



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY
DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING**

Paul Jones

**Proposed Residents Parking Zone
Seventh Row, Ashington**

3rd February 2017

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of a second public consultation exercise regarding the proposed residents permit parking on Seventh Avenue, Ashington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that in view of the results received from the consultation exercise, the proposed Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) is not provided in Seventh Avenue, Ashington.

Key Issues

1. The provision of parking on Seventh Avenue was an issue which had been raised with the late Councillor Sawyer on a number of occasions during a time of demolition and rebuilding at Northumberland College.
2. Vehicles which normally had parked within the grounds of the college were displaced to the surrounding area.
3. The scheme is to be funded and supported by Councillor Purvis

Background

1. Concerns had been identified to the late Councillor Sawyer by residents regarding students from Northumberland College parking on Seventh Avenue.
2. A public consultation was held in November 2014 with an overwhelming majority of residents in favour of the proposal.
3. In Spring 2015, as a result of the consultation exercise, it was recommended to provide residents permit parking on Seventh Avenue, Ashington.
4. The scheme was delayed by the untimely death of County Councillor Sawyer and the subsequent election of his successor, County Councillor Purvis. The scheme was subsequently delayed from early 2015 to summer 2016.
5. In July 2016 the signage for the original design was placed on Seventh Avenue to the consternation of the residents, who, due to an oversight had not received a letter explaining the decision reached in early 2015.
6. It was considered appropriate to place the scheme on hold and conduct a second consultation to gauge current opinion.
7. In view of the results of the public consultation Councillor Purvis no longer wishes to proceed with the proposal.
8. In the intervening time the original issue with parking through the day had resolved itself and the proposed restrictions were no longer fit for purpose.

Re - Consultation

1. These proposals were the subject of a second consultation exercise. This was conducted on the 8th August 2016 and involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 65 properties and 29 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations.
2. The consultation exercise ended on 4th September 2016 and responses were received from 18 consultees, with 10 in favour 7 against and 1 were neither for nor against the proposals. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B
3. Councillor Purvis was notified of the results of the consultation.
4. Councillor Purvis conducted a personal canvass exercise of occupants who had been invited to take part in the 2nd consultation, but had not responded.

5. From information received from Councillor Purvis a further 38 responses have been added to the those previously received making a total of 56 of which 27 were in favour 23 against and 6 responses were neither for nor against the proposals.
6. As Councillor Purvis did not record the comments of the residents he canvassed, their responses do not appear in Appendix B.
7. As a result of the official consultation , personal canvass exercise and discussions with Officers of the Council, Councillor Purvis confirms he does not wish to proceed with the scheme.

Recommendations

1. The proposal was originally made by Councillor Sawyer and adopted by his successor Councilor Purvis; however, in view of results from the consultation where opinion is evenly divided, Councillor Purvis no longer wishes to proceed.
2. All signs associated with the residents permit parking scheme already in position shall be removed and the highway reinstated.
3. Councillor Purvis and Officers will continue listening to the residents and road users' needs in the area and take forward information received via the Directory of Requests where appropriate.

File References

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Schemes\HO155982_ASHINGTON_7th Ave RPZ_PURVIS

Appendix Index

Appendix A - Consultation 1 -Copy of Consultation Letter
Appendix B - Consultation 1 - Summary of Responses

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded was through the Member's Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor Mark Purvis
Legal	Preparation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)
Procurement	
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	None
Crime & Disorder	Traffic safety concerns i.e. obstruction of access to residents property.
Customer Consideration	Scheme was anticipated to improve the parking for residents arrangements in the area.
Carbon reduction	
Wards	College

Background papers:

None

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer(s) and Portfolio Holder Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject: Proposed Residents Parking Zone (RPZ)
Seventh Row, Ashington

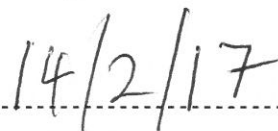
Consultation 56 Responses
27 For
23 Against
6 Neither for nor against

Decision Taken: Not to introduce Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) as proposed.

Signature of Director/
officer/Portfolio Holder



Date



Appendix A

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO155982
Your Ref:
Contact: Andy Walker
Direct Line: 01670 620420

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Monday 8th August 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed 'Resident Permit Parking' – Seventh Avenue, Ashington

Firstly, please let me apologize for any distress or upset caused by the sudden appearance of the 'Parking Zone' signage on your street.

I would like to reassure you that this scheme is **on hold** and will not proceed without your support. The decision to implement the scheme was based on a consultation, carried out in December 2014 and the parking problems expressed to your County Councillor at the time. These concerns may no longer be relevant, I am therefore asking for your assistance again, so that we can gauge your current parking issues.

The Original Proposal

Seventh Avenue, front & back, would become a residents parking zone between the hours of 8am and 6pm. To make the scheme enforceable, residents would be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits, (currently £15 a year per permit). A maximum of 2 permits are available per household.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposal to introduce Resident Permit Parking at Seventh Avenue, Ashington as shown on the attached plan.

A free post response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process.

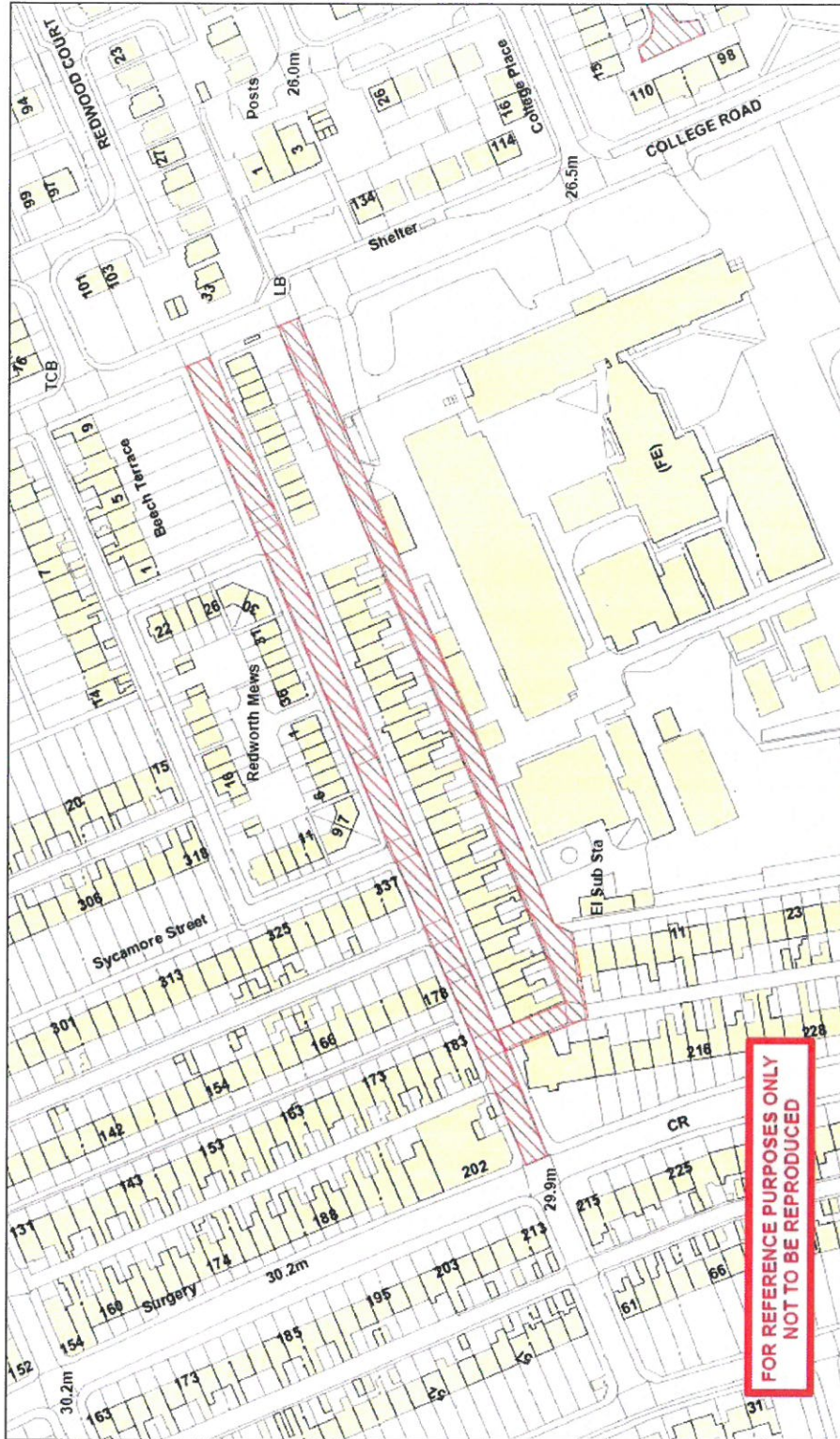
Please return your responses by **Monday 4th September 2016**. I cannot over emphasise the importance of taking the time to put forward your views on this scheme as your opinion will influence the final decision taken. Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to this consultation online. Unfortunately we cannot reply to individual responses, but your views/opinions will be included in the final Decision Report, which will be published on the NCC website.


Yours sincerely



Andy Walker
Programme & Production Team





 <p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000</p>	<p>Network Management Information System</p> <p><small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence no. 100049638 (2009).</small></p>	<p>Title: Proposed Residents Permit Parking Seventh Avenue Ashington</p> <p>Dm: RM</p> <p>Date: 17.11.14</p> <p>Scale: NTS</p>
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Appendix B

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments
		1	<p>I would like to give my comments on the proposed scheme to be implemented in Seventh Avenue. I am unable to answer the question of whether or not I support the proposals because whilst I can see a benefit to having a resident permit parking in this street I do not see that the proposed hours for the scheme would make much of a difference to residents.</p> <p>The scheme is proposing resident only parking between the hours of 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday. This is the time where most people would be at work and therefore their cars would not be parked outside their own properties. On returning from work there would still be issues around parking as other people park in the street to use facilities such as the local shops or gym. My view is that if the scheme is only enforceable during these hours, residents are effectively paying for permit to allow them to park at home during periods of annual leave and sickness and without any real benefit to them.</p> <p>This, however, would not really affect me. I live alone and I do not own a car and therefore would only need to have a permit for any visitors coming to my home. My main concern has come about following my daughter calling your office to request further information regarding the permits. The advice she has been given is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each property can apply for a maximum of 2 permits, one permit must be registered to a particular vehicle and can only be used on that vehicle. The second permit would be a visitors permit and could be used by any vehicle visiting the property. • There is no facility to purchase 2 visitors permits if you do not own a car that will be permanently parked at the property. • You cannot purchase a visitors permit without first purchasing a permit to be registered to one particular vehicle. <p>I do not have a vehicle parked permanently at my property, as I previously explained. I would need to buy a parking permit solely for the use of anyone visiting me at my property. The cost of this visitors permit would be £30.00 per year as I cannot purchase a visitors permit without first purchasing a permit to be registered to a specific vehicle. I could register a permit to my daughters car as she often visits me and would need a permit, however, she drives more than one vehicle and therefore the permit would be invalid. This leaves me with concerns that I will become more isolated as a result of this proposed scheme as friends and family with cars could not visit me during the hours of the parking permit restrictions.</p> <p>I can also see issues with parking on the surrounding streets from people who choose not to purchase permits, I do not feel that implementing a permit holders zone in only one street will solve any parking issues which have been raised, it will merely move the problems to the neighbouring streets.</p> <p>I am bewildered by the back lane being made a permit zone as there are never any issues with parking in the back lane, residents choose to use the front of their properties. I have heard other residents in the street discussing the proposals and they seem to be under the impression that they will be buying a permit for the space in front of their property. This does not seem to me to be something that could possibly be enforceable and therefore I do not feel that the solution you are offering would do anything to ease the concerns of these residents but as I have previously explained it will cause major difficulties for me.</p>
	1		<p>A) I have found it difficult to express all of my concerns in writing and would be happy to meet and discuss this further with you if this would be useful. I do not, however, believe that this is truly up for negotiation as the signs have already been put in the street and I would like to believe that Northumberland County Council would not waste taxpayers money by placing the signs and then not enforcing the permit parking scheme.</p> <p>No obvious parking problems. B) Inconvenience to buy permits every year.</p>
	1		<p>As a business (xxxxx fish and chips) this may affect our customers as normally they will park outside our residence to pick up their food. With this new permit put in place it's an inconvenience to our customers as they would have to find parking further from us which may be difficult as our street is normally fully parked anyway. Lastly it may affect our business in general - customers may look elsewhere for food as understandably - they wouldn't want to risk parking along our street. please take this into consideration.</p>
1			<p>Several people have remarked that the parking problem in Seventh Avenue seems to have increased since January this year.</p>

	1	There hasn't been any parking issues since the college was refurbished. There are no issues with the residents of Redworth Mews - they keep to their own side of the road. the customers who visit the co-op on Milburn Road and the Chinese on Seventh Avenue, tend to be their approx 10 minutes. The members of the gym on Milburn Road are probably only parked for about an hour at a time. The issue I have - that on the other side of the road to Seventh Avenue (Sycamore and Pont Street) there is a couple of white vans parked really close to the junctions leading onto Seventh Avenue it is quite difficult to see the oncoming traffic while coming off the avenue or onto the avenue. Maybe going forward work/commercial vans should be parked at the back of Seventh Avenue if you reside there or in their own back lane if they reside in either Sycamore or Pont Street.
1		I think it is a great idea, the parking along this road is terrible cars parking both sides and most of the time you can't get parked at your own door, people park there to go to the nearby gym and shops and elsewhere.
	1	I support that there should be a restriction with parking in Seventh Avenue however I feel it is unfair that the residents should have to pay for permits in our own street. I already pay enough council tax and car tax so why should I pay to park outside my own house.
1		Hope it goes ahead! It would be a legacy left by Jimmy Sawyer.
1		Since we received information on permits14 Nov 2014, College parking has completely how have own car parking on College main issues is the junction is Milburn Seventh Ave. Double yellow lines not by traffic wardens enough. People take no notice of double yellow lines. Parking permits times need to be 24hr 7 days not what is suggested. Very long overdue, heavy traffic, parking from other people terrible at weekends. This system has took too long to sort out. We are all very concerned and worried about it, parking on our avenue comes from the rows. so that stops us from parking. I f Councillor Sawyer was still here this would never have happened we have not been informed about anything since Nov 2014. Please try and sort out this 24hrs 7 days keep us informed. This must have taken 2.5-3 years from the start too long. Thank you. Very Worried. Jimmy put a lot of hard work double lines safety for his ward.
	1	The main reason we don't support the proposed permits the times and days it's effective we both work full time and are out of the house from 7.30am till 6.00pm therefore we would be paying for a permit that won't help. The biggest problem with parking is evenings due to the gym, Co-op and takeaways, weekends are a nightmare, often resulting in us parking 5-6 doors away - not practical with a pushchair/shopping etc. Ideally we need permits up to 10pm and including weekends otherwise it's just not worth having them. Also how will it be monitored?
1		This scheme should be at all times as since the new houses have been built you can't park outside your house or street as residents from adjoining streets fill the proposed scheme area with there cars on an evening.
	1	
1		I have no problem supporting the proposals but I must say I do not feel like we have any parking concerns in this area. It does get busy and although I already have 2 private parking spaces out the back i generally chose to park at the front as there is always loads of space available. It is only really residents cars I see parked on the street to be honest. I have no issues with the parking but would be happy to purchase a permit.
1		I agree with the proposed issuing of residents only parking permits however the times and days suggested is not enough what is required is 24hrs 7 days a week that's because some people, myself included works ODD hours and weekends. It s annoying coming home and cant get parked because of people at the shops nearby or people in the opposite lanes parking at your door. So if it's 24/7 parking permits for residents which would be best then there can be no mix ups from non residents. Why would people pay for 8.00am to 6.00pm when most residents will be at work at that time?
1		I feel the restriction times should be extended until 8pm though at least. I live at No. 5 and we get a LOT of traffic where people who are visiting the Co-op or the Gym on Milburn Road park in Seventh avenue. I also think that the sign which was installed at the end of the back lane on the even number side of Pont Street needs to be moved as it has been sited in the middle of the footpath and poses a hazard to pedestrians. I also think the restrictions should be extended to Saturday and Sunday because people still go to the Co-op and gym on Saturday and Sunday
1		No comment
	1	I propose the parking now should be front of Seventh Avenue be no parking at anytime, evenings and weekends included as these are the busiest times for vehicles using facility on Milburn Road. I also feel at

			this time there is no need for restrictions at the back of Seventh Avenue. I also have noticed on a very regular basis that vehicles are parking on double yellow lines and creating dangerous situations to the public and to other vehicles.
1			No comment
10	7	1	

