



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed Off-Street Car Park Restrictions – Ryecroft Way, Wooler

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

17 October 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce new off-street parking restrictions at the former Wooler First School site at Ryecroft Way in Wooler.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed parking restrictions are implemented in order to formalise the existing car park and improve parking facilities in Wooler.

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 utilised the land which previously formed the off-street car park at the former Wooler First School site at Ryecroft Way.
2. Temporary signage is in place to direct visitors to Wooler to the off-street car park as a long-stay parking facility, however no formal restrictions are in place to allow enforcement.

Delegated Decision

3. New short-stay parking restrictions are to be implemented on existing car parks at Padgepool Place and Brewery Lane to improve vehicular turnover, increase available parking spaces and reduce the need for on-street parking around the centre of Wooler.
4. It is envisaged that demand for long-stay parking will therefore increase and highlights the need for formalised restrictions to be implemented.
5. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor.
6. The scheme is to be funded through the Regeneration budget allocated to Wooler.

Background

Following the demolition of the former Wooler First School building at Ryecroft Way, Northumberland County Council has made a large section of the site available for off-street parking. Directional signage is in place across the centre of Wooler referring the off-street car park's facilities and temporary signage directly outside the car park denotes it as a long-stay area, however no formal restrictions are yet in place so cannot be enforced.



Photograph 1: Example of temporary signage at Ryecroft Way, Wooler

The introduction of the site as a long-stay parking facility affords the opportunity to amend the restrictions at Padgepool Place Car Park to a short-stay time limit, which has been approved along with new short-stay facilities to be introduced at the Brewery Lane (Riverside) car park site.

The car park at the former school site is to be formally named as Ryecroft Way Car Park with a maximum stay for vehicles of 24 hours, with no return within 4 hours, to be consistent with other long-stay car parks across Northumberland. It is envisaged that all new or amended off-street car park restrictions will come into effect at the same time and in turn free up parking space at Padgepool Place and other streets which have been observed to be congested with obstructive and indiscriminate parking.

Site observations suggest that the former Wooler First School car park is regularly at low capacity with many spaces available, whereas the others are often at full capacity. The new changes should increase its usage whilst freeing up space in existing car parks and reducing on-street parking.



Photograph 2: Example of former Wooler First School site parking capacity

The extents of the new off-street car park restrictions can be found in Appendix A. The proposal is intended to increase parking facilities along with 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 Regeneration funding allocated to Wooler.
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	None
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
Customer Consideration	Increased off-street parking facilities for visitors to Wooler
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Wooler

Delegated Decision

Background Papers

File reference – CA220008

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

Author

Report Author **William Binks, Programme Officer**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer	Director of Environment & Transport
Subject	Proposed off-street parking restrictions at Ryecroft Way, Wooler (former Wooler First School site)
Consultation	Statutory consultees will be informed
Decision Taken	To introduce new off-street parking restrictions at Ryecroft Way, Wooler (former Wooler First School site)

Signature of Director



Date

22nd October 2024

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

