

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING: PAUL JONES

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT HEXHAM BUS STATION AND SURROUNDING AREA

Purpose of report:

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed introduction of parking restrictions at Hexham Bus Station and the surrounding area.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, the proposed parking restrictions are introduced.

Key issues

- 1) Construction of new bus station on Corbridge Road
- 2) Demand for additional short stay parking without removing any existing parking provision
- 3) Demand for additional Blue Badge Holder Parking Place without removing any existing parking provision

Report Author

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PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT HEXHAM BUS STATION AND SURROUNDING AREA

BACKGROUND

- 1) Due to the construction of the new Hexham Bus Station on Corbridge Road, a review of the current parking restrictions within the surrounding area was necessary. Representatives of the County Council worked together with County Councillor Cath Homer to consider what changes to the parking restrictions should be proposed, which will benefit the town and support infrastructure improvements within the area.
- 2) It was proposed the 'No Waiting 8am - 7pm' area on the north side of Priestpottle could be used for additional short stay and disabled parking without removing any parking provision within the town.

CONSULTATION

- 3) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 74 residents/businesses and 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 Tuesday 8th November 2016 and responses were received from 6 consultees with 4 being in favour, and 2 consultees did not indicate a preference. (See Appendix B).

COMMENTS

- 5) One comment received raised concerns regarding the bus lay by on Corbridge Road not having Bus Stop Clearways - As a Clearway can be introduced without consultation, or a Traffic Regulation Order, it had already been scheduled in for completion on site and has since been introduced.
- 6) One consultee who agreed with the proposed restrictions, made comment on the effect of the restrictions on the Conservation Area - Care will be taken to ensure any additional signage and road markings are kept to an absolute minimum.
- 7) A business who supported the introduction of the parking restrictions stated the short stay parking should be extended - The No Waiting 8am - 7pm parking restriction that exists to the west of the proposed short stay parking on Priestpottle, was not proposed as short stay parking as there is a need for larger vehicles to load and unload when making deliveries to the local businesses.

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 results of the consultation exercise highlighted that there were no objections to the proposed parking restrictions. It is therefore recommended the proposed parking restrictions are introduced as proposed.
- 9) 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 1 – Copy of Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix 2 – Summary of 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:	Town center location, congestion issues around new bus station
Crime & Disorder:	Scheme will remove inconsiderate parking and promote a safer environment.
Customer considerations:	Residents and visitors will benefit from reduced congestion
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 East

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s):

Paul Jones: Acting Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed introduction of parking restrictions at Hexham Bus Station and the surrounding area

Consultation:

Statutory consultation only.

6 Responses received

4 For

2 Neither

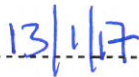
Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of parking restrictions at Hexham Bus Station and the surrounding area

Signature of Director



Date



Appendix A

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: RN140062

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Dan Fraser

Direct Line: 01670 624125

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Date: Tuesday 27th September 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Hexham Bus Station & Surrounding Area

Due to the construction of the new Hexham Bus Station on Corbridge Road, a review of the current parking restrictions within the surrounding area is necessary. Representatives of the County Council have been working together with County Councillor Cath Homer to consider what parking restrictions should be proposed, which will benefit the town and the support infrastructure improvements within the area.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the introduction of the proposed parking restrictions, as shown the attached plan.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Tuesday 8th November 2016. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

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

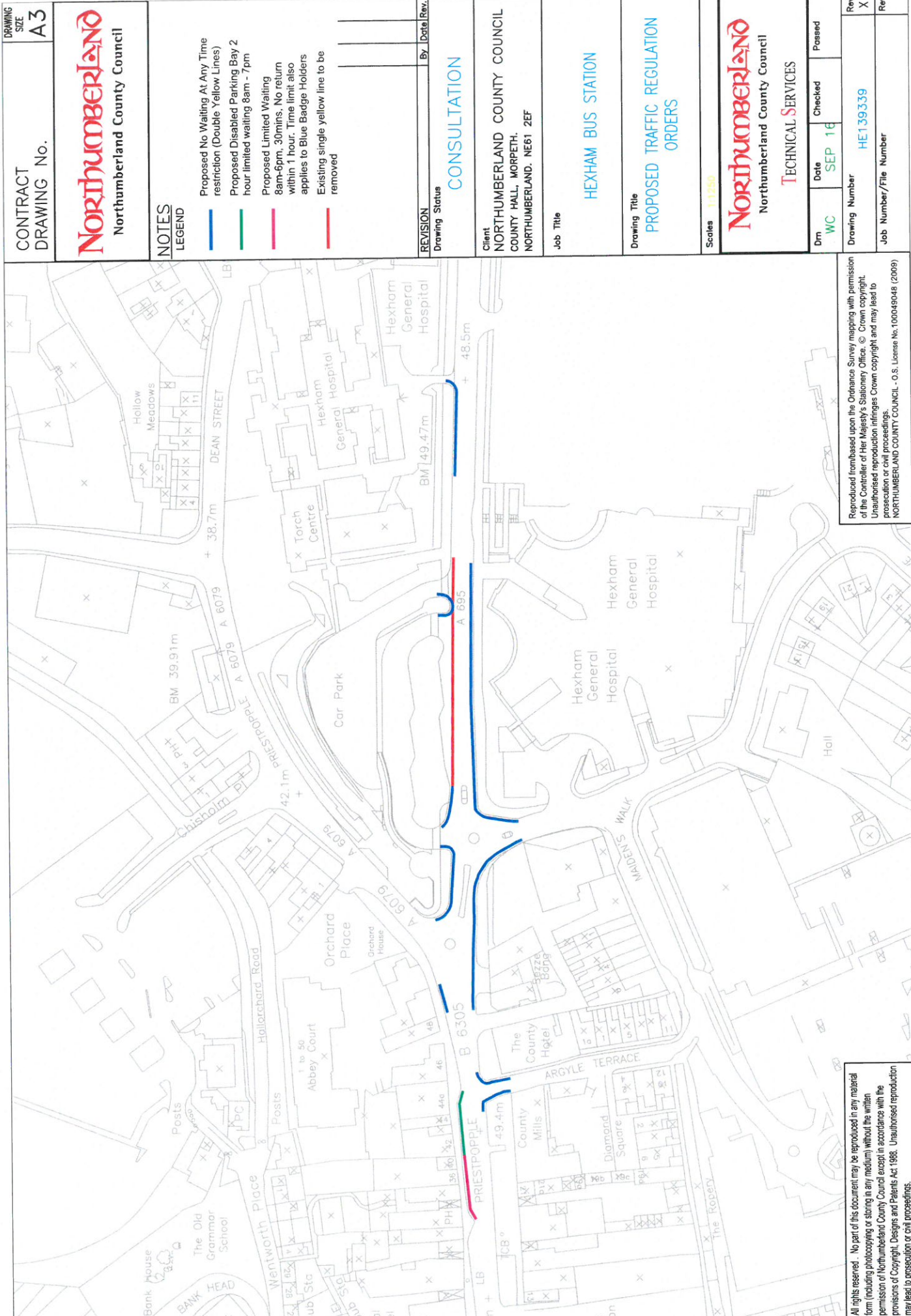
I thank you for your assistance in this matter.



Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Dan Fraser', written in a cursive style.

Dan Fraser - Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



CONTRACT DRAWING No.		DRAWING SIZE A3
Northumberland Northumberland County Council		
NOTES LEGEND		
Proposed No Waiting At Any Time restriction (Double Yellow Lines)		
Proposed Disabled Parking Bay 2 hour limited waiting 8am - 7pm		
Proposed Limited Waiting 8am-6pm, 30mins. No return within 1 hour. Time limit also applies to Blue Badge Holders		
Existing single yellow line to be removed		
REVISION Drawing Status		By Date Rev.
CONSULTATION		
Client NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTY HALL, MORPETH. NORTHUMBERLAND. NE61 2EF		
Job Title HEXHAM BUS STATION		
Drawing Title PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS		
Scales 1:1250		
Northumberland Northumberland County Council TECHNICAL SERVICES		
Dm WC	Date SEP 16	Checked Passed
Drawing Number HE139339		Rev X
Job Number/File Number		Rev

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Appendix B - Summary of Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
		1	<p>The two departure stands on the south side of the new bus station should have "bus stop clearway" markings in them to prevent vehicles other than buses from using the lay-by stops. The red line shown on drawing HE139339 relates to the removal of the existing single yellow line, but no note is shown to highlight that this will be replaced by the new clearway markings. Consequently, it would appear that waiting vehicles displaced from areas shown by a blue line would be able to wait in the bus lay-bys, which is not the case.</p> <p>Further to Andy's reply, can we add a number of further observations, please? 1. The red line on the drawing does indeed show the removal of the former yellow line from the area now occupied by the new bus station. This has already been done. However, drawings provided by the County showed both a broken white line (effectively delineating the northern edge of the carriageway from the two bus stops). I note that a broken white line has already been painted on the carriageway, but this is not in accordance with drawings shown to us previously by the County. Drawing number RN140062/01/A695/10/03 shows that the broken white line, instead of being straight (as has been painted), has a 'kink' so that it moves slightly further southwards, ie., slightly narrowing the carriageway so as to ensure that there is sufficient room for two 'Bus Stop' cages to be painted as appropriate on the south side of the bus station. I'd be grateful if you could confirm that this is being expedited before the bus station opens. 2. Can I reiterate Andy's note that the bus stops on the south side of the carriageway ought to have bus stop clearway markings, and add that these will need to be supported by relevant plates, which ought to be mounted on the 'gallows' poles that I believe are going to be installed for the real time displays/ stand plates (ie., not on separate poles, thereby reducing the need for extra street furniture). 3. Unfortunately your drawing does not extend to show the existing eastbound bus stop on Priestpopple outside Beales and the existing bus station opposite. Can I remind everyone that the eastbound bus stop pole and flag was demolished by a vehicle more than six months ago and has not yet been replaced. This pole will need to be replaced at the earliest opportunity and will also need to carry a suitable bus stop clearway plate - it is already being misused by inconsiderate motorists. At the same time, the County has not shown us any drawings to demonstrate how a westbound bus stopping place will be incorporated into this area, either on a temporary basis during the redevelopment of the Bus Station site, nor on a permanent basis when the redevelopment is complete. The County has always maintained that bus stopping places will be available here, yet you have not as yet provided any evidence that these have, in fact, been included in the redevelopment scheme. I am copying xxxxxxx into this reply, and others at the transport department at the County with whom we have regular meetings and where some of these issues have already been raised. As we are now less than six weeks away from the proposed opening date for the new bus station, I'd be grateful if the County could provide me with some reassurance that these concerns are being addressed and will be resolved before 14th November.</p>
		1	<p>Thank you for your letter dated 27th September 2016 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.</p>
1			
1			<p>The County Council's Building Conservation Section support the proposed parking restrictions. Given the location within the Hexham Conservation Area care should be taken regarding the amount and location of signage to ensure that there is no detriment to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area</p>
1			<p>Thank you for letting us have a response. We as a local business agree with all your proposals and think they would encourage more people to stop and shop. I think the "disabled" parking should not be separate because they are able to park anywhere. They will still utilise other available spaces! We as a business propose that the pink line should be extended.</p>
1			<p>Hexham Town Council considered this consultation yesterday and has no objection to the introduction of the parking restrictions proposed.</p>
4	0	2	