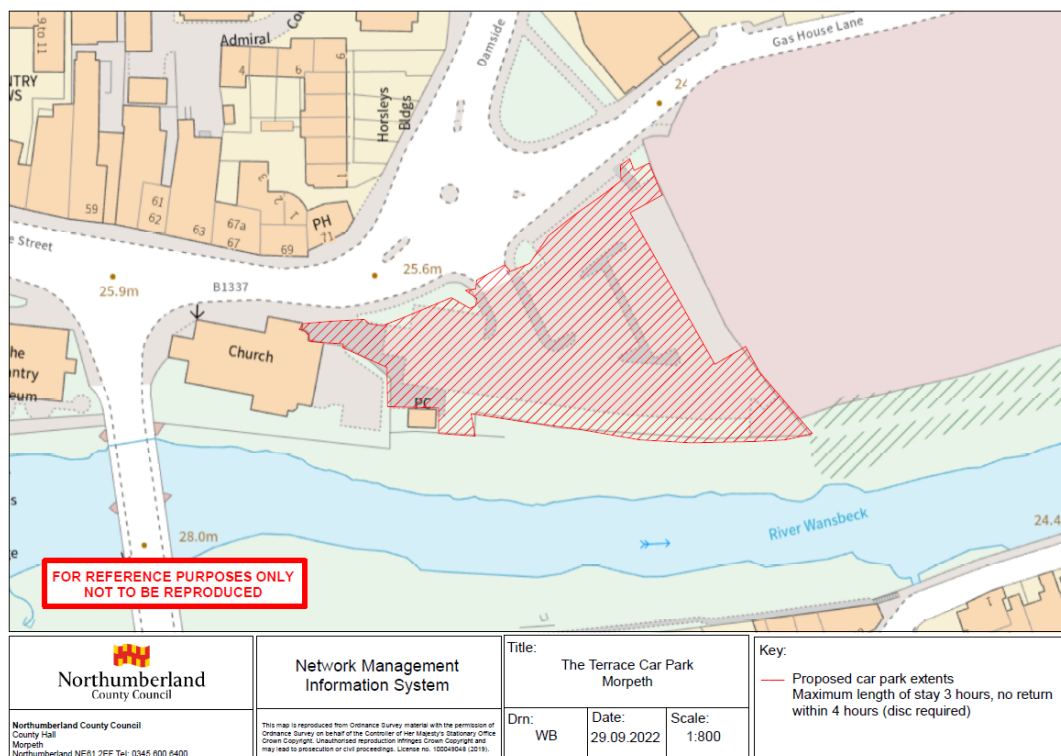


Fig. 2: Proposed new restrictions at The Terrace Car Park in Morpeth

Overall, it is expected that the new restrictions will improve off-street parking facilities as a whole within Morpeth town centre for all residents and visitors to the area. 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 Orders.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme is to be financed through the LTP 2022/23 programme
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders
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	None
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement
Customer Consideration	Statutory consultees will be informed
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Morpeth North

Delegated Decision

Background Papers:

File reference – S:\Highways\PROJECT\20\TDE External Design\TDE20004 - Morpeth LC s278

Author

Report Author **William Binks, Programme Officer**

Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services

Subject: Proposed amendments to The Terrace Car Park, Morpeth.

Consultation: Statutory consultees will be notified of the proposals.

Decision Taken: To introduce new maximum length of stay restrictions at The Terrace Car Park, Morpeth.

Signature of Director



Date

08.02.23
