



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones - Director of Environment & Transport

Rothbury Road, Longframlington - Improvements to Existing Traffic Calming Feature and Introduction of Associated Parking Restrictions

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

9th January 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to improve the existing traffic calming feature on Rothbury Road, Longframlington, together with the proposed introduction of associated parking restrictions.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the improvements to the existing traffic calming feature are implemented as proposed, together with the introduction of the associated parking restrictions, 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 vehicles safely joining Rothbury Road from the U4044/High Town junction, due to the proximity of the existing traffic calming measures.

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2. In order to address these issues, it was proposed to relocate the existing priority island and install an additional island on the opposite side of the carriageway to form a chicane feature.
3. A combined Stage 1 & 2 Road Safety Audit carried out for the proposed scheme has identified a need for parking restrictions to be introduced.
4. 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions in the form of double yellow lines are proposed to alleviate these concerns.
5. The proposal is supported by the parish and local County Councillor.
6. The scheme is to be funded through the 2023/24 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme, with contributions from Councillor Thorne's MLIS allowance and Longframlington Parish Council.

Background

To address ongoing concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Rothbury Road, traffic calming measures were installed in 2020. These were in the form of priority islands, in four locations along the road.

Following the installation of the traffic calming measures, new concerns were raised over the proximity of one of the priority islands to the junction of the U4044/High Town, see figure 1. Vehicles traveling east past the island were still on the opposite side of the carriageway when passing the junction. This led to near misses when vehicles were trying to join Rothbury Road from the U4044 / High Town.

Following several site meetings with Council Officers, Councillor Thorne and The Chair of Longframlington Parish Council, it was agreed that in order to alleviate these concerns, the existing eastbound priority island should be relocated further west, and an additional island should be introduced on the westbound carriageway to form a chicane feature as shown in figure 2.

In addition, it is also proposed to make amendments to the existing give way markings and centerline in order to improve visibility at the junction.

These measures will ensure eastbound traffic is safely back on the eastbound carriageway when approaching the junction.

As part of the design phase a combined Stage 1 & 2 Road Safety Audit was carried out, which identified the following issue:

'Parking in the vicinity of the proposed chicane, and High Town junction, may result in sideswipe or shunt type collisions.'

As a result, new parking restrictions are proposed from the Western build out along and into the junction on Church Street, see figure 3. Following the road safety audit, the parish and councillor Thorne were further consulted

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regarding the proposed addition of double yellow lines to the scheme. With both parties being in favor of, as shown in appendix B.

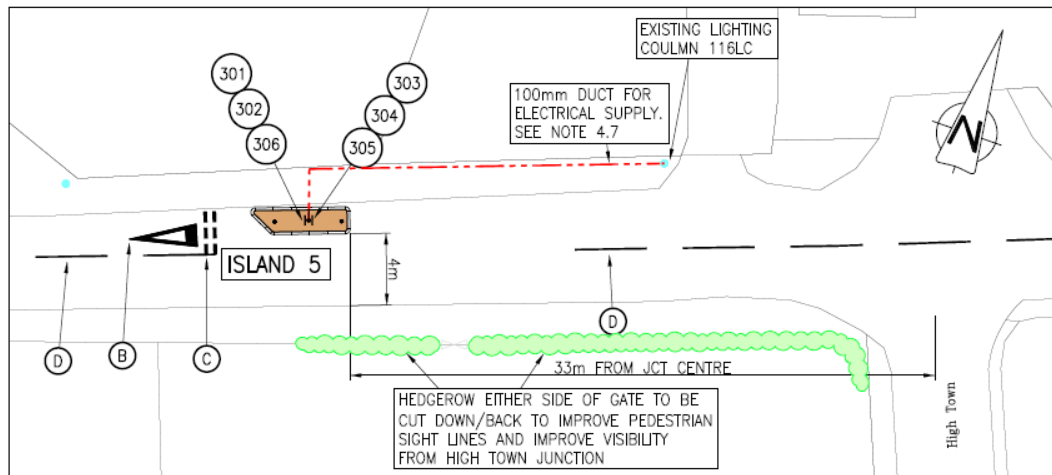


Figure 1: Inset showing the location of the priority island from the original traffic calming scheme in 2020.

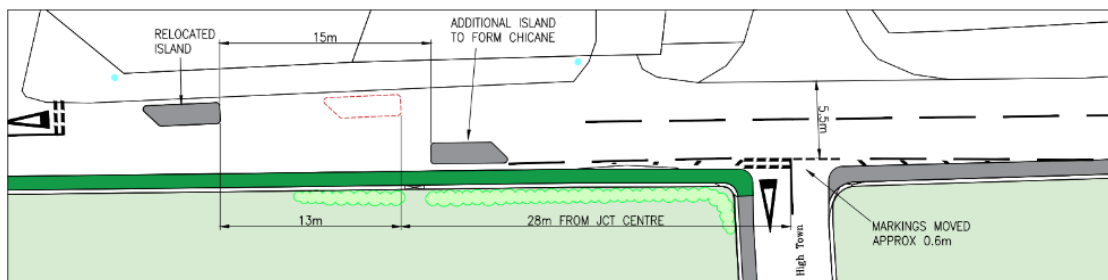


Figure 2: Inset showing the proposed traffic calming measures intended to alleviate the safety concerns.



Figure 3: Inset showing the extent of the proposed double yellow lines.

Details of the proposals are shown on the plan in Appendix A. They are intended to improve road safety in the area.

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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.

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Implications Arising out of the Report.

Policy	Consistent with existing policies.
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the LTP 2023/24 Programme with a contribution from Councillor Thorne's MLIS allocation and Longframlington Parish Council
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 increase road safety in the area.
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
Customer Consideration	Statutory consultees and directly affected properties will be informed.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Shilbottle

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Background Papers

File reference – TS - Projects - HE233734D Rothbury Road, Longframlington
- All Documents (sharepoint.com)

Appendix A – Scheme Plan

Appendix B – Emails showing support of scheme from Councillor Thorne and
Longframlington Parish Council

Author

Report Author **Michael McMonagle, Programme Officer**

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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer	Service Director, Environment and Transport
Subject	Improvements to Existing Traffic Calming Feature and Introduction of Associated Parking Restrictions
Consultation	<p>Not required on the grounds of road safety, although affected residents and statutory consultees will be informed.</p> <p>Councillor Thorne and Longframlington Parish Council also support the scheme which was agreed following a number of site meetings</p>
Decision Taken	To implement the improvements to the existing traffic calming feature as proposed, together with the introduction of the associated parking restrictions, in order to improve road safety in the area.

Signature of Director



Date

13th February 2024

Appendix A – Scheme Plan

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Appendix B – Emails showing support of scheme from Councillor Thorne and Longframlington Parish Council

Re: Longframlington Parking Restrictions

ClIr Trevor Thorne <Trevor.Thorne@northumberland.gov.uk>

Tue 09/01/2024 15:01

To: Michael McMonagle <Michael.McMonagle@northumberland.gov.uk>

Trevor Thorne is completely behind this revised scheme. Thank you , Michael.

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Michael McMonagle <Michael.McMonagle@northumberland.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 10:55:44 AM

To: ClIr Trevor Thorne <Trevor.Thorne@northumberland.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Longframlington Parking Restrictions

Good morning, Trevor,

I wonder if you have had a chance to look over these proposals.

Thank you,

Michael McMonagle
Programme Officer
Highways Improvements
Highways and Transport
Northumberland County Council

From: grahamfremlin@btinternet.com <grahamfremlin@btinternet.com>

Sent: 06 November 2023 19:07

To: Michael McMonagle <Michael.McMonagle@northumberland.gov.uk>; ClIr Trevor Thorne <Trevor.Thorne@northumberland.gov.uk>; longframlingtonpc@gmail.com <longframlingtonpc@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Longframlington Parking Restrictions

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Northumberland County Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Michael,

I can now confirm that Longframlington Parish Council unanimously support your proposal,

Regards

Graham

From: Michael McMonagle <Michael.McMonagle@northumberland.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 November 2023 10:35

To: ClIr Trevor Thorne <Trevor.Thorne@northumberland.gov.uk>; Graham Fremlin <grahamfremlin@btinternet.com>; longframlingtonpc@gmail.com

Subject: Longframlington Parking Restrictions

Good morning,

As previously mentioned we are just waiting on our legal team approving the use of the Appyway system before we can legally make the TRO for the parking restrictions at the junction of Rothbury Road/A697. This should be in operation by December.

There is a traffic calming scheme due to take place on Rothbury Road. The road safety audit has highlighted the need for parking restrictions as part of this scheme.

I am looking to incorporate this restrictions into the same TRO as the already approved restrictions at the junction, which will save time and money.

Before I write the decision report and start the legal process, I just wanted to make sure there were no objections to the proposed double yellow lines shown below.

Thank you,

