



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Paul Jones - Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed Parking Restrictions - Henshaw Primary School

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

14 May 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce new 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) restrictions at the entrance to Henshaw Primary School.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed parking restrictions along with pencil bollards 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 Henshaw Primary School at drop off and pick up times.
2. 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions (double yellow lines) are proposed at the entrance to the school in order to alleviate these concerns.
3. The existing 'School Keep Clear' zig-zag markings are proposed to remain.
4. The scheme is supported by school representatives and the local County Councillor.
5. The scheme is to be funded through the 2024/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

Background

The entrance to Henshaw Primary School is on the U7070, around 200 meters within the 30mph limit west of Henshaw. The road runs parallel to the A69 and is quiet outside of school drop off and pick up times. Due to the immediate bend to the west of the entrance, visibility is already reduced when joining the carriageway. There are two sets of existing 'School Keep Clear' zig-zag markings on the main road which are in operation Monday-Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm, however they fall short of the entrance, as illustrated below by an overview of the road layout in Figure 1.



Fig. 1: Existing 'School Keep Clear' zig-zag markings at Henshaw Primary School (Source: Google Maps, 2024)

Concerns have been raised by the school and local County Councillor regarding obstructive and indiscriminate parking outside Henshaw Primary School at drop off and pick up times. The school does have a small car park which can accommodate approximately 22 cars, 8 of these spaces are designated for staff. Unfortunately, this leaves very few spaces available for the 71 pupils attending the school.

A camera survey was commissioned to assess the extent of the parking issues and the results can be found in Appendix A. The main issues being:

- Vehicles parking on the existing 'School Keep Clear' restrictions;
- Vehicles parking wholly on the footpath, restricting access to pedestrians;
- Vehicles parking directly at the junction, which obstructs forward visibility when joining the main road.

After discussions with the school and local Councillor, it has been agreed that implementing new parking restrictions along with pencil bollards would be the most effective way to address the current parking issues.

As a maximum of two sets of continuous 'School Keep Clear' markings are prescribed on one section of road and therefore no more of the current markings can be extended, 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) have been proposed. The extent of these can be seen in Appendix B.

Implications Arising out of the Report.

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the Local Transport Plan 2024/25 programme
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	The proposal is designed to improve road safety in the area.
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
Customer Consideration	The proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions will lead to a safer environment for all road users.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Haydon and Hadrian ED

Appendix Index

Appendix A – Video survey report

Appendix B – Extent of the proposed parking restrictions and pencil bollards

Background Papers:

None

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Michael McMonagle, Programme Officer**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Director of Environment & Transport

Subject: Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions at the entrance to Henshaw Primary School

Consultation: Not required on the grounds of road safety, however statutory consultees have been informed.

Decision Taken: To introduce the 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions at the entrance to Henshaw Primary School along with pencil bollards.

Signature of Director



Date

4th June 2024

Appendix A – Video survey report



Northumberland County Council

VIDEO SURVEY REPORT U7070, HENSHAW C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

Background:

NCC Highways Improvements were contacted by the Head Teacher of Henshaw C of E First School, regarding the current car parking situation inside the school park and on the U7070 outside of the school. The school has requested that the car park be relined to help parents park appropriately with the existing bus stop road markings to remain in place within the car park. It was also pointed out that parent's park on the footpath where it widens next to the entrance to the car park, because of this it is difficult to see if the road is clear when parents are entering / exiting the school. Therefore, bollards have been requested to stop this issue continuing.



Fig. 1: Existing School Keep Clear restrictions outside of Henshaw C of E First School



Fig.2: Existing car park layout

Video Surveys

Following on from the request from the Head Teacher two video surveys were arranged which took place on the 30/06/2023 with one recording the School Keep Clear restrictions and the other camera recording the car park. After watching the footage of the 1st camera recording the parking restrictions it was observed that in general, parents observed the no parking on the zigzag lines rule. However, there were two instances of a parent parking on these lines whilst picking children up during the afternoon school run period. These cars were there for approximately 8 minutes and did serve to partially block the road for that period. Although the traffic was light, the lines are on a bend and on an incline, so they could potentially have caused a safety hazard. Due to the fact that there were only two instances, maybe the parent could be reminded of their responsibility to park more safely and considerately.



Fig.3: Vehicles parked on School Keep Clear Restrictions

The car park becomes busy for a twenty-minute period between 08:40 and 09:00 during the AM period and between 14:50 to 15:15 during the PM period. All traffic appears to observe the one-way arrow system in the car park. The main issue appears to be that the car park becomes full to capacity, because of this some parents park on the wide footway area outside of the school wall at the entrance to the car park. A minority of parents are parking here to drop off and pick up children even when the car park does appear to have some spaces. The footway at this point is so wide that at times, cars are double parked across almost the whole width of the footpath. Apart from creating a hazard to pedestrians this combined with parents entering and leaving the school at this location can restrict the view of traffic trying to exit the car park.

The area is quite congested, if only for a short time, twice a day. A possible answer to this would be for the school to write to parents about the hazards of parking on the footway adjacent to the car park entrance. The other option would be to install bollards to prevent parking on the footway as was the Head Teachers original request.



Fig.4: Vehicles parked on both footpaths

Recommendations

- Remove some of the grass area at the end of the car park to help create additional parking spaces.
- Re-line the car park to ensure parents park appropriately.
- Install bollards where the footpath widens to prevent parking on the footpath.
- School to send letters to parents to make them aware of how they should be parking at school pick up and drop off times.

Report Author – Conor Edgar, Technical Assistant

Appendix B – Extent of the proposed parking restrictions and pencil bollards

