

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING: PAUL JONES

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ON ST CUTHBERTS TERRACE IN HEXHAM

Purpose of report:

To consider the feedback received from a canvassing exercise, regarding the proposed changes to resident permit parking on St Cuthberts Terrace in Hexham.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the feedback received no further action is taken in regards to proposed changes to the existing resident permit parking scheme on St Cuthberts Terrace in Hexham

Key issues

- 1) Both resident permit parking bays and unrestricted bays located on St Cuthberts Terrace
- 2) Vehicles wishing to park in the unrestricted area on St Cuthberts Terrace are required to drive to the far end the of street to see if there are any parking spaces available.
- 3) Availability of spaces in the unrestricted bays is only visible after entering St Cuthberts Terrace
- 4) Scheme proposed by Cllr Cessford following residents concerns.
- 5) Despite the above, following the canvass exercise the proposed changes to the existing restrictions were not supported by residents. 16 responses were received with only 4 responses in favour.

Report Author

Dan Fraser – Programme Officer (Highway Safety)
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PROPOSED CHANGES TO RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ON ST CUTHBERTS TERRACE IN HEXHAM

BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by a local resident to Cllr Cessford regarding the location of the unrestricted parking bays on St Cuthberts Terrace. It has been reported that the unrestricted bays are not visible from Hencotes when driving by. Any vehicles wishing to park in the unrestricted bays must enter St Cuthberts Terrace and drive to the far end to establish if any bays free. These actions result in a number of vehicles reversing back down St Cuthberts Terrace to find an alternative place which raised safety concerns.
- 2) It has been suggested that the unrestricted bays are relocated to a position nearer Hencoates so that passing vehicles can establish if there are any bays available without the need to enter St Cuthberts Terrace. It was anticipated the relocation of the bays to a location which is more visible from Hencotes would reduce congestion on St Cuthberts Terrace.

CONSULTATION

- 3) These proposals were the subject of a canvassing exercise that involved the delivery of a letter to approximately 24 residents and approximately 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached with a copy of the canvassing letter (see Appendix A).
- 4) The canvassing exercise concluded on 30th August 2017 and responses were received from 16 consultees with 4 being in favour, 11 did not support the proposal. The North East Ambulance Service were the only statutory consultees to respond and did not express a preference. A summary of responses has been attached as Appendix B.

COMMENTS

- 5) A number of residents commented that all the bays on St Cuthberts Terrace should be made resident permit parking. Due to the high demand for long stay parking within Hexham, it has been decided that the bays should remain unchanged.
- 6) A number of residents state that the restrictions were introduced in 2012 following a lengthy consultation to establish a balanced approach to parking on St Cuthberts Terrace. They also stated the current arrangements work well and should not be changed to encourage additional parking on St Cuthberts Terrace.

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. The assessment of the results following the canvassing exercise can be a contentious matter. However the results show that the majority of those who responded were not in favour of the proposed amendments. It is therefore recommended that the restrictions remain unchanged.
- 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 that 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 that an inquiry is not held.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix A – Copy of Canvass Letter and Plan

Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money:	N/A
Human Resources:	N/A
Property:	N/A
Equalities:	N/A
Risk Assessment:	N/A
Crime & Disorder:	None
Customer considerations:	Residents will benefit from clarity of parking and increased spaces
Sustainability:	None
Consultation:	Hexham Town Council, the emergency services, and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards:	Hexham Central with Acomb

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Paul Jones: Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery

Subject:

Proposed changes to resident permit parking on St Cuthberts Terrace in Hexham.

Consultation:

16 Responses Received
04 For
11 Against
01 Neither

Decision Taken:

To take no further action in regards to the proposed changes to resident permit parking on St Cuthberts Terrace in Hexham.

Signature of Director



Date

16/1/18

Appendix A - Copy of Canvass Letter and Plan

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO17XXXX
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Dan Fraser
Direct Line: 01670 624125
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Dear Sir/ Madam

Proposed Changes to Resident Permit Parking on St Cuthberts Terrace, Hexham

Concerns have been raised by residents about the existing parking arrangements on St Cuthberts Terrace in Hexham. These concerns have been passed on to Councillor Trevor Cessford who has requested that officers canvass residents on the following :-

- The proposed relocation of the unrestricted bays at the south end of St Cuthberts Terrace to the north end of the street.
- The proposed relocation of the existing resident permit parking places from the north end of St Cuthberts Terrace to the south end of the street.

This proposal would allow anyone wishing to park all day, to clearly see if there are any parking places available, without the need to enter St Cuthberts Terrace.

If you wish to comment on the proposals, please do so before Wednesday 30th August 2017. You can either:

- Send your comments in using the attached Free Post Response form.
- 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

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a report, to the Director of Local Services and Housing and may be available for public inspection.

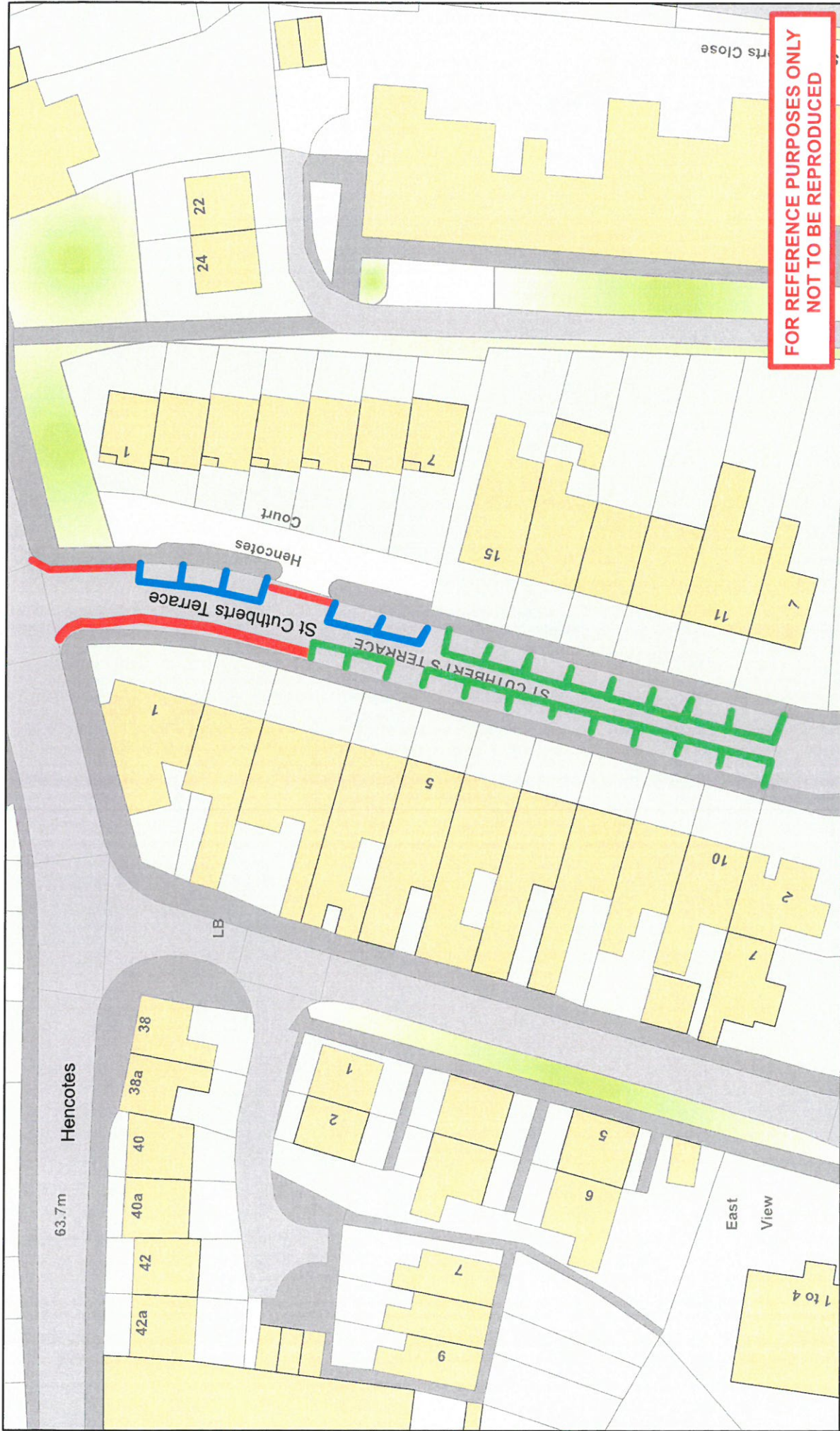
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the comments received from those who take time to return the response form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.





Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan Fraser', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

 Double Yellow Line	 Proposed Unrestricted Bays	 Proposed Resident Permit Bays	KEY	
Network Management Information System			Title: St Cuthberts Terrace, Hexham Proposed Changes	
<p>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).</p>			Drm:	Date:
 Northumberland County Council			Scale:	
Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000				

Appendix B - Summary of Responses

A G A I N F O R T	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments	
		1	Thank you for your letter dated 2nd August 2017 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for outpatient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the ongoing road safety programme.
		1	In response to the proposed changes to resident parking on St Cuthbert's Trc I suggest the parking remains as it is. Although it is not completely satisfactory we are at the moment able to park relatively near our own door. If the change was to happen those residents at no 1,2,3,4 would have to find parking at the south end of the terrace. Parking in bays at the north end would encourage parking during school drop off and pick up times causing more turning onto Hencotes and mor turning into Hencotes Court upsetting the residents there. I cannot believe with all the parking issues in Hexham the council are re-visiting an issue which was resolved not long ago. Another change would cause unnecessary expense. le change of sign posts. Let common sense prevail and use taxes wisely.
		1	I strongly oppose the proposed changes St Cuthberts Terrace currently does not have enough bays for residents use. To encourage public parking by moving the public bays would make it even more difficult. In addition, the proposals penalise those who live at the north end of the street who bought their houses with the existing residents bays near by. We have three young children and it is important that we do not have to park a long way from our house for the convenience of the public. Ours is a residential street, not a public car park. Also, St Cuthberts Terrace is a dead-end street with very limited turning possibilities. It is narrow and cars turn into the street rapidly as it is, increasing the danger for pedestrians and residents crossing the street. the cars come to a rapid halt, and make further obstructions as they try to turn. I propose that there are no public parking bays at all. Residents are penalised sufficiently as it is. I oppose the proposed changes in the strongest possible terms.
		1	We live at Hencotes Court and as we have a private driveway and therefore I do not have a vested interest in the parking arrangements on St Cuthberts Terrace and merely offer my observations. In my opinion, current parking arrangement do not offer enough space for the residents to park and this is illustrated by residents arriving in the evening and having to park on the double yellows due to lack of available bbays. Therefore, there should be no non-restrictive parking bays in the street at all. Secondly, currently houses 1,2,3 park at the proposed new bays and would be left without a parking option. I also wonder the new proposed bays would essentially be snapped up by the residents of the H4 parking permit bays as they extremely struggle to park and as some will spot these new un-restricted bays and simply park on St Cuthberts Terrace, remaining parking for the residents of St Cuthberts Terrace. So essentially this new arrangement will not benefit the residents of St Cuthberts Terrace at all.
		1	I have lived in this street since 1979 outside my home is a road gate heading to the private Burncroft estate where the residents object to cars turning. I have witnessed non-residents having great difficulty turning or reversing down the street. Damage to residents cars has occurred. there will be the same number of unrestricted bays. I support this proposal without any reservation.
		1	As a resident of Hencotes Court I have off street parking. Access/egress from my drive is via St Cuthberts Terrace and this is frequently seriously obstructed by cars parking on the double yellow lines opposite my drive entrance. This practice is undoubtedly very much to the convenience of the person parking but it is illegal and very much to the inconvenience of me. I would welcome some enforcement of the road traffic regulations to deter this practice.
		1	

1	<p>I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the above proposal, and to put forward an alternative proposal.</p> <p>The layout and operation of the residents' parking scheme on St Cuthbert's Terrace were discussed extensively in 2012, the last time that changes were proposed. The proposal at that time arose because residents of an adjacent street wished to gain access for long-term parking of their vehicles on St Cuthbert's Terrace.</p> <p>That debate caused great anxiety to this street's residents due to the potential for them to lose their ability to park on the street on which they live. It was resolved, after a campaign, numerous pieces of correspondence, and several appearances by residents at the local Area Committee, by the Council adding new parking bays to Hencotes. This has proved to be an effective solution and is still in operation today.</p> <p>In the meantime, the issues that caused the residents of St Cuthbert's Terrace to object to those original proposals remain true today and are equally valid in respect of the new proposal.</p> <p>St Cuthbert's Terrace is a narrow residential street which is enclosed at one end, near to Hexham town centre. A resident's parking permit scheme has been in operation for as long as anyone can remember, at least 20 years. A small number of bays at the south end of the street are available for public parking. Most of the time, and particularly during the evening and at weekends (when most people are home from work) every parking bay, whether public or restricted, is full. This is for the simple reason that the number of cars that residents of the street need to park exceeds the number of parking spaces on the street.</p> <p>Allowing members of the public to park on the street at all exacerbates this problem by reducing the number of spaces available for residents. It is however partly mitigated by the bays being at the far end of the street from Hencotes; this means that they are less likely to be seen and used by people who are unfamiliar with the street and its layout.</p> <p>Moving the public bays to the bottom of the street would make this situation far worse. Being visible and easy to access from Hencotes, they would likely be in constant use by the wider public looking for short-term parking during the day. As St Cuthbert's Terrace is narrow and a dead-end, the simplest means of exiting the street is to reverse out into oncoming traffic. Not only would this create a traffic hazard on Hencotes, but it would also conflict with the frequent pedestrians, many of whom are school children, who cross the north end of St Cuthbert's Terrace on their way up and down Hencotes.</p> <p>It is also likely that some public bays would be occupied by cars belonging to residents from adjacent streets using them for free long-term parking, further reducing the amount of space available to residents of the street in the evening when it is most needed.</p> <p>I would therefore like to make an alternative proposal, which is that the public bays are converted to restricted bays accessible only to members of the St Cuthbert's Terrace Resident's parking scheme. This seems to me to be the fairest thing for the residents of the street; the option that is least likely to introduce further pressure on already inadequate parking provision; and a solution that does not introduce any new risks or hazards to pedestrians and other road users.</p> <p>Furthermore it would fully remove any concerns about unfamiliar vehicles reversing down the street, as there would be no reason to enter it in the first place.</p> <p>As a resident of the street affected, I look forward to receiving your confirmation that my proposal will be given equal consideration to the proposal already being consulted upon.</p>
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1	<p>This is in response to your letter ref HO17XXXX, concerning reallocation of unrestricted bays in St Cuthbert's Terrace, Hexham.</p> <p>I and my neighbours are considerably distressed that this is being opened again after a long consultation process recently undertaken and resolved.</p> <p>There are several aspects that strike me as being cynical about this reopening:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You refer to residents' concerns – which implies through omission that you are referring to residents of St. Cuthbert's Terrace. I suspect that this is not the case, and would like this clarified. 2. The window for response is far smaller than previously given – less than a month. 3. The timing coincides with school holidays, when it is clear that people are away and unable to discuss this as a group for the best outcome. 4. The lack of a response to feedback is also strange. 5. You suggest that comments may be included in a report, but clearly this gives an opportunity to cherry pick the responses that fit the agenda. <p>I can only assume that someone requesting this change has the ear of people on the council in order to achieve this.</p> <p>There are many reasons why the spaces at the bottom of the street are really useful to residents – by which I mean residents of St. Cuthbert's Terrace. There are frequent short journeys made by families – including my own, where multiple drop offs for children require easy access spaces to quickly turn around journeys. There are residents with increasing health issues where these spaces are very useful.</p> <p>All the other reasons – house value and many valid individual reasons hold true from the last consultation process, and cannot be reiterated with the short timescale given.</p> <p>So, to be clear: as a resident community we want the parking left alone permanently. The best solution to stop this being opened every couple of years is to make the whole street residents only parking.</p> <p>I would like this counter-proposal to be considered as I believe it is the only way to make sure the process is undertaken with balance and longevity.</p>
1	<p>Thank you for your letter of 2 August 2017 regarding proposed changes to the resident parking bays on St Cuthberts Terrace, Hexham.</p> <p>We do not support the proposal.</p> <p>The scheme, in its current form, seems to work quite well although there are times (evenings and weekends, for example) when it is difficult for residents to find a vacant space.</p> <p>Additionally, having the public bays at the south end of the Terrace, away from the traffic passing on Hencotes, limits the number of cars entering the Terrace. Your proposal would make the public parking element far more visible and would, inevitably, lead to more cars turning into the Terrace. If there is no available public space drivers will no doubt carry on further up the street where, as you know, they will reach a dead end and have to reverse back down again. There are a number of families here with young children (we ourselves have a young son); we are concerned that your proposal will increase traffic flow on the Terrace making it less safe for younger residents and other children who need to cross at the entrance to the Terrace on their way to school. We feel strongly that this is something that should be avoided.</p> <p>Since moving here two and a half years ago it has struck us as somewhat anomalous that a narrow street with no through access should have any element of public parking. Today, residents are at times unable to find a space and this situation will only be exacerbated as the demographics of the residents change and develop in the future. We would therefore like the Council to consider making all of the bays 'resident only' and canvas the opinions of other residents of St Cuthberts Terrace on this proposal. This scheme would also limit the use of the bays to those that know the Terrace well, thus making the street safer for all residents.</p> <p>To reiterate, we do not support the proposal outlined in your letter and would like you to consult on the alternative</p>

		proposal that involves all parking bays being assigned to residents of St Cuthberts Terrace. We look forward to hearing from you further in this regard.
1		<p>Regarding the "Proposed Changes to Resident Permit Parking on St Cuthberts Terrace, Hexham" (correspondence ref: HO17XXXX).</p> <p>The present arrangements work extremely well for residents in St. Cuthbert's Terrace. Many of us make use of the public bays for second cars or for visitors. It's helpful to have these bays, for such uses, at the top of the street where they are.</p> <p>I would not be in favour of altering them.</p>
1		<p>My wife and I agree with the proposed parking alterations for St Cuthbert's Terrace. It should make it easier for those looking for FREE parking spaces without the hassle of going up the street. We do have problems from time to time with vehicles (even HGV's) using the private drive of Hencotes Court as a Turning Point. The new proposals may alleviate this problem</p>
1		We do not support the proposed changes.
1		<p>I would like to object very strongly to the proposed changes which I see as being unnecessary and not fully thought through for the residents here. See below:- 1. parking is already extremely congested. I currently pay £100 p.a. to park a 2nd vehicle in car park which is a 10 minute walk away. 2. My husband is seriously ill and likely to deteriorate rapidly in terms of mobility. I can only envisage more stress and inconvenience with these changes. 3. Having unrestricted public spaces on this small street of family houses is unfair and continues to be abused by the residents of Hencotes ie it does not benefit the public. The provision of parking spaces on Hencotes appears to have worked for the public who wish to use the shops. I do not see it being essential to use 5 spaces on St Cuthbert's as well. I feel the removal of public spaces on St Cuthberts Terr. would be preferable or at the very least have the same time restrictions as the bays on Hencotes. Thereby, allowing the spaces to be used for public during the day and only St Cuthberts residents.</p>
1		<p>With regard to the above issue, I wish to object to this on the following basis:</p> <p>The solution implemented in 2012 for the resolution of the parking issue on St Cuthbert's terrace has worked successfully without the need for further and unnecessary intervention. I feel that re visiting this matter is nothing short of a complete time wasting exercise and at great and unnecessary financial expense to the taxpayer. The money wasted in such a pointless and time consuming consultation could be utilised in other areas of Hexham where parking issues are far more prevalent.</p> <p>Furthermore, may I remind you that during the last consultation period, not a single resident of the neighbouring Hencotes street attended any of the committee meetings or public consultations, yet still they feel that is their right to park on St Cuthbert's terrace. The solution (in providing increased parking bays on Hencotes) has worked for over 5 years now and changing it to benefit a very small minority would not prove financially or practically viable.</p> <p>Why are the council revisiting the same issue again with another half hearted and ill thought out solution? Why do the council feel that they can waste taxpayers money on such a venture?</p> <p>If parking on Hencotes has become an issue to residents of that street, perhaps the council should have narrowed the 12ft wide pavement that runs down Hencotes. The situation on St Cuthbert's terrace does not need re-visiting and I will object to unnecessary changes.</p>
1		<p>I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the above proposal, and second the alternative proposal put forward by Mr Tobyn Hughes of number 3 St Cuthbert's Terrace to convert the public bays to restricted use only for residents of St Cuthbert's Terrace.</p> <p>I return from work every evening to find all the car parking spaces restricted or otherwise taken. Most nights I have to park somewhere else in Hexham. Clearly the current system does not work with bays at the South of the road being used day and night. From what I have read of your proposal, all that this proposal will do is make access to unrestricted spaces even more visible and therefore open up even more constant use all day and night by the wider public.</p> <p>The alternative option put forward seems to me to be the option that is least likely to introduce further pressure on already inadequate parking provision; and a solution that does not introduce any new risks or hazards to pedestrians and other road users.</p> <p>Furthermore it would fully remove any concerns about unfamiliar vehicles reversing down the street, as there would be no reason to enter it in the first place.</p>
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