



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed Parking Restrictions – East Farm Terrace, Cramlington

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

10 July 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce new parking restrictions at East Farm Terrace in Cramlington.

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 throughout the day and increasingly during school start and end times outside Hillcrest School on East Farm Terrace in Cramlington.
2. Additional parking restrictions have been proposed on East Farm Terrace in Cramlington as a result in order to alleviate these concerns.
3. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor.

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4. The scheme is to be funded through the 2024/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

Background

East Farm Terrace is situated to the west of Hillcrest School and is primarily residential in nature. Off-street car parking bays are available in the vicinity, however much of the road is derestricted and visitors continue to use the carriageway and grass verges to stop or wait.

Parking restrictions in the form of 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) road markings are in operation at the entrance to East Farm Terrace and across the majority of the village square, which inevitably pushes parking problems into the street and increases during school start and end times.



Fig. 1: Existing parking restrictions at East Farm Terrace in Cramlington (Source: Google Maps, 2024)

In order to alleviate these issues, further parking restrictions are proposed on one side of the carriageway at East Farm Terrace to prohibit obstructive parking and grass verge parking, whilst safely allowing on-street parking on the other side of the carriageway for those needing access to the area such as residents and visitors. During the consultation period, a request for 'residents only' parking was made, however these types of restrictions have proven to be ineffective directly outside schools and would not meet the criteria considering off-street parking is available throughout most of the day.

Details of the proposal can be found in Appendix A with consultation responses shown in Appendix B. Any restrictions which are to remain are not denoted within the plan and will not be altered as part of the scheme. 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, directly affected residents and the school have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Cramlington Village

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Background Papers

File reference – HE233728D-12

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 East Farm Terrace, Cramlington
Consultation	For: 4 (100%) Against: 0 (0%)
Decision Taken	To introduce new parking restrictions at East Farm Terrace, Cramlington

Signature of Director



Date

23rd July 2024

Appendix A – Scheme Layout



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Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Key: F = For; A = Against

F A	RESPONSES
1	<p>I am delighted to read of your plan to place double yellow lines down the side of and along East Farm Terrace. I have lived in the terrace since 1978 and seen increased parking problems in the location. At present most cars parked on weekdays are those of staff and visitors to Hillcrest School as they - presumably - have insufficient parking provision in the grounds, also 1 large ambulance and additionally, sometimes, a car ambulance and cars from East Farm Court and from East Farm View, there are also cars with drivers visiting residents. Then people attending events at East Farm Community Centre park on the terrace, and sometimes people working in Cramlington use the terrace as an all-day car park. We also have parents and buses delivering and collecting children from school. In the summer there are sometimes events in Hillcrest School grounds which attract vast numbers of folk in their cars at which time they park on any bit of tarmac or grass. Over the summer we sometimes also have to put up with huge touring camper vans, caravans and visitor cars along the terrace - and winter or summer we have on occasion had relative strangers using the terrace for airport parking! When cars have been unable to find space to park on East Farm Terrace they have driven onto East Farm Community Centre grass and parked there, also on to grass verges and pavements on the run up to the school and some frequently park on East Farm Terrace pavements – even when there is space on the terrace road - and they park across the drop pavements and some park on the bend into the terrace blocking visibility for drivers. Then there are issues with parking in the drive-in area leading to numbers 1-4 East Farm Terrace. You will/should be aware that: (1) it is used throughout the day as a turning area for lorries and vans, emergency vehicles, school buses, taxis, private cars. (2) when there is no room to park on the terrace vehicles move into that area reducing easy access for turning vehicles and blocking entry and exit for residents and their visitors vehicles, including parking in front of garage doors or to the rear of a garage restricting car exit. They also park in resident parking spaces alongside their garages. My concern, therefore, is to know how you plan to prevent drivers from moving onto the grass pavements and into the drive-in/turn around area at 1-4 East Farm Terrace once you prohibit parking on the road(s)? Will you place a low fence/railings or large, immovable close-spaced boulders around the Community Centre or signs prohibiting parking on the grass? Might you paint yellow lines on the pavements (NB ugly in conservation area) to prevent parking there or place signs prohibiting parking there? Then how will you prevent 'strangers' from moving into the drive-in area whilst allowing use by residents and their visitors? The problem is that when you deny access in one area individuals just move to the next nearest convenient space. Perhaps plans are already in place to ensure these problems do not arise? If not I do hope you will have solutions before you go ahead with the proposed parking restrictions.</p>
1	<p>Thank you for your letter concerning proposed parking restriction on East Farm Terrace. I request that double yellow lines are put down both sides of East Farm as you enter from village road, as we have cars parking and blocking our exit in and out of East Farm Terrace to village road, often parked 2 across. I also ask that double yellow lines come right around the grass verge to our house number X so a bit further than the existing diagram, because we have trouble with people parking on the grass verge at the front and side of our house, and the pavement at the back and side of the house. We did also ask for hatches to go on the road to stop people blocking our exit, or perhaps a residents parking scheme.</p>
1	<p>Whilst I largely agree with the proposed parking restrictions my concern as a resident of East Farm Terrace is that people will choose to park in the private driveway area of number X & X. Could a sign stating private property for residents only be erected at the same time? We already have issues with people blocking access without the parking restrictions.</p>
1	<p>Thank you for your letter. In the area of the road as detailed there are 8-10 cars parked here daily, mostly the cars belong to the staff at the school. If the proposal went ahead, it would push these cars into East Farm Terrace (a Cul de sac with limited parking) and cause issues for residents of this location. Would you please consider putting residential parking by permit into East Farm Court? My wife is registered carer for her mother who is elderly and in poor health and we would not want to be having to go to the school to have someone move their car in an emergency as it was blocking our access which has happened before. There are several young children living in East Farm Court and along with our own Grandchildren who visit daily there is concern about moving the parking issue into such a small area.</p>
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