



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed Parking Restrictions – A1068 Choppington Road, Bedlington

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle, Improving Our Roads & Highways

19 August 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce new parking restrictions at the A1068 Choppington Road in Bedlington.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed parking restrictions are implemented in order to improve road safety in the 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 regarding obstructive and indiscriminate parking outside the vehicle hire and sales garage on the A1068 Choppington Road in Bedlington.
2. New ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ (double yellow lines) parking restrictions have been proposed as a result in order to alleviate these concerns.
3. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor.
4. The scheme is to be funded through the 2024/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

Background

The A1068 Choppington Road is a single carriageway subject to a maximum speed limit of 30mph and is the main route linking Bedlington town centre with Choppington. There are no parking restrictions in operation throughout the route, but concerns have been raised regarding the car hire and sales garage leaving vehicles parked on the section of Choppington Road situated directly adjacent to the premises and on the adjoining grass verge.



Fig. 1: Existing layout at A1068 Choppington Road in Bedlington (Source: Google Maps, 2024)

Vehicles parked on the carriageway cause obstructions for motorists travelling through or for buses stopping at the nearby bus stops, in turn increasing the potential for collisions to occur when many aim to navigate through whilst buses are stationary. This also obstructs forward visibility for those accessing the opposite junction with Willow Vale.

In order to alleviate these issues, 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) parking restrictions are proposed on both sides of the carriageway to prohibit obstructive parking and grass verge parking on a busy carriageway which must be clear of parking at all times to ensure the safe movement of traffic.

Details of the proposal can be found in Appendix A with consultation responses shown in Appendix B. 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 Traffic Regulation Order.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies.
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the LTP 2024/25 programme.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities 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	Bedlington West

Delegated Decision

Background Papers

File reference – HE243820D-02

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Author

Report Author **William Binks, Programme Officer**

Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer	Director of Environment & Transport
Subject	Proposed parking restrictions at A1068 Choppington Road, Bedlington
Consultation	For: 5 (100%) Against: 0 (0%)
Decision Taken	To introduce new parking restrictions at A1068 Choppington Road, Bedlington

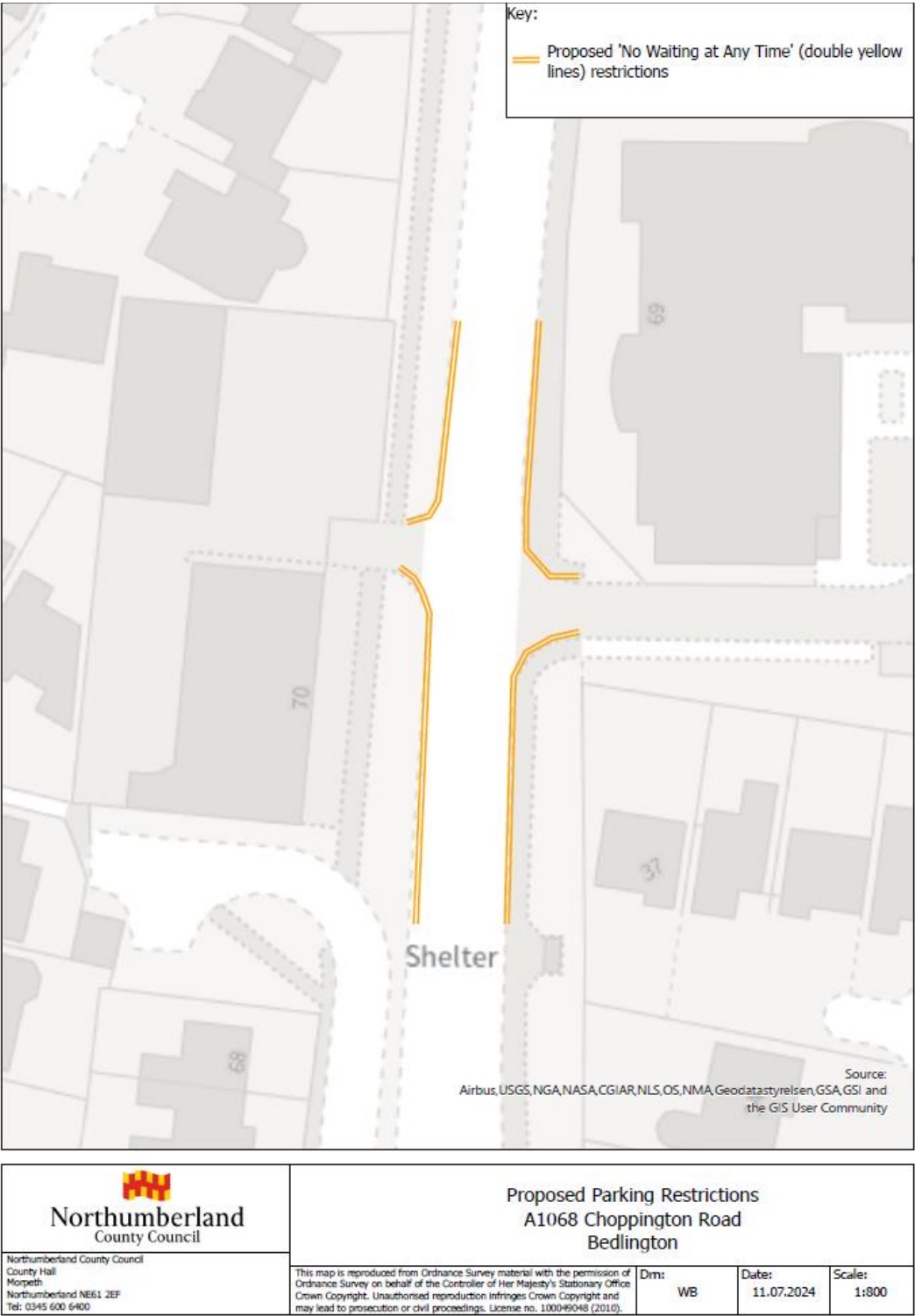
Signature of Director



Date

5th September 2024

Appendix A – Scheme Layout



Delegated Decision

Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Key: F = For; A = Against

F A		RESPONSES
1		Have had concerns for a while about the dangerous parking, opposite Willow Vale junction. Have had cars nearly go in to the back of me, when indicating right, and stopping to turn right into Willow Vale. I think they assumed the right indicator was on because I was overtaking parked cars, rather than the fact I was actually turning right. Even more of a problem when a bus pulls into the bus stop.
1		About time measures were taken. This establishment has taken "entitled" to a new level almost blocking the left carriageway every day. Should be fined as well.
1		There is a small footpath across the raised grass verge opposite the Bus Shelter used for access to and from the bus stop form Chester's Estate. This is often blocked by vehicles resulting in pedestrians unsafely negotiating humped grass verge to cross (exacerbated in wet weather). It's have to tell on the map but it looks like double yellow lines stop shot of this path therefore negating the safety protection they would otherwise give. Is it possible to ensure the lines will encompass the small footpath across the verge directly opposite the bus shelter. Many thanks.
1		I would like to comment on the above and the map. It would be helpful if there was more description on the map to describe exactly where it is. I feel that if it is to stop the garage owner parking on the main road then something also needs to be done to stop the number of cars he parks at the bottom of Glebe Road.
1		The A1068 is a busy road to emerge onto from the Willow Vale car park, but it becomes increasingly difficult when there are parked vehicles directly across the road. When there are no vehicles parked, you can emerge with ease when there is a gap in the traffic to your right but when the vehicles are parked, vehicles from the left have to overtake, leaving insufficient room for a vehicle to safely emerge from Willow Vale. So emerging vehicles then have to wait for a rare break in traffic from both directions, during busy times. I have just returned from Willow Vale in the last half hour, where I picked up the letter regarding the proposals and as it was after 6pm, the road was clear and it really made a difference emerging from the junction. These parking restrictions are very much welcomed and I urge for these restrictions to be enforced with random visits from parking wardens, particularly during busy times.
5	0	