



# Northumberland

## County Council

### RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

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**Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Town Foot, Rothbury**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle**

**21 November 2022**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Town Foot, Rothbury.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions be introduced 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"

Learning - "We want you to achieve and realise your potential"

#### **Key Issues**

1. Residents have raised concerns about road safety on Town Foot, Rothbury.
2. Residents have reported that there have been a number of near misses when coming out of Wrights/Lee Square.
3. When vehicles park on Town Foot either side of the junction to Wrights/Lee Square, residents are unable to see approaching traffic on the main road when trying to pull out of the junction.
4. The proposals are supported by Councillor Bridget.

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5. The scheme will be incorporated into the 20mph speed limit for Rothbury First School and is to be funded by the Local Transport Plan 2022/23 programme.

### **Background**

Town Foot is a section of the B6341, which runs through Rothbury. Access to Wrights/Lee Square is beneath an archway off the main road. Off road parking for residents of Wrights/Lee Square is accessed through the archway.

Vehicles are parking either side of this access, sometimes over the access itself. Which is restricting the visibility of residents when they are trying to safely join the main carriageway.

Concerns have been raised to Councillor Bridget regarding road safety on Town Foot. Residents have reported that there have been a number of “near misses” when trying to pull out of the junction because vehicles are parking to close to the access and at times making it dangerous to pull out. Councillor Bridget has therefore requested that ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ parking restrictions be considered in order to improve road safety in the area.

The ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ parking restrictions will be incorporated into the 20mph speed limit planned for Rothbury First School.



Google images of the access to Wrights/Lee Square from Town Foot

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### **Consultation**

The proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions were the subject of a consultation exercise which concluded on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 40 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 22 consultees with 21 in favor and 1 against the proposals. A summary of the responses received is attached as Appendix B.

During the consultation, one consultee raised the issue about parking outside the Old Motor House Garage. As rule 243 of the Highway Code states, **DO NOT** stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. With there being no authorised parking space, adding the double yellow lines in this area will be in line with this rule and maintain access to the garage doors. The footpath outside the garage is not adopted, but the carriageway is, so yellow lines can be put here. Letters were sent to all residents affected by this proposal.

Another comment that was made, was to extend the yellow lines across the junctions. As there are already white H bar markings across both junctions, which are very worn. These will be refreshed when the yellow lines are put down. This should clearly show that there is no parking in these areas.

Parking in this area when the new Co-op is opened was also mentioned. The yellow lines either side of the junction will remove 3 parking spaces, which according to rule 243 of the Highway Code, this area should not be parked in anyway. This scheme is solely to do with improving the safety for vehicles joining the carriageway from Wrights/Lee Square and is not related to the ongoing works to the Coop

### **Recommendation**

Given the concerns raised it is recommended that the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions be introduced as proposed.

### **Implications Arising out of the Report**

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<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Scheme will be financed through the Local Transport Plan 2022/23 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> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The proposal is designed to improve road safety in the area.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	The proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time; parking restrictions will lead to a safer environment for all road users. 95% of consultees were also in favor of the proposals.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	Speed reduction planned for the area will assist with carbon reduction
<b>Wards</b>	Rothbury

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### **Appendix Index**

Appendix A – Consultation letter and plan

Appendix B – Summary of consultation responses

Appendix C – Layout of proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Author and Contact Details**

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Report Author      **Michael McMonagle, Programme Officer**

**DECISION TAKEN**

**Title of Officer:** Service Director, Local Services

**Subject:** Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Town Foot, Rothbury.

**Consultation:** 22 responses received  
21 in favor  
1 against

**Decision Taken:** To introduce the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions on Town Foot, Rothbury.

Signature of Director



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26.01.23

## **Delegated Decision**

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### **Appendix A – Consultation Letter**



# Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** HE213557  
**Enquiries to:** Highways Programme  
**Email:** [Highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk)  
**Tel direct:** 0345 600 6400  
**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Proposed Parking Restrictions – Town Foot.**

Concerns have been raised regarding vehicles parking on either side of the junction to Wrights/Lee Square. This is causing vehicles to pull out into live traffic before being able to see clearly.

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. This will increase visibility at the junction and allow vehicles to join the carriageway safely.

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](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)

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 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.**

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Yours sincerely,

*McMonagle*

Michael McMonagle  
Programme Officer



County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE81 2EF  
[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



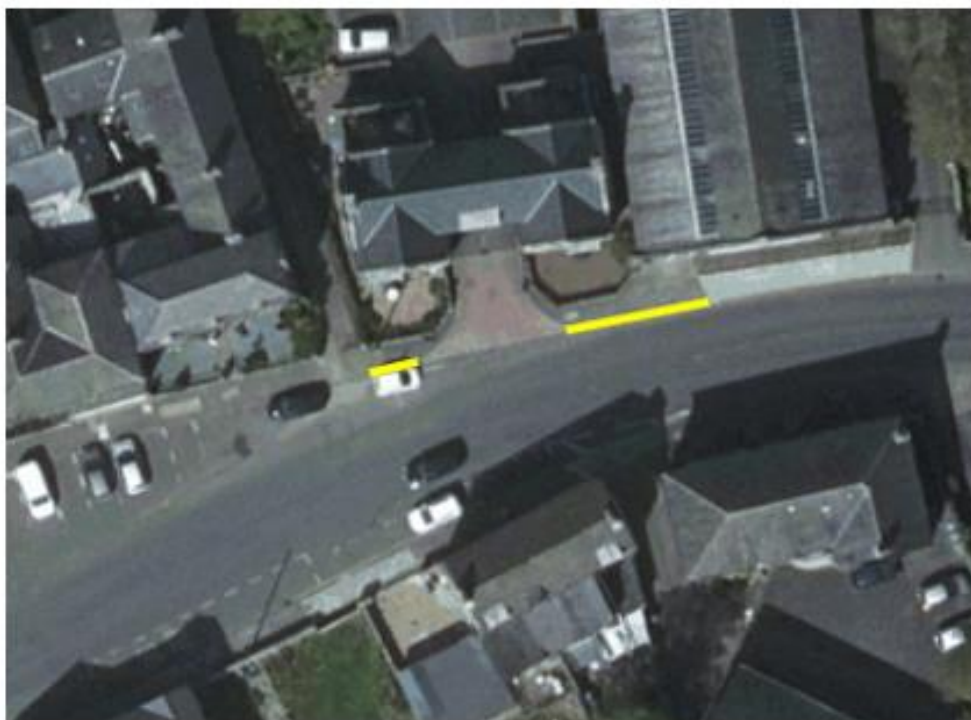




# Northumberland

County Council

## Proposed parking restrictions – Town Foot



County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF  
[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



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### Appendix B – Summary of consultation responses

Thoroughfare	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
Wights Square	1			
Wrights Square	1			I am a resident of Wright's Square and welcome this proposal wholeheartedly. It has become hazardous to exit our junction recently, exacerbated by the temporary crossing for the demolition work and the restrictions will be beneficial going forward when the new Coop is up and running.  I am in favour
Old Motor House		1		To Whom this may concern, I am the tenant of the Old Motor House Garage. As you are already aware of all the objections re parking at town foot due to the new coop being built, this would cause yet again more parking issues. I have already had clients complaining about the lack of parking. I feel sure that the shop (Pots & Paws) will also be objecting to this. As anyone will tell you we use the top doors for access, and we also use the space across them to park vehicles when we are stuck for parking. I was also under the impression that the front of the garage was the owners, where the petrol pumps used to be, which is why there has never been yellow lines there before? I would also like to know why I've been emailed this from a client and not a letter from yourselves? I await your response,
Wrights Square	1			I am resident of Wrights Square & I am delighted to support this proposal as every day the challenge of leaving the square becomes more difficult & dangerous m. I have lived here since 2004 and more recent this has become more of an issue with increased traffic through Rothbury travelling at speed & also parking without consideration it's an accident waiting to happen.
Wrights Square	1			I support the proposal of double yellow lines at the entrance of Lee's Square and Wrights Square. It has become increasingly dangerous trying to leave the square.
Wrights Square	1			In total support of the proposal as I have had to pull out in front of traffic for visibility.
Wrights Square	1			Thank you for the notification concerning the above. My partner and myself are very much in favour of the proposed parking restrictions, as it is a nightmare getting out of the complex safely and we fear that someone will be injured before much longer.
				Hope this proposal will get the permission required to carry out the road works.
	1			I am wholly in favour of the proposed parking restrictions
Wrights Square	1			
Wrights Square	1			Long overdue !!!!
Wrights Square	1			I am absolutely in full support of the proposal to have double yellow lines on either side of the junction into Lee/Wright's square. It is extremely difficult and highly dangerous getting out of here when cars are parked here. What is worse, people often sit in their cars whilst parked here, watching me struggle to get out, and never bother to move an inch! Please put double yellow lines on ASAP. Thanks

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Lee Square	1	<p>I have been sent a consultation letter regarding these proposed parking restrictions. I live at Lee Square, in the Lee/Wrights Square development. The proposed restrictions are aimed at dealing with instances of indiscriminate parking around the access to the development which has been an issue for years and on which we have been pressing Cllr Bridgett for action, which he has previously said he would pursue. Matters will only get worse when the proposed new Co-op store opens across the road. The restrictions are to be welcomed and I have just the one reservation. The plans show two sets of double-yellow lines either side of the access, including a very short stretch between it and the gated access to Springfield Terrace. Visually, for drivers looking to park, they would have much more resonance if the restrictions consisted of a single stretch of yellow lines painted across the access and either side of it. That would also remove any ambiguity regarding the possibility of parking on the two short stretches of footway within the access apron itself.</p> <p>It is true that one would expect that no reasonable driver would park across a live vehicle access but in my experience of living here, it is quite common for drivers to park significantly overlapping it, and a single yellow line would put paid to that tendency also. I fear that, as proposed, the short isolated single stretch of yellow lines will simply not register with drivers.</p> <p>I trust you will take these comments into consideration.</p>
Wrights Square	1	<p>I think the yellow lines should also go across the entrance to Lee &amp; Wrights Squares. Lorries Park across this to do deliveries and nobody can get out!</p>
Allerdene Court	1	<p>Double yellow lines are outside my property as pulling out of Allerdene Court into live traffic is dangerous, worse than Wrights/Lee Square. Unfortunately, people still park on the double yellow lines and the situation has not improved! When the new Co-op opens one can only imagine what chaos will ensure.</p>
Wrights Square	1	<p>I live in Wright's square and have contacted Councillor a number of times regarding this and how dangerous it is trying to join the carriageway. It's an accident waiting to happen</p>
Wrights Square	1	<p>I do think that the proposed double yellow lines are a good idea. Owing to the number of shops and a restaurant in the vicinity there is already a great deal of pressure on designated parking spaces. This pressure will inevitably increase when the new Co-op is operational. A number of the residents of Wrights/Lee Square are elderly albeit perfectly capable of driving and the blockages at the entrance to the square increase their difficulties when pulling out into the road. I have noticed too that traffic coming into Rothbury from the Alnwick direction is very often travelling at speed having been on the open road. This too adds to the danger when visibility for traffic pulling out of the squares is impaired by parked vehicles. I therefore support this proposal.</p>
	1	<p>Yes, I agree and support the proposal. The addition of yellow lines as highlighted on your plan are much needed. It has been very dangerous joining the carriage way due to parked cars limiting visibility. Thank you for your support.</p>
Springfield Terrace	1	<p>Now that the construction of the new co-op has begun the Council are telling us that there is a parking problem in the area and want to further reduce the amount of parking spaces available. Yet it was the Council that approved the relocation of the Co-op to Town Foot in spite of all the warnings ( written warnings, from the people who know this area best) that to do so would exacerbate already existing parking problems - Would the council blame us for thinking that they are putting the interests of the Co-op and businesses in the west/centre of the village, above the interests of the businesses and residents of Town Foot? If the Council is going to take action (i.e., introduce these parking restrictions) to solve one problem, but that action creates other problems (i.e., even less availability of parking for residents/businesses) surely it is incumbent upon the Council to also find ways to address these new problems...especially if they had been warned that, that first problem would occur? I have no objection to these proposed parking restrictions, but only if something else will be put in place to help the businesses and residents who need on-street parking at Town Foot. - So far, the Council only seem to be making things more and more difficult for those of us who live and work at Town foot. Personally, as things stand, if there are no parking spaces available near my house, I regard it as "as bit of a pain" for me to have to park at the shops in the middle of the village and walk back to my house at Town foot. So far this doesn't happen all that often but if the Council do not make alternative provision for those of us who used to be able to park in the area but no longer can, the extra restrictions being proposed will make this a more common occurrence and it will become more than " a bit of a pain"... But at least it is not affecting my livelihood! - The relocation of the Co-op coupled with these further parking restrictions, make it increasingly difficult for the businesses at Town Foot to operate, at a time when small businesses need all the help they can get. And it is not just the owners and employees that need these businesses to continue, Rothbury residents need them too. Surely the Council should be looking after the interests of all residents and businesses of Rothbury, not just those who live in certain parts of the town? If you do put these parking restrictions in place, I would appreciate it if you would extend the proposed double yellow lines to go across the end of Springfield Terrace (a private lane). I said in my response to the initial "consultation" about the building of the new Co-op that people already park across the entrance to Springfield Terrace and that the opening (and building) of the new supermarket would make this happen more frequently. The problem has indeed got worse since the construction process began, but in some ways, I don't particularly blame people for parking there as there is nowhere else to park! However, I do believe that if there were double yellow lines there it might encourage anyone who does park there to "keep an eye" on their car so that they are available to move it if we, or our neighbours,</p>

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			<p>need to drive up/down the lane. Currently people are usually just nipping into the bakery and so will notice and move their car quickly if they see we need access. However, people park there to nip into the supermarket it will be much greater inconvenience for us. And it is not good enough for the Council to just say that they have increased traffic wardens in the area because, while that might have some impact during the daytime, the Co-op will be open for a lot of hours at the start and end of the day when drivers can be sure there will not be any traffic wardens in the area. The Council had the opportunity at the planning permission stage to ensure that there was adequate parking for residents and businesses in the area. During that process they chose to believe the Co-op when they said the owner of the vacant land adjacent to the site of the Co-op did not want to sell that land, yet he has said the Co-op never asked him if he wanted to sell the land. I repeat. if the Council are going to further restrict the amount of parking available to the residents and businesses at Town Foot, they must provide a practical/reasonable alternative. It is extremely unfair that residents and businesses in one part of the village should be allowed to suffer for the benefit of the Co-op and businesses in another part- Rothbury needs more parking spaces and businesses not fewer!</p>
Wrights Square	1		
		1	Anonymous
Writes Square	1		I requested this motion 17 years ago and was refused by local councillor Stephen Bridgett.
Rothbury PC	1		

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### Appendix C – Layout of proposed ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ parking restrictions



