

## **RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR**

**DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING DELIVERY:  
PAUL JONES**

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### **PROPOSED LONG AND SHORT STAY CAR PARKS ON JOHN STREET IN ASHINGTON**

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#### **Purpose of report:**

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed introduction of both long and short stay parking places on the existing long stay car parks on John Street in Ashington

#### **Recommendations:**

**It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, the following parking restrictions are introduced**

- **Introduce a new time limit Monday – Saturday, 8 am – 6pm, 3 hours, No return within 4 hours in the existing John Street Car Park**
- **Remove advisory taxi bay from existing John Street Car Park**
- **Introduce Traffic Regulation Order to parking area south of roundabout on John Street to allow for all day parking and formalise bay markings**

#### **Key issues**

- 1) A parking study was carried out in Ashington on behalf of Northumberland County Council
- 2) The parking study identified the need for additional short stay parking close to the town centre.
- 3) Existing John Street Car Park has a Traffic Regulation Order in place for a long stay car park, while the parking area south of the roundabout on John Street is unrestricted and without a Traffic Regulation Order.

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Report Author

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## **PROPOSED LONG AND SHORT STAY CAR PARKS ON JOHN STREET IN ASHINGTON**

### **BACKGROUND**

- 1) Concerns have been raised regarding insufficient short stay parking provision around Ashington Town Centre, which is failing to support current and future demand for parking. It has been highlighted that the current parking provision within the area does not provide enough short stay parking for visitors who wish to visit the local shopping outlets. It is anticipated that the introduction of short stay parking to the John Street Car Park will increase footfall through the high street shopping area, which in turn will improve the local economy.
- 2) The parking area south of the roundabout on John Street currently has no Traffic Regulation Order in place and is unenforceable. As there are no bays marked out in this area, optimum parking capacity is never achieved. The introduction of formalised parking places will increase parking capacity and introduce a more organised approach to parking on John Street.

### **CONSULTATION**

- 3) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved posting consultation documents on site and the delivery of the consultation documents to approximately 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organizations. A plan showing the proposals is attached with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
- 4) The consultation exercise concluded on Wednesday 6th October 2017 and responses were received from 2 consultees, both being in favour. A summary of consultation responses is attached as Appendix B).

### **COMMENTS**

- 5) One consultee commented that when cars park in the parking area south of the roundabout they leave too much space and therefore do not utilise the space appropriately.

If bay markings are introduced in this area it will allow for optimum use of the parking place by the way of formalising parking with bay markings

- 6) One consultee proposed that residents of John Street should have designated parking places within the long stay car park.

The Council is unable to provide residences with designated places within public car parks, however, due to the formalisation of the parking bays there will be an increase in available parking places on John Street.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7) 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 results of the consultation exercise highlighted that there were no objections to the proposed parking restrictions. It is therefore recommended parking restrictions are introduced ~~as~~ as proposed in the consultation.
- 8) 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 – Copy of Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

none

## IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

<b>Policy:</b>	Consistent with existing policies
<b>Finance and value for money:</b>	Scheme will be financed from LTP
<b>Human Resources:</b>	None
<b>Property:</b>	None
<b>Equalities:</b>	None
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b>	Scheme will remove inconsiderate parking and promote a safer environment.
<b>Customer considerations:</b>	Visitors and retail outlets will benefit from the increase turnover of traffic in the car park which in turn will increase footfall through the shopping area.
<b>Sustainability:</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b>	Ashington Town Council, the emergency services, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
<b>Wards:</b>	Ashington Central

## DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):**

Paul Jones: Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery

**Subject:**

Proposed Long and Short Stay Car Parks in John Street in Ashington

**Consultation:**

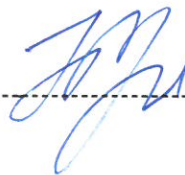
2 Responses received, both in favour of the scheme.

**Decision Taken:**

To approve the introduction of the following:-

- Introduce a new time limit Monday – Saturday, 8 am – 6pm, 3 hours, No return within 4 hours in the existing John Street Car Park
- Remove advisory taxi bay from existing John Street Car Park
- Introduce Traffic Regulation Order to parking area south of roundabout on John Street to allow for all day parking and formalise bay markings

**Signature of Director**



**Date**

17/1/18



### Appendix A

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

Our Ref: HE174328-15

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Daniel Fraser

Direct Line: 01670 624125

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

### **Proposed Amendments to Parking at John Street Car Park**

Concerns have been raised regarding insufficient short stay parking provision around Ashington Town Centre, which is failing to support current and future demand. It has been highlighted that the current parking provision within the area does not provide enough short stay parking for visitors wishing to visit the local shopping outlets. It is anticipated that the introduction of short stay parking to the John Street Car Park will increase footfall through the high street shopping area, which in turn will improve the local economy.

A parking study was carried out in Ashington on behalf of Northumberland County Council following discussions with County councillors, Ashington Town Council and Ashington Town Team. It is recommended that the following changes are made to parking on John Street:-

- **Introduce a new time limit Monday – Saturday, 8 am – 6pm, 3 hours, No return within 4 hours in the existing John Street Car Park**
- **Remove advisory taxi bay from existing John Street Car Park**
- **Introduce Traffic Regulation Order to parking area south of roundabout on John Street to allow for all day parking and formalise bay markings**

The introduction of additional short stay parking close to the town centre, as proposed, will allow visitors ease of access to local amenities and increase footfall through the shopping area, which will in turn improve the local economy. The introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to the parking area south of the roundabout on John Street will formalise all parking provision within the car park and allow for a maximum efficiency of park places.

A plan of the proposed changes to the area is attached.



If you wish to comment on these proposals, please do so before Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017. You can either:

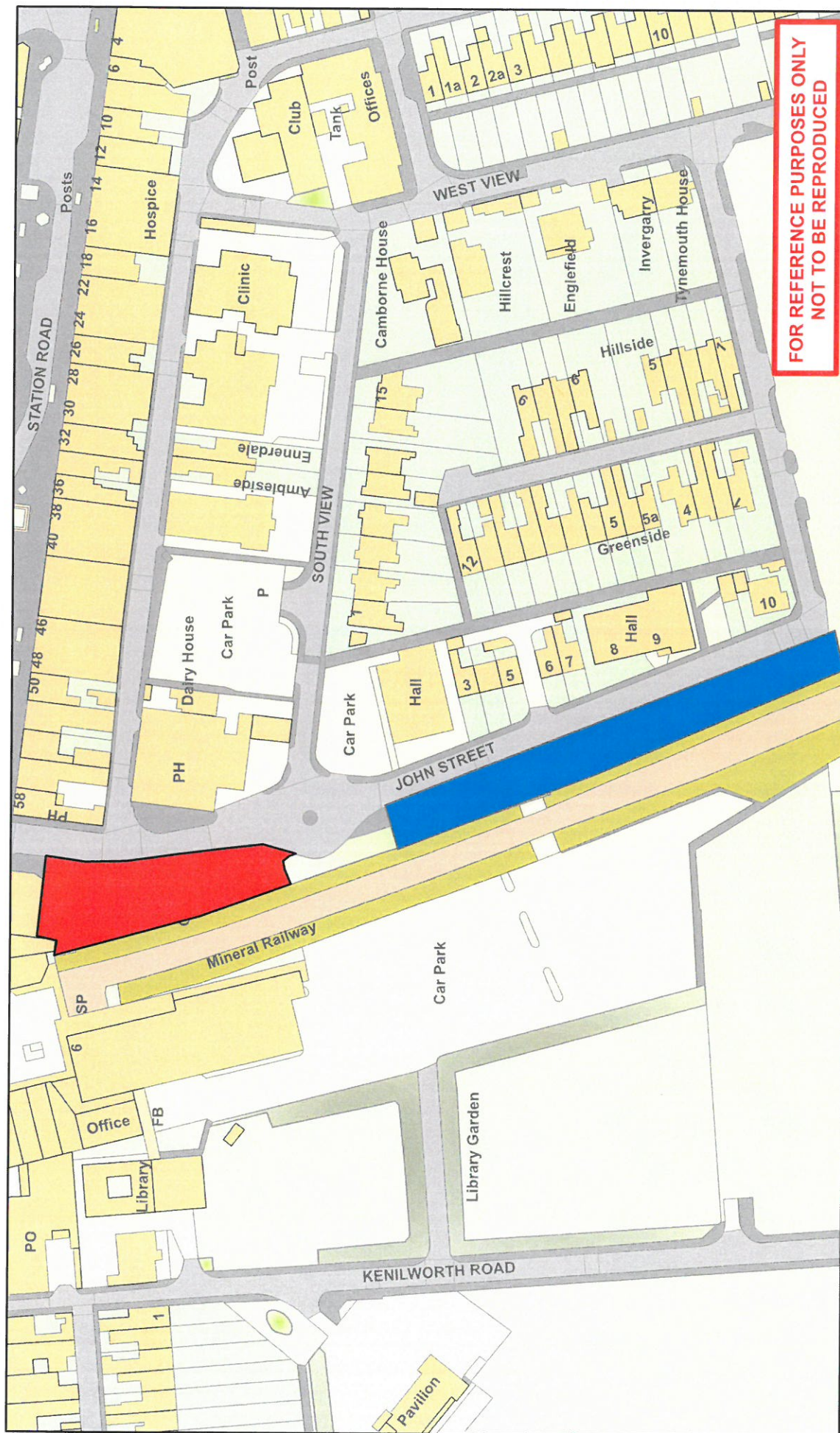
- Send an email to **HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk**
- Go online at **<http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>**, to view all the relevant documentation.
- Write in to **Highways Programmes, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, 2EF**

Yours faithfully



Dan Fraser  
**Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)**





FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY  
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

# KEY

- Short Stay Parking  
Mon - Sat, 8am - 6pm
- 3 hours, No return within 4 hours
- All Day Parking

Title: John Street, Ashington Proposed Parking Provision		
Dm:	Date:	Scale:

Network Management Information System	This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License no. 100049048 (2009).
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<b>Northumberland</b> Northumberland County Council	Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000
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## Appendix B

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	
1			The introduction of these restrictions should benefit the town centre as it will increase the short stay parking available in the town and create turnover of vehicles. The improvements to the parking on the south side of the roundabout will create a more organised parking area which will allow motorists to park in a uniform manner as currently there is too much space left between cars and therefore does not utilise the space appropriately.
1			Re- proposed change to parking at John Street Ashington. First let me say I think it is a good idea. Secondly I would have no objection to the proposal as long as a couple of sensible measures are accepted and implemented -see attached diagram. A) Numbered Resident Parking Bays, something that should have been put in place 30 years ago anyway. B)Single yellow lines joining onto the existing double yellow lines. The access road is for No 3 and No 7 entrance to garages.

