



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING: PAUL JONES

EXPERIMENTAL RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON ARGYLE STREET IN ALNMOUTH

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the experimental resident permit parking restriction on Argyle Street in Alnmouth

Recommendations

It is recommended that in view of the feedback received during the 6 month experimental period, the following dual restrictions are introduced as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a period of 12 months:-

- Resident Permit Parking At Any Time
- Time limited Parking Place 8am - 6pm 3 hours, no return within 4 hours, all days

Key Issues

- 1) Residents Permit Parking was introduced on Argyle Street under a 6 month experimental order following the two public consultations held in Hindmarsh Hall where residents of Argyle Street specifically requested Resident Permit Parking in their street.
- 2) A formal consultation with residents of Argyle Street was also carried out prior to implementing the experimental order.
- 3) It was reported that the high demand for parking on Argyle Street, is the result of the high number of properties without off street parking, the high number of properties compared to parking places, people using the street to park while visiting the beach, and visitors who are staying in the village being advised that Argyle Street is a place where they can leave their vehicles.
- 4) The scheme was successful for those with permits who were able to

park close to their properties on Argyle Street.

- 5) The scheme was a contentious issue for those who were unable to park on Argyle Street when there was a high demand for parking places in the rest of the village.
- 6) The experimental order period has now ended. After considering the issues raised during the period of this experimental order, it is felt a dual restriction scheme allowing resident parking at all times and short term, time limited parking for other users during the day would be an appropriate solution. It is suggested this should be implemented through a further 12 month experimental order to allow its effects to be monitored and considered.

BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns were raised by residents of Argyle Street to local County Councillors and Parish Councillors regarding the difficulties they face when trying to find a parking place on their street due to non residents using the street to park while visiting Alnmouth. The residents stated that the issues were caused due the following:-
 - High number of properties without off street parking.
 - High number of properties compared to parking places.
 - People using the street to park while visiting the beach.
 - Guesthouses / Hotels advising their guests that parking is available on Argyle Street.
- 2) A resident permit parking scheme was introduced on Argyle Street as as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, following feedback received from two public consultations and one consultation with the residents of Argyle Street. As the majority of residents supported the scheme, but some non residents had raised concerns, the scheme was introduced as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a 6 months period, which allowed the council to monitor what effects the restrictions had on the rest of the village, while gathering feedback.

FEEDBACK

- 3) Throughout the experimental period the council requested feedback on the scheme which concluded on 1st December 2017. As expected, the majority of those who responded positively were residents of Argyle Street, who were in favour of the scheme being made permanent. Those who did not support the scheme were made up of businesses, visitors and residents of Alnmouth who were unable to park in Argyle Street. A summary of responses regarding resident permit parking in Alnmouth is attached as Appendix A.

- 4) All residents of Argyle Street who responded stated the introduction of the resident permit parking scheme had allowed them to be able to park near their properties on most occasions and was a significant improvement. One resident claimed that the introduction of the restrictions had not significantly affected business or parking in the rest of Alnmouth village and referred to successful events that had been held as reported in Alnmouth Village News Letter.
- 5) A number of residents who did not support the scheme claimed that when the demand for parking is high in the village there were always spaces left on Argyle Street that could be utilised. They also stated that one street should not be given preferential treatment in a village like Alnmouth that experiences a high demand for parking during the visitor peak times.
- 6) A number of visitors who holidayed regularly in Alnmouth were not in favour of the scheme as they stated they could no longer park on Argyle Street when they stayed on Northumberland Street.
- 7) A number of users of Hindmarsh Hall stated that the introduction of the resident parking on Argyle Street has restricted parking availability for those attending Hindmarsh Hall for meetings/functions as they do not have any off street parking, while others stated Argyle Street residents should not have to suffer because Hindmarsh Hall does not offer any off street parking and Argyle Street should not be used as a car park for visitors of Hindmarsh Hall.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8) From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concerns raised in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. However, the assessment of the feedback received showed that the scheme was a success for those who were eligible for the resident permit scheme and unpopular with those who were not eligible for resident permits.
- 9) It is therefore recommended the following dual parking restrictions are introduced on an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a period of 12 months:-
 - Resident Permit Parking At Any Time
 - Time limited Parking Place 8am - 6pm 3 hours, no return within 4 hours, all days
- 10) The introduction of these restrictions allows resident permit holders to park at any time, without time limit, but facilitates parking for other users when there is a high demand for short stay parking in the village during the day with a time restriction of 3 hours.

- 11) Feedback will be sought on the experimental order until the end of August 2018, to allow decisions to be taken on whether the order should be made permanent at the end of the experimental order period.
- 12) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended an inquiry is not held.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix A - Consultation Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from LTP
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Residents, visitors and businesses will benefit from the introduction of dual parking restrictions
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Alnmouth Parish Council, the emergency services, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area
Wards	Alnwick

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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Experimental Resident Permit Parking
Restrictions on Argyle Street in Alnmouth

Consultation

Feedback received attached as Appendix A

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of the following
Experimental Parking Restrictions on Argyle
Street in Alnmouth :

- Resident Permit Parking - At Any Time
- Time Limited Parking - 8am - 6pm, All Days, 3 Hours, No return within 4 hours

Signature of Director



Date

12/12/17