



# **Northumberland**

## **County Council**

### **RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

**Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport**

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**Proposed Parking Restrictions – Fulmar Drive, Blyth**

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

**25 November 2024**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce additional 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) restrictions at Fulmar Drive in Blyth.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the proposed parking restrictions are not implemented following results of the consultation.

#### **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 received concerns via Bede Academy school representatives regarding road safety outside the school including obstructive parking on Fulmar Drive in Blyth.
2. New 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions in the form of double yellow lines were proposed on Fulmar Drive following requests to investigate solutions in this area to alleviate these concerns.
3. The proposal is not supported by the local County Councillor and is not favoured by residents of Fulmar Drive.
4. It is therefore proposed that the scheme is not progressed.

## Delegated Decision

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### Background

Fulmar Drive is situated south of Bede Academy and is one of the main access routes to the school. It is a single carriageway subject to a 20mph speed limit and at the bottom of the road a long-stay off-street car park is in operation as seen in Figure 1 below. Whilst this is used as the main parking facility during peak school start and end times, waiting and stopping restrictions are in place on Fulmar Drive in the form of double yellow lines and 'School Keep Clear' zig-zag markings to prohibit obstructive and indiscriminate parking due to overflow parking.



**Fig.1: Fulmar Drive Car Park at the end of Fulmar Drive, Blyth**

Officers and the leader of the Council met with school representatives at Bede Academy to promote road safety initiatives and discuss ongoing issues where concerns were raised with regards to vehicles parking in derestricted areas of Fulmar Drive. A request to investigate a potential extension of 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) restrictions was made to improve forward visibility and the free flow of traffic, primarily during school start and end times but also throughout the day.

During the consultation period, requests were made to refrain from introducing any further restrictions as this would reduce available kerbside parking space for residents and add a further strain on parking in nearby streets. As a result, it is proposed not to progress the parking restrictions at this time, however the Council has agreed to investigate further traffic calming measures such as additional signage promoting the 20mph speed limit and to continue working with school representatives in encouraging parents to use active travel as a main form of transport rather than private vehicles, whilst avoiding use of Fulmar Drive for parking wherever possible.

The proposed restrictions that were consulted on can be observed in Appendix A, with consultation responses listed in Appendix B.

## Delegated Decision

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### Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	Consistent with existing policies.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	N/A
<b>Legal</b>	N/A
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	N/A
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	N/A
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Statutory consultees and directly affected properties were consulted.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	South Blyth

## **Delegated Decision**

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### **Background Papers**

File reference – HE243820D-03

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

Appendix B – Consultation Responses

### **Author**

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**Report Author**    **William Binks, Programme Officer**

**DECISION TAKEN**

<b>Title of Officer</b>	Director of Environment & Transport
<b>Subject</b>	Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at Fulmar Drive, Blyth
<b>Consultation</b>	For: 0 (0%) Against: 5 (100%)
<b>Decision Taken</b>	To not introduce 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions at Fulmar Drive, Blyth

**Signature of Director**



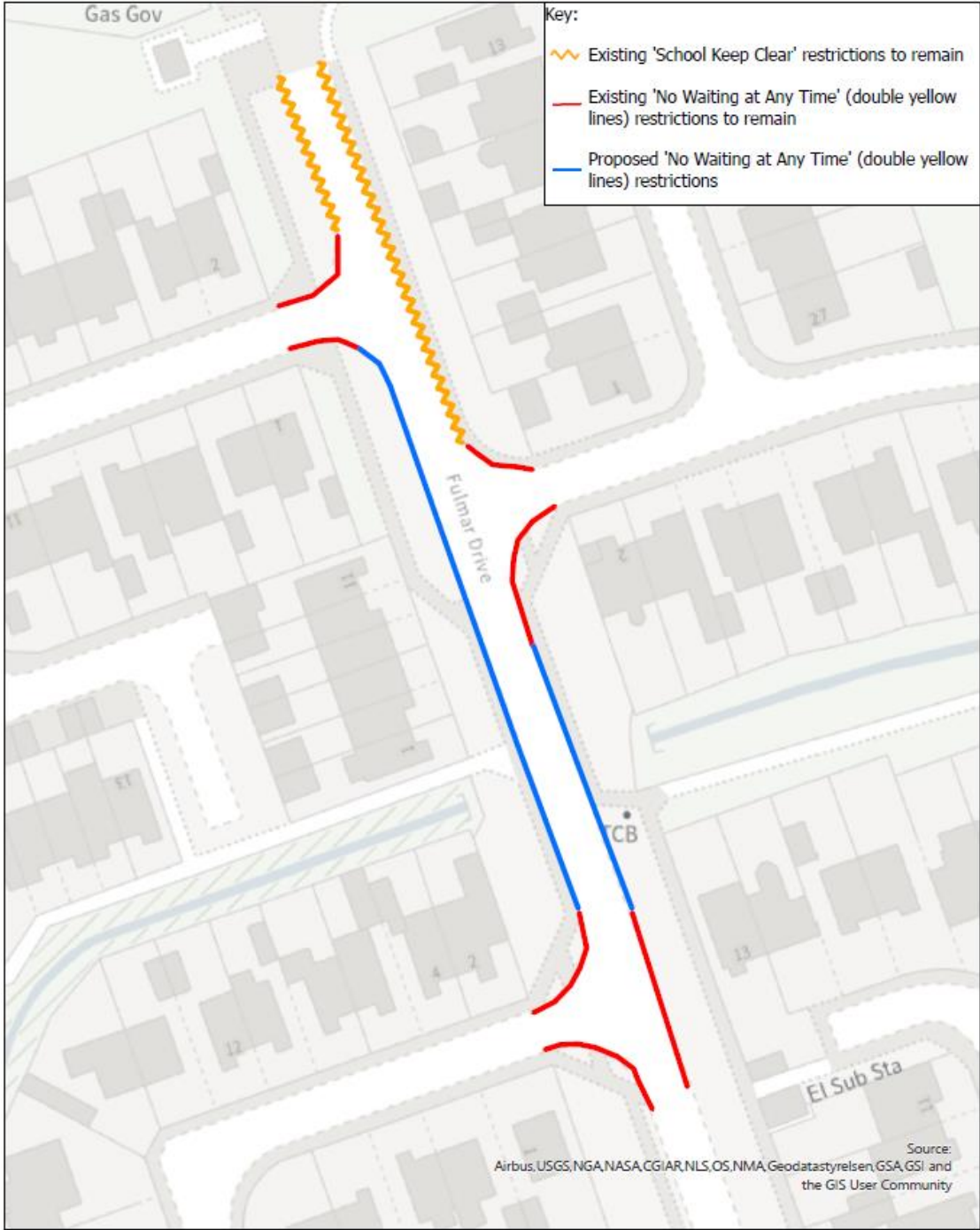
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**Date**

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

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Appendix A – Scheme Layout



 <b>Northumberland</b> County Council	<b>Proposed Parking Restrictions</b> <b>Fulmar Drive</b> <b>Blyth</b>		
Northumberland County Council County Hall Norwich Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 0345 600 6400	This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License no. 100049048 (2010).	Dim: WB	Date: 11.07.2024
Scale: NTS			

## Delegated Decision

### Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Key: F = For; A = Against

F A	RESPONSES
1	<p>I've received a letter for proposed parking restrictions on fulmar drive, Blyth and would like to raise my objections against this proposal. I understand that at peak times the traffic is difficult with school pickups and drop offs however there is very few places that parents can park to facilitate dropping their children off at school. The school has no parking facilities and the level of students at the school is staggering. I wouldn't be against a double yellow line down the east side of the road only, to maintain a clear path as there is a tendency to double parking making it more difficult navigable but the houses that face onto fulmar dive between Albatross Way and Heron close don't have anywhere else to park, the "back lane" isn't sufficient and quite frankly I'm sick of getting letters from the council about our parking as it is because there isn't enough parking on the estate. This means we cannot have visitors at our house because there isn't any additional parking on Albatross Way to facilitate them we rely on parking on Fulmar Drive as a last resort. I would urge you reconsider the significant affect that this proposal will have on many houses in this area. School traffic will fundamentally block driveways because people have to drive their children to school....I know it's annoying but the traffic exists and we need to find a better way of managing this which takes into account the needs of the people who actively need to park on the road on a daily basis....</p>
1	<p>I am writing to inform you that I disagree with your plans to extend the double yellow lines on fulmar drive. Outside of school drop off and pick up hours there is only ever 2 vehicles parked in this area at any given time and during school times it is a 15-30 minute window so why should the few residents in the area suffer permanently because parents cannot be considerate. It would be better to implement a system similar to near Seaton sluice middle school where parking is restricted during specific times and offer a FREE permit to the affected residents to allow them to still park outside their houses. As someone who was a student at Gosforth high school which has double yellow lines outside of it's school for the same reasons I witnessed daily parents lined up on the double yellow lines to pick up their children and the only time this didn't occur was when there was a ticket warden or similar on patrol and I believe the same will happen here so the only people truly affected by this is the residents who can't risk it as they aren't sat in their cars the whole time unlike the parents. I hope you consider the local people when making decisions and how it affects those living in the area as it's those that are affected all day everyday unlike the parents.</p>
1	<p>Re the above proposed parking restrictions. I would like to register my objection to the plan. My personal feelings are that it would be a mistake to extend the 'No waiting at any time', restrictions along Fulmar Drive. I am of the generation who walked to school every day regardless of the distance. Unfortunately that doesn't happen today and children expect to be ferried by car. The car parking situation at the moment is that parents line up their cars along Fulmar Drive, from Tesco's at the north end of the road, along both sides of the road towards the traffic lights at the south end. I believe the cars cause difficulties nearer Tesco's end where they do cause congestion, but parking at the southern end of the road doesn't really cause any issues. I note on the letter I have been sent by the council that there are existing - 'No waiting at any time' , and 'School keep clear' signs on Fulmar Drive near to Tesco's. I really think you need to get someone along there to see what happens at school times and to take action if needed. Parents don't take any notice of the already existing signs, so I doubt they'll take notice of any new proposed signs. My biggest concern if you do introduce new extended 'no waiting' signs is that parents will try to use the side streets off Fulmar Drive for parking. The east end of Albatross Way outside my house is always congested anyway, but during term times I and other neighbours have to leave our cars on the street, which we don't want to do, but if we don't do that we find a line of parents cars parking up along the street, uncaring as to whether they block driveways or not. At least if we residents park on the street we do it sensibly to ensure free access to driveways. If further restrictions on Fulmar Drive are introduced, I think you'll find that even more parents will be trying to park in the side streets, and that will cause even more problems for residents, which is quite unfair. I expect that, because the council have gone to the trouble of sending out letters, then you have probably decided that your plans are definitely going ahead. I would ask though, that you please reconsider, and do not introduce further 'No waiting' restrictions along Fulmar Drive.</p>
1	<p>Please note my objections to the extension to the double yellow lines on Fulmar drive on south beach estate in Blyth. Whilst I acknowledge a few parked cars can sometimes be an issue, I do not believe DYL is the answer. Perhaps consider the widening of the road with some parking bays on one side of the road.</p>
1	<p>As residents of Plover Close on the opposite side of the estate to Fulmar Drive we wish to state our opposition to the proposal to put double yellow lines on Fulmar Drive which will prevent parking on that side of the estate for parents/carers picking up children from school at Bede Academy. It is already very difficult to get in or out of our street at school times and if there is only going to be parking possible on this side of the estate this can only escalate the problem. We feel that for those hours we could be virtual prisoners unable to get in or out. We are especially concerned as we have a disabled son who attends a day centre and we need to be able to get off/into the estate at those times.</p>



## Delegated Decision

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