

Appendix A - Consultation Responses

Other Relevant Comments
<p>Good morning</p> <p>I gather that there is some opposition to the Argyle Street resident parking scheme. I do not live in Argyle street but am a resident of Alnmouth and I believe that the wishes of then Argyle street residents should be fully recognised.</p> <p>I also understand that much of the criticism is based on a feeling that the scheme is unfair as it only benefits one street. I believes that residents elsewhere in the village could benefit from a limited expansion of the scheme in the other main streets of the village.</p> <p>This would remove the ' unfairness' and benefit permanent residents of the village that have to unfairly compete with the growing number of holiday makers staying at the growing number of holiday lets and B and Bs etc .</p>
<p>I am writing to object to the resident permit holder scheme for Argyle Street residents.</p> <p>It seems highly unfair for one part of the village to have a parking scheme when the rest of the village residents have to circle the village - 7 times is our record- to park. Often the spaces in Argyle street are empty.</p> <p>I think either this scheme should be scrapped or extended to all permanent residents of the village.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>
<p>Hail to a great start with the new initiative despite the parish council's perceived lack of consultation.</p> <p>You can be assured that if that council were in charge nothing would happen now or in the future and the village would become totally suffocated in traffic.</p> <p>The efficient way your teams went about creating the one way system has to be applauded. It will surely lead to major improvements when day visitors will be encouraged to go to the beach car parks.</p> <p>Sadly for us residents of Argyle Street we seem to have lost out. No permit parking No one way system through the street And although there are small "residents only" signs outside the flats no more prominent signs at the top of the street. In fact no restrictions whatsoever</p> <p>It does seem ironic that we as a group pointed out how impossible it is becoming for residents in Alnmouth. We were the pioneers. Ambulances not being able to reach patients. Residents not able to leave the village in their cars knowing they would find a space when they returned. The street will continue to be a holiday dumping ground. Northumbria Coast and Country Cottages will continue to put it in their paperwork to send their "overspill" guests to park on Argyle Street as will the other business people who run pubs and guest houses. So the misery here will continue for the quiet majority. Still we did try and I'm sure that the scheme you have introduced will be a success. But going forward you may want to revisit the idea of helping to protect the residents of Argyle Street. This is a response from Marris</p>

to a new "survey" from "three retired engineers" who clearly are unhappy about the new road design initiative.

We among many others in Alnmouth are delighted with the work you have carried out and wanted to add our voices against the latest survey initiative which we gather even Alnmouth Parish Council has distanced itself from.

My Mother in Law is not "on grid" so I'm sending this on her behalf. Coincidentally I have just walked round the village and seen over 70 (yes 70) empty car parking bays. I'm not incl roads where parking is permitted, but there are no bays. Admittedly many were on Marine Rd and Riverside Rd, but there were still 15 on Northumberland St (excl Disabled). A quiet time of year, but it reinforces the view that the congestion is visitor related and could be solved by Residents Parking Permits, but I doubt that's going to happen given all the Holiday Lets and B&Bs

My Mother In Law's comments:-

I just wanted to voice my support for the traffic and parking changes that have recently been implemented in Alnmouth. I would in particular like to mention:-
The slower speed limit in Marine Road makes it a lot safer for pedestrians.
The One Way in Marine Road should end the practice of large lorries turning in the space outside the Seabank complex's garages.

Buses no longer race round a blind corner by the Golf Club threatening players as they approach or leave the course as they now travel in the opposite direction.
As an OAP I have found that the new parking bays in Northumberland St have increased the spaces between parked cars thus improving visibility and safety when crossing the road.

I have often had to walk in the road outside the post office as the bus queue together with the grit bin, seat, A Frames, shop displays etc combine to totally obstruct the pavement. The move of the Bus Stop to the Schooner will alleviate this problem.

Now that the Alnmouth trial traffic scheme has had its first real test with the large influx of visitors over the Christmas period I would like to offer you and the Council my observations.

Before doing so, however, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for the way in which the consultation process was carried out, which provided the residents of Alnmouth with ample opportunity to consider different proposals for easing traffic congestion and parking in the village.

My early impression of the trial scheme is that it has been very effective in addressing some of the problems created by traffic especially during peak.holiday periods. In particular, I believe that the one-way system has much improved the flow of traffic through the village, although I would have preferred to have had an anti-clockwise flow maintaining the original bus route.

I also feel that the introduction of parking bays has helped to improve the parking situation and has created some much needed discipline, although I think there is scope for providing more bays on Riverside Road.

As regards the idea of introducing resident parking in Argyle Street, as a permanent resident, it would obviously have my full support and I look forward to learning the final decision in that regard.

One way traffic is faster than two way traffic. Marine Road is more busy than before. Parking on opposite sides alternately doesn't affect law abiding but provides a bit of excitement for the adventurous ! Parking outside this house, opposite the door, means a slightly risky exit. Residents and staying visitors need residential permit cards "

I am totally unhappy about double yellow lines outside my apartment , 1, Marine Apts , Marine Road , Alnmouth , there are 5 Apts in total and we could usually park outside , more difficult in the summer but with your proposals , impossible. The one way system is a good idea but would like yellow lines removed and the white bays opposite removed . If you persist in this, I would like to apply for a parking permit for one of the bays opposite which I believe we should all be entitled to and signs erected to this effect , as surely owners have more right to park than Day visitors .

I'm a resident of Alnmouth and would like to offer personal feedback on the new traffic scheme in the village.

First of all, a big thank you! I was among the original group of residents who approached Alnmouth Parish council to ask for help with finding solutions to the specific problem of parking within our street.

· I have also attached here a document posted through my letterbox from a group opposing the present system and have done so FYI. I am very concerned about this document and will come to my reasons for that concern at the end of this. I have been extremely impressed by the way NCC, via Gordon Castle in particular, have acted to help with this traffic challenge and endeavoured to achieve the best outcome possible for all – residents, business owners and visitors.

The consultation process in my opinion, has been very thorough. I was present at the Hindmarch Hall when various suggested solutions were presented and had the opportunity to speak directly to the NCC staff present, as well as being invited to give written feedback.

In addition I have twice given feedback on the proposal to possibly introduce permit parking to Argyle Street, which I am very much in favour of.

I was keen to have the one way system, turning in the direction of the beach parking first. I think it has helped greatly in guiding visitors to the beach car park, rather than parking so readily on our street which is right beside the smaller beach, as well as other residential streets, although there is still quite a lot of parking in Argyle Street by none-residents.

The additional yellow lines have also lessened the available spaces but at the same time made traffic movement much better and allowed emergency access for ambulances/fire engines which was seriously compromised earlier. I think the addition of parking permits which will at least only allow residents to park on the street, would be extremely helpful and ensure that visitors do head to the beach car park first – also offering additional revenue for the village via the small parking fee charged there.

The one way system and 20 mph signs also make it safer, I think, for older residents. Our 91 year old neighbour who is seriously visually impaired, had often been worried by traffic moving too quickly, in both directions and had to step out across a road congested with vehicles manoeuvring forwards and back when parking on either side made it impossible for traffic travelling in both directions to move freely.

I have heard much criticism of the number of signs which have been erected. Personally I don't believe that they have had any detrimental effect whatsoever, certainly compared to the situation we had before the new system, where traffic on the main street was often gridlocked, looking more like a large car park than an attractive tourist village.

In addition I think one more sign is perhaps needed on the turn to The Wynd at the very beginning of the one way system to inform drivers that the first section is in fact two way and that traffic might be approaching from the direction of the beach. I also think that perhaps a few more parking spaces could be re-instated at the far end of Riverside Road where there doesn't seem to be any real need for double yellow lines by the boating club and play park areas.

On a completely unbiased note – I have spoken to a bus driver of the X18 route who has driven through the village both before and after the traffic changes and he is very positive about the new system.

Equally an ambulance driver who picked up two neighbours regularly at the bottom of our street and had real problems doing so before the changes is much happier as is our carpet cleaner who visited last week and was raving about the new system!

None of the above have any other connection with the village and all spoke spontaneously on the traffic changes, without any input or encouragement from others.

All in all I think it has been a job very well done and carried out very smoothly by the workmen on the ground too. I would still like parking permits in Argyle Street but await the decision based on collective feedback from everyone living on the street.

THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

I admit to being somewhat troubled by this document which was posted through my letterbox.

Obviously I am happy with the changes, so that may be colouring my judgement somewhat, but my concern is that the document is clearly slanted towards giving negative feedback, even stating that the completed docs may be used at a later stage as a collective objection to the new road system if NCC don't do as they (who are they??) want. Bit undemocratic I think.

Given misleading information, ie that local consultation was informal, whereas I believe that the consultation was very thorough.

1. Slanted all of the suggested feedback towards negative comments (One actually has to cross out objections otherwise they will be forwarded to your office as printed – and sorry, can't help it :D but "the extra mileage caused by the one way system" comment is utterly laughable in this tiny village) I can't see any positive suggestions printed to give equal weight to the feedback, though I have outlined just a few positives in the main body of my letter.
2. The people who have sent and are collecting these papers are not named and are not officials. They are clearly against the present system. How can anyone filling in this document who wishes to give positive feedback, be sure that the forms will be forwarded to you given the agenda of the people encouraging negative feedback?
3. There has been ample opportunity for people to give feedback individually to NCC as I am doing here and this offer is ongoing until May 17th. I am confident that my feedback will be given equal attention to everyone else's this way, be it positive or negative. People are allowed to do as they wish of course but I feel that

people are being pressured via this document to give negative feedback by others who are not in a position of authority to do so and would request that NCC keep this in mind when making further decisions based on the feedback within these documents.

Sorry for the length of this feedback, but please don't be downhearted by what seems to be a lot of criticism on these changes. I think you've done a fantastic job and so do lots of others, but there is a certain amount of nervousness amongst some to speak out due to the pressure being imposed by negative groups with influence within the village.

Since the one way system was introduced we have noticed a sharp and continued improvement to both traffic flow and an easing of the parking situation in Argyle Street.

One family (friends of ours) visiting the village again this year told me how much easier it was to drive round the village.

One parking attendant on the beach told me that she has been ever so busy now that day visitors are being directed by the road signs down to the beach area. This means an increase in takings for the Burghers

Most days now we are able to park in Argyle Street . and most of the time outside our home at 22.

So for us lovely to report a great result.

Firstly I wanted to point out that we are thrilled that at last we have been able to parkin our street on most occasions.

We think the permit scheme coupled with with the new one way system has been a major improvement and seems to have encouraged day visitors to go to the beach parking.

It is a view shared by residents in the street though I will encourage them to email or write separately.

For now Argyle is no longer a dumping ground for the likes of Northumbrian Coast and Country Cottages, Pubs, other guests houses and visitors happy to rob residents of a parking space. The previous situation really made it a nightmare for some residents and also prevented emergency vehicles getting in an out of the street.

One neighbour often couldn't return to the street with her terminally ill husband because of the congestion and an ambulance struggled to turn up to attend to another neighbour in her 90's.

You may be aware there is an orchestrated campaign spearheaded by local business and parish councillors to revert back to the old system. It is featured in the new Alnmouth Village Newsletter today which can be seen online.

We want to keep the new system and stand up for the many in this village who haven't a voice and who've seen much improvement.

I'll copy Gordon Castle in on this for his information.

I am a resident of Alnmouth village and note that our monthly newsletter has given a list of addresses to give feedback on the new residents parking permits recently implemented on Argyle Street.

Whilst the word objection was mentioned four times in the piece, the suggestion of making comments specifically approving, the new parking implementation was not. Much information has also been given on contacts for making official, and formal objections. I imagine these contacts welcome a balanced view, therefore I am copying this to all.

BACKGROUND

First let me say that I am a full-time resident of Argyle Street and was one of a group of residents who sought help from Alnmouth Council, as we were facing the ongoing challenge of gridlocked traffic on Argyle Street. The street is quite short, but has four, four storey blocks of flats situated at the top and at least six holiday house rental businesses, possibly more, situated on either side of the road, in amongst a range of full time residential properties.

At the very amicable council meeting during which we asked for assistance, we acknowledged that many villagers make an income from holiday home lets and made clear that we didn't want to damage any of their businesses. We obviously welcome visitors to the village, but we had got to a stage in our street where through traffic was often unable to access the route through to Riverside Road, because of:

1. A glut of cars parked at the bottom of the street.
2. Holiday home rentals, none of which are Bed & Breakfast establishments, sometimes having several cars per house filling the available parking space.
3. Day visitors, parking here in high numbers to access the smaller beach in Alnmouth for dog walking/etc.
4. Some holiday home rental & bed & breakfast customers staying in other parts of the village, being directed by owners to park in Argyle Street. Totally legal, but nevertheless adding hugely to the congestion problem.

In the wider village, traffic and parking was, as is now, one of the major talking points amongst all villagers and indeed has been for the years I have been resident. The main street as locals will know, was often jammed with traffic, both parked and moving, meaning cars had to back up to allow others access. I was aware of many acquaintances living in the area who stated that they never came to Alnmouth anymore because of the traffic.

Our street undoubtedly had an issue and so did the rest of the village. We felt solutions had to be found, both for the full time residents of the village and visitors, as Alnmouth becomes ever more popular as a tourist attraction. The consultation process carried out by NCC was extensive and resulted in changes specific to Argyle Street as well as the rest of the village.

CHANGES TO PARKING ARGYLE STREET

At the time of the consultation we had neighbours on either side who required regular emergency visits by ambulance and doctors. The ambulance drivers mentioned their worries about accessing the houses. No doubt fire engines too would have found access impossible because of the concentration of cars at the bottom of the street. For this reason we welcomed double yellow lines starting a few feet from our own home and at other points along Argyle Street and the lane connecting our street and Riverside Road. Obviously this did not help us personally with our parking difficulties, but it did help the more frail members of the community, so a much needed change.

At this stage we had not been offered parking permits, but with the new one way system in place guiding day visitors to the parking on the beach, we felt that a small improvement had already been made. Visitors before this change had often stopped us on the main street, bewildered, having missed the beach turning and asking for directions to get there, so we feel that the one way system in the present direction has been a real improvement. I imagine the revenue from beach parking will have grown as a result, which is of benefit to villagers and visitors alike.

When the parking permits were offered, we happily accepted. In the past, residents of Argyle Street had often been forced to park in other areas of the village, because of the additional parking issues stated above, depriving our village neighbours of parking near their own homes. Though not dedicated spaces, we now usually do find a space to park in our own street. This isn't always the case, but we fully accept that and we are not now parking regularly in neighbouring village streets out of desperation, so are freeing up some space there.

The holiday rental businesses located in Argyle Street, I understand, have also been allocated permits in a similar number to the full time residents. This I think is fair and ensures that the businesses in our street have not suffered in any way because of the introduction of permits. None are Bed & Breakfast establishments, so none have need for several permits.

Incidentally the newsletter mentions that only residents in Argyle Street have permits, but many of the holiday rental owners have never been resident. They are property owners operating as businesses and are benefitting from the parking permit allocations.

During the first week of implementing the permit scheme, there was some criticism from other residents, particularly those living in Riverside Road, that Argyle Street had a number of empty spaces and yet no spaces were free in Riverside Road. I believe this was because the non-resident holiday home owners had not at that point obtained permits for their customers. That situation seems to have been rectified now, as the parking spaces available at any given time are largely in keeping with other streets in the rest of the village.

Incidentally the whole new traffic system seems to have largely benefitted the village in my opinion. I work from home and walk around the village every day, seeing spaces available in all streets and often a large number of potential parking spaces free in Pease Lane and Alnwood in particular.

At the recent Alnmouth Arts Festival, which the newsletter states was the best attended ever, I happened to meet several visitors who mentioned that they much preferred the one way system, saying that the place looked much more like a real village now, rather than one big car park and the roads in the village are in a much improved condition too.

Going forward, it might be an idea to try permit parking for all villagers who don't

have their own dedicated parking spaces after a similar very thorough consultation. There are also areas in the village where some yellow lines could be replaced with additional parking spaces.

All in all, I think Northumberland County Council and particularly Gordon Castle, have done a really good job. Locals came with a very real problem, were listened to and a very thorough consultation was carried out before implementing changes. I have, of course, no knowledge of consultations which may or may not have been carried out re parking, involving residents of other specific streets within the village.

Some people may be shy about coming forward to give positive comments, as they fear pressure from some very vocal members of the community who are strongly against the changes made, but I have heard plenty of locals quietly saying how much better the traffic situation is within the village.

In seaside villages such as ours it is important to get a balance between keeping the area a vibrant tourist destination and keeping the village alive with real village residents. I think the parking in Argyle Street as well as other traffic flow changes, will have a positive effect on both going forward.

With regard to the parking situation, not only in Argyle Street, but across the whole village, thinking about residents parking is a good idea. I have several times come out of the house to run an errand, to come back unable to park, not only in close to my house, but in the entire village – admittedly at weekends, bank holidays and during the holiday periods we have had so far so since this scheme was put in place.

This can only get worse in the coming months as we enter the summer holiday period and something that must be given greater consideration than it currently is.

Whilst I understand the need for visitors, the use of the beach car park must be used more efficiently, with parking not for the day but time limited, bringing more income from the car park, but also allowing for a turnover of those visiting for the day. Also for those holidaying in the village – clearly if they cannot park in the village, let alone close to where they are staying I doubt they will be quick to return unless they have the assurance of parking from a residents pass. I also believe the village would benefit from the use of the car park across the bridge by the school should be used as an overflow for visitors during busy summer months.

It is surely worth considering making Alnmouth residents only parking in the summer in any event to reduce traffic into the village.

I would like to support the new residents parking scheme in Alnmouth which seems to be working well. My husband and I have 2 cars. We still encounter a few problems when friends and family visit, but it is nevertheless a great improvement in everyday life.

I also attend a couple of morning classes in Hindmarsh Hall with people who come into Alnmouth by car and, now that everyone understands the Village parking scheme, they do not have problems parking in appropriate areas.

Thank you and my husband and I hope the scheme continues.

The problem for residents in Northumberland St and the lanes running off it is (Prospect Place, Grosvenor Terrace, Livaine Terrace etc with no parking) is that N St is swamped with Visitors staying or visiting the pubs, B&Bs, Air BnBs etc. Essentially every parking space is needed to accommodate visitors. This causes friction. The Argyle scheme (which I think is a good thing) annoys N St residents and businesses as they can see spaces during the day whilst N St is packed. Again I think that the spaces show it is working as Argyle residents can come back and park after work or when ever, but there is a case for arguing that it is unfair for N St residents

I was under the impression that to have a scheme whereby residents of N St and the adjacent lanes had permits then it would have to involve all of the street at all times. If there is more flexibility then would it be possible to look at Residents parking for say half the Street or just in the evenings?? I dont want to crucify businesses, but equally I don't want businesses and holiday lets to squash the residents. I think it is fairer to expect visitors to park round the corner than residents.

I don't want to compare Alnmouth to Venice or Barcelona, but I sense that, like Venice & Barcelona residents are starting to get a little tired of being swamped by cars and visitors virtually every weekend in the summer and increasingly even out of school holidays.

A brief note to provide my full support for the current experiment, both for the one-way system and for the parking arrangements. These arrangements have worked very well since they began, including the recent improvements, and I hope they will continue on a permanent basis.

You may be aware of an additional problem now occurring on the entry road between the bridge and the memorial roundabout caused by car parking; this happens particularly during the tourist season and special events being held, or starting/terminating in Alnmouth. Buses, wagons and ordinary traffic can suffer blockage and major delay - along the curved section in particular, there being no passing place.

Like many coastal villages, Alnmouth is very short of parking areas to accommodate large increases in traffic and I urge your department to now focus attention to the provision of new parking - west of the bridge on the flood plain fields seems a likely choice area.

I will be supporting the view that the current experimental arrangements be made permanent since they have proved most successful.

I would just like to say how great all the new traffic regulations have been in Alnmouth.

The one way system has been a great success and the parking bays and additional double yellow lines have made the village look much neater. The civil enforcement officers have been doing a sterling job!

It also feels a lot safer walking around as all cars now have to pass the way to the car park and there has been no gridlock or road rage or cars mounting the pavements to get through the village!

The bus service also has no trouble coming through the village now although extending the double yellow lines after the roundabout when leaving the village would be beneficial to all!

I would also like to say that the introduction of resident parking permits on Argyle Street, whilst not making any difference to the number of visitors, has dramatically improved the lives of the residents. (Even with the opposing views and comments from other people in the village!) We now have no fear of leaving at any time of day even when the village is heaving with visitors as we know we can park somewhere near our properties when we return. Also, when we have spoken to visitors staying in the five rental properties in Argyle Street, they are also very happy they can now park when returning from days out.

Alnmouth is a lovely place to visit but it is now also a wonderful place to LIVE once more.

Thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues have done so far and it has always been a pleasure communicating with you.

As a resident on Argyle Street I fully agree with the parking scheme. I feel I should be entitled to a c/parking space. By having this scheme, it has not driven any visitors away. Would it not be possible to make the beach car park free, visitors come to walk along the beach and walk into the village to so. Surely by doing this it would bring more visitors and keep businesses happy by and making the residents happy by having guaranteed parking. Surely the one resident at the bottom of Argyle street who advised there are parking during the day, I bet she/he has her own parking space, however if she/he didn't have her own parking space and had to park on Argyle street she would be arguing for the other side as all the business owners who have their own guaranteed parking spaces and doesn't have to worry about parking.

We wish to compliment NCC on the one way system in our village and hope that it continues after the expiration of the 12 month traffic experiment.

As a resident on Riverside Road would it be possible to adopt a residents parking scheme on the houses side of the road similar to what as been done on Argyle Street?

Or alternatively be given a parking permit for Argyle Street which covers the lane linking Argyle Street to Riverside Road which we live very close to.

The scheme has been in operation for six months. In my view, and the majority of Argyle St residents it has been a great success.

Not only can we park when we come home from work etc, but during the day also. It has stopped the influx of cars from the holiday flats in Percy cottages, Victoria cottages and Riverside.

I hope the scheme continues.

We are a resident of Argyle Street write with regard to the recently introduced residents parking scheme.

We are very much in support of the continuation of the scheme. Prior to its introduction we were frequently unable to park anywhere close to our residence and this was proving quite a challenge on occasions. Since its introduction we have always been able to park our car close to the house.

We understand the pressures on parking in the village as a whole and are sympathetic to the needs of retailers, guest houses and users of holiday lets who wish to access the village. It is clear that over the last couple of years the village economy has flourished with refurbished and new businesses. This growth does not seem to have been affected by the introduction of the parking scheme and balancing the needs of residents and visitors is an important part of the health of the village. Day visitors are increasingly being encouraged to use the beach car park and the marked bays on the waterfront roads. The one way system will have helped access overall. To remove the scheme that has been introduced would in our view be a retrograde step. The fact of some empty spaces in the street during the day is actually evidence that the scheme is working as it means residents can return to the street and park. The village has to accept it cannot readily accommodate more parking in its centre during the summer months and other peak holiday periods and other long term strategies, including possibly additional resident only parking arrangements are required. Short term parking and disabled parking in limited areas and a focus on visitors parking in the car park or even introducing a park and ride scheme at very peak times (as is done on certain event days) is the only practical alternative to a free for all which would leave residents unable to park.

Parking schemes such as these are normal in many urban areas and a feature of modern life. Other residents in the village will be sympathetic to this and we would support their efforts to extend the scheme if they wished to do so.

We believe those running businesses should look to a new way of serving customers without seeking to have parking in a residential village primarily focussed on their customers (and therefore their) needs.

My contribution would be to say that tension seems to be between residents wanting to park after work which is an absolute nightmare in the rest of the village, and allowing daytime users access.

Why not limit the residents-only restriction from 4pm-8am, and widen that across the village? Holiday rentals etc could have a pass each as is currently done in Argyle Street, and that way the villagers proper are shown the respect they deserve for paying council tax etc in the area.

Currently the situation is fantastic in Argyle Street. As a flat resident, I can choose from Northumberland Street parking, residents zones, AND the pre built parking around the flat. But that's actually very unfair - xxxxx literally does three circles of the village many days and before I moved in here so did I. This needs to be more fairly spread across the resident villagers.

We need the permit parking as we can't get parked when we come home at night. All the people from the hotels and holiday homes [some of the holiday lets have three or more cars] park there and there is just not enough spaces for the residents. There may be spaces during the day as people are at work or on other

business but when they come home the street is full .If there was some way to let day visitors park during the day till about six it would help but I don't know if that is feasible .

I would just like to say how great all the new traffic regulations have been in Alnmouth.

The one way system has been a great success and the parking bays and additional double yellow lines have made the village look much neater. The civil enforcement officers have been doing a sterling job!

It also feels a lot safer walking around as all cars now have to pass the way to the car park and there has been no gridlock or road rage or cars mounting the pavements to get through the village!

The bus service also has no trouble coming through the village now although extending the double yellow lines after the roundabout when leaving the village would be beneficial to all!

I would also like to say that the introduction of resident parking permits on Argyle Street, whilst not making any difference to the number of visitors, has dramatically improved the lives of the residents. (Even with the opposing views and comments from other people in the village!) We now have no fear of leaving at any time of day even when the village is heaving with visitors as we know we can park somewhere near our properties when we return. Also, when we have spoken to visitors staying in the five rental properties in Argyle Street, they are also very happy they can now park when returning from days out.

Alnmouth is a lovely place to visit but it is now also a wonderful place to LIVE once more.

Thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues have done so far and it has always been a pleasure communicating with you.

Many thanks once again

As it's been six months since the traffic changes in Alnmouth were introduced we would like to say that the residents of Argyle Street continue to be thrilled with the improvements to the quality of their lives.

As you'll recall the street was previously a complete dumping ground for day visitors.

One resident struggled to return with medicine for her dying husband and ambulances were unable to reach another elderly neighbour needing to be taken to hospital.

Holiday companies and local businesses also recommended that their guests leave their cars in Argyle Street if no other spaces were available.

The permits also have eased the problems of the holiday homes in the street which often attracted up to six visiting cars at a time.

So well done all round to you and your team and a particular nod to our Warden who's done a brilliant job despite the insults heading his way.

Now we hear of some new "hybrid" plan allowing visitors to park between 9 and 6 which frankly will mean that we are all back to square one.

We understand the aggressive lobbying from certain business folk and parish councillors (often the same people)

The County Council have been great throughout this process. We hope you won't let us down now.

As far as Argyle St 'Resident Permit' scheme, I believe this is accomplishing the intended goal. I have not met any resident of this street who has had any real negative response. The exception being during the summer season and the few properties that have been sub-divided into flats and there for entitled to more than the standard two (2) resident permits. Only on the rare occasion have I observed every parking space occupied. By all accounts it is actually late in the evening (sometime after 1800 hrs) that is the biggest issue of people parking without permits.

I have had people who frequent the village, who don't actually live in the village, complain that they "come into the village for shopping and what not and frustrated to see spaces they can not park in". I have tried to reason with them that the purpose of the scheme was to attempt to allow residents of the street priority access to parking outside their own front door. They come back with things such as why is this scheme not in place for folk who live elsewhere in the village.

During the off-season, parking in Riverside Road is rarely utilized to anywhere near it's full potential. Even during the peak season, it is rare that all spaces are occupied. What it generally boils down to is the fact that a significant portion of the driving public are not prepared to walk a reasonable distance to their intended destination. It hardly takes 5 minutes to walk to any location from one side of the village to the other.

Perhaps Northumberland St, Alnmouth, could offer a similar scheme to that of Bailiffgate, Alnwick. Where bays are limited time parking or Resident Permit. No need for a parking clock. Maybe "Resident Permit Holders or 2 hours free no return for 3 hours". This would give time for folk to have a bite to eat and check out the extremely limited gift shops. There have been one or two voiced concerns on Riverside Road which there could be a view to doing the same perhaps '4 hours no return for 5 hours' to allow folk a more leisurely walk along the beach and what

not. Just a thought.

I am aware that we are not going to be able to please everyone but if we can at least give most people a portion of what they want it will show that we are committed to providing a mutually beneficial compromise.

I really like the new parking scheme and the one way system in Alnmouth, having been a regular visitor to the village for 10+ years. Makes such a difference, and ultimately it's the residents who live there and rightly have their interests represented, not just businesses that make a fortune from tourism.

I think it could be extended in other parts of Alnmouth, so that Argyle Street isn't unfairly used, but it should definitely stay on that road (by the way, I don't live on that road.)

As far as Argyle St 'Resident Permit' scheme, I believe this is accomplishing the intended goal. I have not met any resident of this street who has had any real negative response. The exception being during the summer season and the few properties that have been sub-divided into flats and there for entitled to more than the standard two (2) resident permits. Only on the rare occasion have I observed every parking space occupied. By all accounts it is actually late in the evening (sometime after 1800 hrs) that is the biggest issue of people parking without permits.

I have had people who frequent the village, who don't actually live in the village, complain that they "come into the village for shopping and what not and frustrated to see spaces they can not park in". I have tried to reason with them that the purpose of the scheme was to attempt to allow residents of the street priority access to parking outside their own front door. They come back with things such as why is this scheme not in place for folk who live elsewhere in the village.

During the off-season, parking in Riverside Road is rarely utilized to anywhere near it's full potential. Even during the peak season, it is rare that all spaces are occupied. What it generally boils down to is the fact that a significant portion of the driving public are not prepared to walk a reasonable distance to their intended destination. It hardly takes 5 minutes to walk to any location from one side of the village to the other.

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I am aware that you are not going to be able to please everyone but if you can at least give most people a portion of what they want it will show that we are committed to providing a mutually beneficial compromise.

Just though I would drop you an email with a couple of comments on the current parking scheme within Alnmouth. I have been a resident of Argyle Street in Alnmouth for the last xx years and for the last xx I have been a car owner/driver. Personally I must say what a huge improvement it has made to the street and I DO HOPE THAT IT CONTINUES!!

In the past it had become increasingly difficult to find a parking space outside of my house, or even just in the street where I live due to the increased number of holiday homes and houses that are rented out throughout the year. I don't think there is a week that goes by without houses being vacated by one or more groups/families whilst another arrives shortly afterwards. Sometimes these groups brought 4 cars to the same house and therefore parking became rather scarce. Not being able to find a car parking space in, or close to home, did make it difficult when returning home with 6 or 7 bags of food shopping and then having to circle the village a couple of time (have done this many times :-)) in order to find a space to park, followed by a couple of trips between the house and car in order transfer the shopping.

Anyway, I just wanted to say that since the residential parking scheme was introduced in Argyle Street, I am no longer worried that when I arrive home after work in the evening, especially now the dark nights are here, that I will need to park a distance away from my door, I do travel down to Newcastle every day so tend to get back anytime between 5 and 7. It is the same at weekends - I used to be of the opinion that, if at all possible, I would not bother moving my car, due to the worry that I would never be able to find a space upon my return. Now I know that parking within the area is not guaranteed and I understand that, but I have to say that during the summer, just past, parking within the area around Argyle Street has been greatly improved. Cars were sometimes parked opposite junctions or squeezed in blocking pavements, all of which caused other road users stress. I can recall a number of times large delivery lorries having to reverse up our street because they could not turn the corner at the bottom due to cars being parked without due care - and got forbid if emergency vehicles could not get access due to bad parking. So having the marked bays in place has improved this area.

I must admit there are still times when non-residential cars do park in the "residential only area" and these tend to sneak in late in the day, when I presume they think the traffic warden will no longer be around - so maybe this needs to be looked at i.e. whether sometimes someone could do a patrol later in the evening or early in the morning to catch those at fault.

BUT overall I would say it has been a great success and, as I have already stated, as a long term resident of Argyle Street I do hope the trial is adopted and it becomes the norm.

The only other point I would raise is about the "one way" scheme in operation, and this is that I would like to see those vehicles leaving the beach car park, and driving up the road, having to turn left at the top junction of Maine Road and just follow the one way system from there. Just last week I witnessed a near collision where a car turned right at the top, against the one way traffic flow, and nearly collided with a van going down the Wynd.

If you need any further information or clarification then please let me know.

I just want wanted to add my support to the parking scheme trial which is working very well in terms of being able to park near or outside my own property. Prior to the scheme this was not the case. I very much hope the scheme will become

permanent as I do not believe it is detriment to the wider village.

Many thanks

I am writing further to the Alnmouth Council meeting on Tuesday 14th November. Around 20 Argyle Street residents and permit holders with Riverside Road addresses were present. We had read notices in The Northumberland Gazette stating that temporary traffic orders, including those within our own street, were to be discussed and we wished to be involved in the conversation about Argyle Street. During the parking experiments throughout the village and within our own street, I have been extremely happy with the consultation process carried out by NCC, who listened to our concerns about parking in Argyle Street and then instigated the whole process of a new traffic system in Alnmouth. I and many other residents throughout the village have been very pleased indeed with the outcome. During this time, NCC have spoken with us directly. However, many of us in Argyle Street, rightly or wrongly, perceive that a number of the members of Alnmouth Parish Council, whilst claiming to act for the good of all of the villagers, are personally biased against not only parking permits in Argyle Street, but the whole new traffic system, because the Parish Council have a separate issue of anger with regards to communication between themselves and NCC. Our concern is that Alnmouth Parish Council, unlike NCC, have not instigated an open council meeting, inviting locals to discuss the issues. Nor have they invited locals to approach individual councillors with their concerns. Therefore how can they claim to be acting on the villagers' behalf? Are there any records of conversations, or written communications with local individuals proving that a majority of residents are -

- A) Unhappy with Permit parking in Argyle Street?
- B) Unhappy with the new traffic system?

During this time Alnmouth Parish Council have, via the newsletter (July) advised locals on how to protest about the new parking system in Argyle Street. Giving links to do so. No encouragement accompanied this for locals to comment positively about the permits. The word "objection" was printed four times in the piece. Many of us living in Argyle Street feel that because of the reasons stated Alnmouth Parish

Council's feedback to NCC does not accurately reflect the true feelings of all of the village and specifically the residents of Argyle Street. It is we have had everyday experience of the parking issues before permits were introduced, have responded directly to NCC with feedback on the scheme (on record as a majority wanting the permits) and turned out in force on Tuesday night to explain the reasons why we are still very much in favour of parking permits.. In addition to this, it is a fact that Alnmouth ALWAYS has some free parking spaces – even during village events. Streets such as Alnwood have garage and drive parking for residents or specific parking spots for the bungalows, but the rest of the street is absolutely free of cars. This was the case even when Northumberland Street was closed for resurfacing. There are other streets which also regularly have lots of free space.

2

ARGYLE STREET – WHY OUR STREET HAS A UNIQUE PARKING ISSUE, RESOLVED WITH GREAT SUCCESS BY THE USE OF PARKING PERMITS.

- Argyle Street sits only a few metres away from The Little Beach, It is a relatively short street, but has four, four storey blocks of flats within it, five full time holiday let businesses, further part time holiday let businesses and several residential units. Argyle Street probably has the highest permanent residential percentage in any road in the village and none of the properties has parking provision other than on the street.
- Being so close to the Little Beach, the street was often full of day visitors walking dogs etc. This blocked parking for residents, yet ample parking provision is available for day visitors on the main beach, from which day visitors can walk anywhere in the village. Parking in the main car park also brings in vital revenue to maintain certain facilities within the village.
- Before parking permits were introduced, the full time businesses in our street, which are holiday lets, had four and sometimes five vehicles per house using the street space for parking. This prevented residents from being able to park in the street. Now the full time businesses have the same parking permit provision as residents. We are happy with this and would argue that this actually supports the businesses in our street, ensuring that their clients have a chance of parking near the businesses.

· Criticism has been levelled at the fact that Argyle Street has empty parking spaces available.

Sometimes it does have some free spaces. This is a sign that the permit parking is working.

Sometimes it is also still absolutely full of cars. The times when our street has spaces are the

times that several other streets also have available spaces.

· If Argyle Street's parking permits are removed, then the residents will once again be forced

to park on other village streets, particularly Northumberland Street, blocking visitors who

may want to use the shops/pubs. Surely this would be detrimental to the good of the village

and simply means that Argyle Street will be a big car park for users of the holiday lets and

day visitors walking on The Little Beach once again?

· The village is thriving since the new parking scheme has been in place. The Parish Council's

own newsletter confirms this. Here are just a few examples of quotes from this:

1. Alnmouth Arts Festival – "The best attended festival so far!"

2. Alnmouth Volcano Night – "Record Number of Volcanos... 48 teams taking part spurred on by hundreds of supporters"

3. Alnmouth Food Festival – "A glorious day in terms of sales with many vendors running out of food. More than 1200 people attended."

It is clear that businesses are doing well in Alnmouth and there are a lot of them for such a

small village. The Argyle Street Parking Scheme will not harm them in any way and actually helps the

businesses in Argyle Street as well as the residents. I think everyone would agree that we want to

welcome business, visitors AND residents to this village. But please do not ignore the needs of the

permit holding residents of Argyle Street and Riverside Road.

I live in Alnmouth and would like to register my support for the recent Traffic and Parking changes in the village.

The one way system works well and has improved traffic flow.

The Argyle Street Residents Parking Scheme should be retained as it is a great help to the people who live in that street. I hear that some in the village feel that it is unfair, but if similar permit schemes are introduced throughout the village then it would no longer be unfair or divisive. People complain that they can't park to attend events in the Hindmarsh Hall. The Hall has no parking, so why should nearby residents be the ones to provide parking for it?

The Parish Council should pay more attention to the interests of Residents not only Holiday Visitors and those businesses that benefit from them.

As a regular visitor to the village I just wanted to say I have welcomed the new changes to the road network. We rarely experience problems with traffic like we used to. We often visit friends in Argyle Street and the residents parking system is a fantastic idea. I think it would be a good idea to extend this system into other areas of the village, to be fair to other residents in Alnmouth.