

Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

Paul Jones

Proposed amendment to existing 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions, James Street, Seahouses

14th February 2017

Purpose of Report

To consider extending the length of an existing "No Waiting at Any Time" parking restriction adjacent to the junction of B1340 King Street / U2026 James Street, Seahouses.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that in order to improve road safety the existing restrictions are amended by extending the traffic regulation order: No waiting at any time, (double yellow lines) on James Street, Seahouses.

Key Issues

- This area has been the subject of traffic safety concerns over a period of time i.e. inconsiderate parking causing obstruction near to a junction, resulting in congestion on James Street, raising safety concerns with both the Parish Council and the County Councillor.
- James Street is on the school transport route and school buses have been prevented from proceeding by parked vehicles on numerous occasions.
- 3. The Scheme is funded and supported by Councillor John Woodman

Background

- 1. Safety concerns have been identified to Councillor Woodman by the residents, road users and Parish Council on a number of occasions with regard to congestion on James Street.
- 2. It is proposed to extend the existing no waiting at any time restriction in this area
- 3. This would help improve traffic safety for the residents and road users of James Street, Seahouses.

Consultation

- Proposals to address these concerns were the subject of three separate consultations, conducted during January 2016, February 2016 and May 2016. This involved the delivery of consultation letters to 12 properties and 26 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. Plans showing the various proposals are attached together with a copies of the consultation letters (see Appendices A, C & E).
- 2. Responses were received in January 2016 from 4 consultees, with 1 in favour, 3 against the proposal.
- 3. Responses were received in February 2016 from 3 consultees, with 1 in favour, 2 against the proposal.
- 4. Responses were received in May 2016 from 5 consultees, with 1 in favour, 3 against and 0 neither for nor against the proposal.
- 5. A summary of the responses are attached as Appendices B, D& F.

Comments

- 1. Councillor Woodman and the Parish Council were notified of all the results of the consultations.
- 2. The results of the consultations showed the majority of the respondents were not in favour of any the proposals put forward.
- 3. However, suggestions resulting from the consultation process and subsequent letters from residents prompted a site meeting and further discussions between County Councillor John Woodman, Chair of North Sunderland and Seahouses Parish Council and an Officer of the Council, a revised plan was proposed and agreed upon, attached as Appendix G.
- 4. This amendment will extend the existing junction restrictions to allow greater visibility and improve the flow of traffic at the junction.
- 5. Councillor Woodman confirms he wishes to proceed with a revised version of the proposal, this will be funded through his allocation in the Member Local Improvements Programme.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that the revised proposal as detailed in Appendix G should proceed. A further consultation was not deemed required as the revision takes into consideration the comments and observations provided within the original consultation.
- 2. 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.

File References

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Appendix Index

Appendix A – Consultation 1 Letter and Plan

Appendix B - Consultation Response

Appendix C – Consultation 2 Letter and Plan

Appendix D - Consultation Response

Appendix E – Consultation 3 Letter and Plan

Appendix F – Consultation Response

Appendix G - Revised Parking Restriction Plan

Appendix H – Supporting Letter from the Parish Council

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Member's Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor John Woodman
Legal	Preparation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)
Procurement	
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
(Impact Assessment attached)	
Yes □ No □ N/A □	
Risk Assessment	Amendment of no waiting at any time restriction (double yellow lines)
Crime & Disorder	Traffic safety concerns i.e. obstruction and resulting congestion and visibility concerns
Customer Consideration	Scheme is anticipated to improve road safety for road users in the area
Carbon reduction	
Wards	Bamburgh

Background papers:

None

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

Report Author

Terry Luck - Programmes Officer (Member Schemes)

(01670) 622588

Terry.Luck@northumberland.gov.uk

DECISION TAKEN

Holder	Director of Local Services and Housing
Subject:	Proposed amendment of No waiting at any time restriction
Consultation 1	4 Responses 1 For 3 Against
Consultation 2	3 Responses 1 For 2 Against
Consultation 3	5 Responses 1 For 3 Against 1 Neither for nor against
Decision Taken:	Amend the No Waiting at Any Time Restriction (revised).
Signature of Director	AM1
Date	17/2/17
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The Occupier

Our Ref: James Street

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon Direct Line: 01670 624128 Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Thursday 7th January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Extension of Parking Restrictions - James Street, Seahouses

Concerns have been raised by local residents, Seahouses Parish Council and Councillor Woodman about road safety in relation to indiscriminate parking at James Street, Seahouses. Councillor Woodman has therefore agreed to fund the extension of No Waiting at Any Time Parking Restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) subject to favourable consultation with residents.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed extension of No Waiting at Any Time Parking Restrictions at James Street, Seahouses, as shown the attached plan.

It is anticipated that the introduction of these restrictions will improve road safety by offering increased visibility throughout the day.

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 Director of Local Services and Housing, and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Friday 22nd January 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.

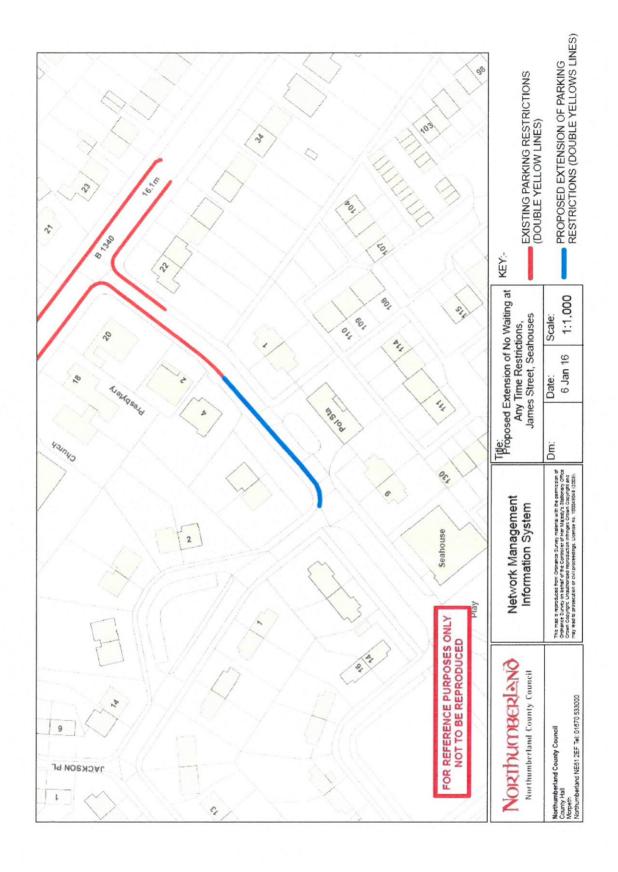
I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

TT

Terry Luck Traffic Safety Team

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Appendix B

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments
			Due to lack of parking in Seahouses we think double yellow lines on both sides. As the parking outside our house has been a problem the whole 11 years we have lived here.
1			I have the $B \& B$ at no. 4. Obviously these restrictions are going to affect my trade quite badly! Could I suggest, as well as the double lines, a single one down the other side, to go just past the old Police Station, with parking permits available only for the residents of James Street, as many of the people in the holiday lets down in old Seahouses, seem to think it's their right to leave their cars for days on end in the street, to say nothing about the ones who leave the cars etc. Even with caravans attached, who won't pay to go in the car park. Although it'll spoil the look of the house. I wondered if there was any financial help available, (i.e. grants) to provide extra parking in my garden, as it would cost quite a few thousand to do, and it certainly wasn't in my budget.
			I am emailing you in reply to your letter regarding the parking outside of our home, at the top of James Street, Seahouses. Loompleted your form and posted it to you, but for some reason it was returned, which is why I am emailing my thoughts and hope the email is acceptable and will still be considered. It it first asks whether we support the proposal and our answer is: NO. 2. Our reasons are as follows: For a good while now we have asked for residents parking and as Margaret who lives opposite and Mrs Fordy, next door to us, also wish to have this, we feel that we have good reasons for this request. We at the top of James Street are most affected by the parking problems and have been for the last three years in particular, so I hope our views may be considered in your final descision. I have requested residents parking and not yellow lines, as the yellow lines will affect my home life if I am unable to find a parking place outside or near to our home of 20 plus years. I am prepared to pay for the bay or two bays as some residents parking software have. If you considered residents parking and not yellow lines, you will still have easier access but will actually gain money from the residents, parking and not yellow lines, you will still have easier access but will actually gain money from the residents, whereas, yellow lines do not provide the council with income and make the lives of the residents more awkward and unpleasant as the tourists will still leave their cars and we will have nowhere to park olose to our home. At the moment the parking problems are due to the fact that the top of James Street being advertised by holiday home companies as a free parking street. I believe the parish council have tried to contact one company, but this did not stop them, or any of the many other holiday firms which have based their offices in Seahouses. The other businesses who use the top of James Street as a free oar park for workers are Boots and the Co-op. On top of this, tourists now drive around the village looking
	1		
1			No Objections
	ı 1		

Appendix C



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The Occupier

Our Ref: James Street

Your Ref:

Contact: Andy Walker

Direct Line: 01670 620420

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Thursday 4th February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Re-consultation for the Proposed Extension of Parking Restrictions James Street, Seahouses

Further to the consultation letter of 7th January 2016 requesting your views on Proposed Extension of Parking Restrictions on James Street, Seahouses, we have been requested by The Parish Council and Councillor Woodman to amend the original plans and re-consult the residents affected by these proposed parking restrictions

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed extension of No Waiting at Any Time Parking Restrictions at James Street, Seahouses, as shown the attached plan dated 2nd Feb. 2016.

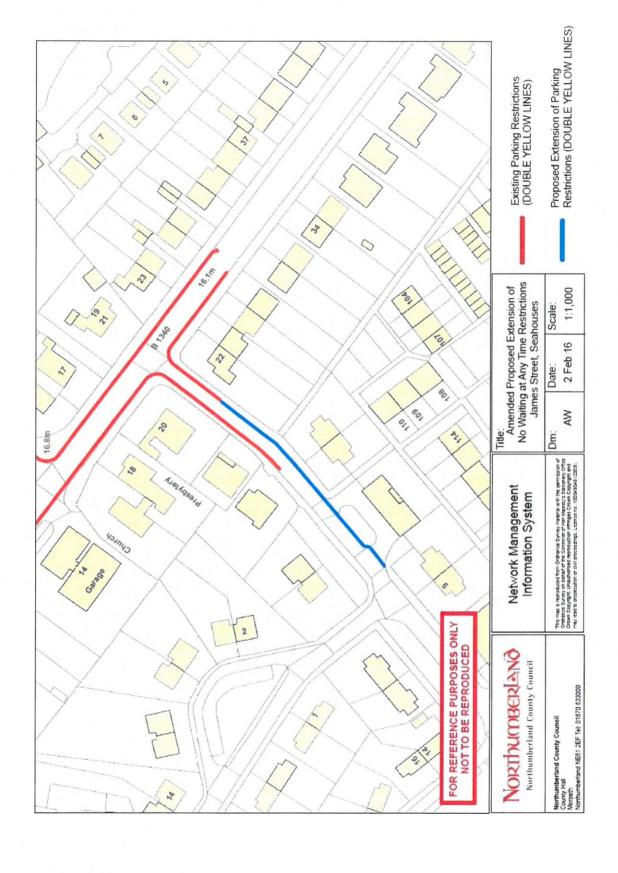
A freepost response form is enclosed for you to return your views, or you can email them to HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk. I would welcome a reply by Friday 19^{to} February 2016. If no comments are received by that date it will be assumed that you do not wish to make any representations regarding the above proposal. Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to all individual comments. You may also wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report 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 responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Terry Luck Traffic Safety Team



Appendix D

2	1	0	
	1		for years.
			We say NO. We do NOT want yellow lines/extension of parking restrictions at the top of James Street. We have already fowarded our view when you sent out the first letter and these views remain the same. There are really only 6 houses at the top who are affected and we have on more than one occasion requested RESIDENTS PARKING for the top houses, never restricted parking/yellow lines. We have contacted the Parish Council and Councillor Woodman and on all occasions, offered to pay for one or more bay, as they have in Bamburgh Jesmond etcwe have never requested restricred parking on either side. The Parish Council have not contacted us to discuss our view, neither has Councillor Woodman, so I was shocked to read that this was their request, as none of them actually live on this street or have to contend with the problems which we face on a daily basis, so without our views and input, I do not know how, or why they have come to this decision or their vies be taken into account. At the moment the top of James Street is used by Holiday let companies as free parking, so do the Co-op, Boots and Thompson Garage employee: We have lived in our home for over 25 years and now our life is affected by this, which is why we offered to pay for the bays and then at least the council are earning some income from us, whice could be put towards the parking problems in Seahouses itself. You have changed sides for the restricted parking which is even worse, as we do not have a drive, whereas the other side all have drives, so if you put yellow lines on our side and the Holiday Lets use the street as free parking, leaving cars, even caravans for up to a fortnight, where are we supposed to park? I realise we don't own the road, which is why I am prepared to pay for the bays and afterall most households are able to park ouside their homes and I do not see why we are to suffer for the tourists and businesses to park for free. Please read my first letter along wth this and PLEASE duot restrict the parking. PLEASE ALLOW US TO PAY FOR R
1			What I said in the last email still stands, just on the other side of the road. May I say again, please can we have a single line down the other side, with parking permits, only for the residents of James Street, as it only effects the first six houses, particularly me as I have guests staying at my B&B.
R 1	Т	R	Other Relevant Comments No Objections
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F	I N	T	
	A	1	
	G	E	



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The Occupier

Our Ref: 2014/166

Your Ref:

Contact: Terry Luck

Direct Line: 01670 622588

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Thursday 21st April 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

(Revision 3) Consultation for the Proposed Extension of Parking Restrictions James Street, Seahouses

Further to the consultation letters of 7th January and 4th February 2016 requesting your views on Proposed Extension of Parking Restrictions on James Street, Seahouses. The Parish Council having considered a summary of all the responses received, together with the known access problems at the top of James Street, have agreed with the support of Councillor Woodman to have the plans amended and the residents affected by these proposed parking restrictions re-consulted.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposed extension of No Waiting at Any Time Parking Restrictions at James Street, Seahouses, as shown the attached plan dated April 16.

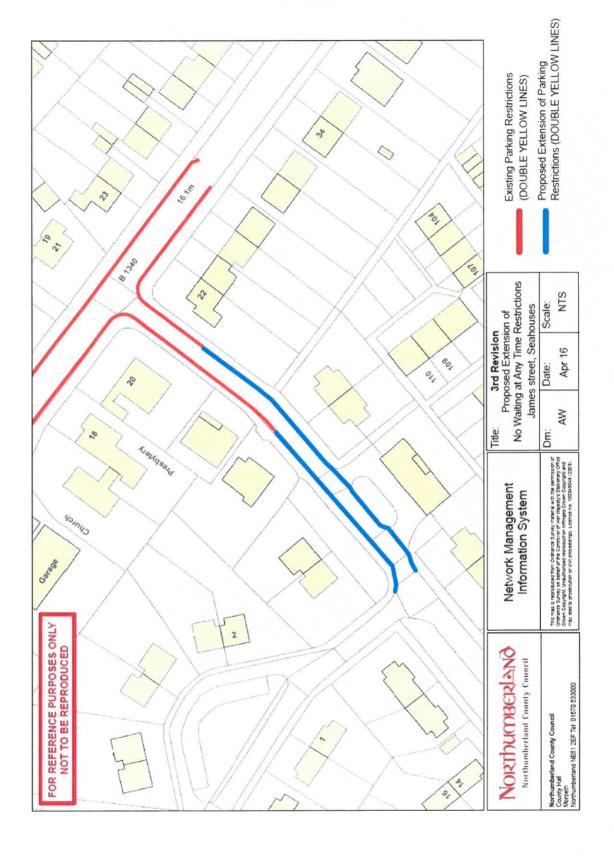
The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

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 Housing and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Thursday 19th May 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.

Yours faithfully

Terry Luck Traffic Safety Team



Appendix F

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
		1	I wold 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 out-patient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road
	1		With reference to your letter sent to resdents of James street regarding parking restriction proposed by the Parish Council. I note that letters have only been sent to occupiers of houses up to number 8. I a assuming that the reason the occupants of myself at number 7 and up to number 12 have not been consulted is as the proposed double yellow lines ends outside my gate the belief that this will not affect us. I am afriad that it will! The majority of cars parking at the top of James street are not residents of James Street but employees that work in the High Street (mostly te colon) and need all day parking. The outcome of extending the double yellow lines down both sides of he street will just push the all day parking to further down the street from using that park of James street for short term parking! The problem has been further exasperated by owners of holiday lets in Dunstan View, which lets informing their clients that they can have edure and safe parking if they par their vehicles in James street. I had the mis fortune of having a car parked outside my front gate last year or 5 days without moving! Mrs Tucker at number 4 has a successful B&B quite a few of her guests return each year she has for many years, with no problems, been able to allow her guests to have parking for up to 3 cars outside her business if the proposals go ahead where are here vistiros supposed to park? I thought the aim of the council was to encourage tourists to stay in the area's tourism is now Seahouses only growing business. I trust you ill take these comments into consideration when making your final
1			No comment
	1		I do not have any objections of double lines on one side of James Street between 4, 6 and 8 James Street. The main problem are people parking their cars because they don't want to pay in the main car park. Also rented accommodation of holiday lets from houses in Dunstan View where houses have been sold to letting companies but have no place in the area to park cars and owners have told their tenants to park in James Street for the time they are staying. Also B & B owners in James Street have no parking for their guests. The problem f traffic going up and down James Street on the other side (new proposal) is in the area of no. 1 James Street I dont think there should be need for double lines on that side from no. 3 - 5 James Street as the medical centre does not have a car park and cars need somewhere to park for their patients. Anyone having holiday lets and B&B should not be allowed unless they have parking facilities in this day and age.

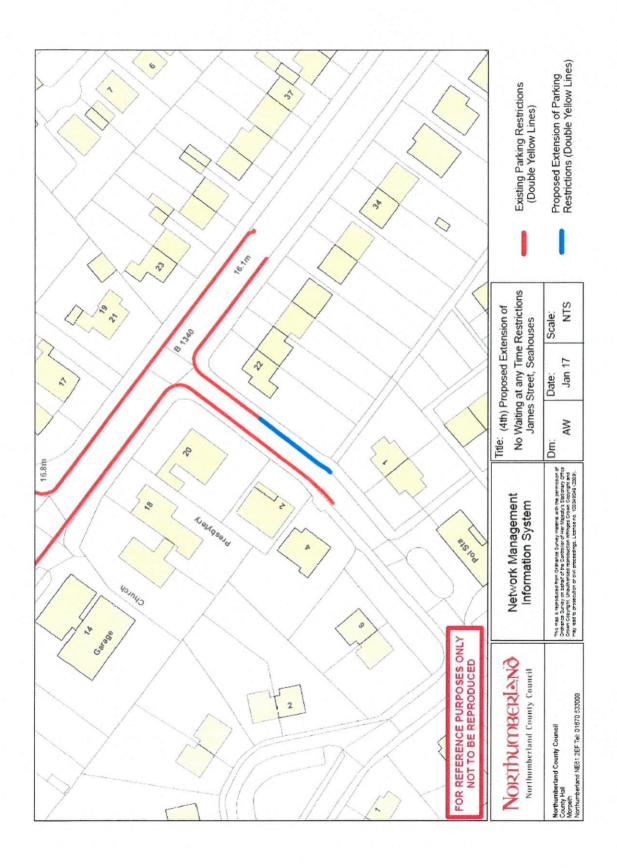
We do not support the proposed double yellow lines on both sides of the top of James Street. Our views concerning the two former plans and letters which we received from you still stand. We did not agree with any of the former plans which we received from you for all the reasons we forwarded to you. These views still stand. We still believe residents parking at the top of James Street would be the best option. It would prevent any form of congestion and solve any access problems created by the tourists, not the residents. We believe all of James Street should be asked about the parking as if double yellow lines are placed at the top of the street, the congestion will move down James street as not only will the tourists park further down, but so will the residents from the top of the street as they will not be able to park in front of their own homes. We have lived in our home for over twenty years and double yellow lines will blight our lives. Double lines on both sides will not in our opinion solve any problem, it will just be moved from one street to another and once drawn can never be removed even if the answer to Seahouses problem is eventually solved. Parking and access we believe, go hand in hand. Residents don't double park, only tourists do this. Tourists are told to park at the top of James Street by company holiday house owners so they don't have to pay to park in the car park. We suggested to the parish that they ask the company owners to provide a parking disc for their residents so they would not use Seahouses side streets as free car parks. However, there is a distinct shortage of parking places in Seahouses. The Parish state this is due to Lord Crewe land owners reducing the parking places in the main car park when they redesigned it. We wrote to Lord Crewe Estates, asking for land to be made available, but we did not have the power required to persuade them. The residents from the top of James Street attended the last parish meeting as we were so concerned at the way in which they had made a decision without first putting forward the suggestion to all those who would be affected. We were all yery worried when the Councillor Stewart and Councillor Donaldson stated that they wanted more tourists to visit

Seahouses, as there is no other work in this area, yet when we mentioned parking, in particular free parking they stated that they did not want the tourists to stay too long and the free hour waiting was for locals. Where will the day trippers park and where will the long term tourists park if they are staying for a week? Obviously down the side streets such as our street. They need to spend some of the money which is in their pot, as we heard what was available to spend and provide facilities for these tourists to stop them causing access problems. We are confused about the whole situation, as Councillor Stewart told Mrs Tucker on James Street that he had only wanted yellow lines to the bars next to Mr Fordy's home. However, he told Mrs Baker who lives opposite the Doctors surgery, that he wanted yellow lines right down to the entrance of Stone Close, not Kippy Law, as drawn on the last map. Where will the patients park when visiting the Doctor if this happens? Since the parish applied for this, Councillor Shiel has stated that the whole street should be asked and he believes it will affect more than us if they draw lines on both sides. He has also said that he would now support residents parking for us, as if their was a sign at the top of the street stating residents only or something along these lines, it would stop workers from the Coop and the tourists using this area as a free car park. Also, yellow lines at the top will just cause access problems elsewhere. Councillor Fordy was not allowed to vote at the Parish meeting as he lives on the top of James Street, but he too spoke in support of residents parking if he is allowed to voice his opinion, as a resident. We believe that if we have residents parking on one side and lines on the other, there would not be a problem. Ambulance access was mentioned, but they would fit down easily, even now they pass through easily, as does the refuge lorry ,M.K.M lorries, skip collection lorry. The only one which has a problem if tourists double park is the Travelsure Continental

The Police even said they would speak with them as normal coaches, real school buses can pass through and would definitely do so with residents parking. Continental coaches are really not suitable, or appropriate for rural village roads and it is sad if the lives of the residents in a village have to have their lives blighted by them. Beadnell do not want yellow lines in their village and at the Parish meeting they stated they were working towards being three villages as one, Bamburgh, Seahouses and Beadnell, so why are we working towards yellow lines here. We spoke to their Parish councillors and they were shocked that Seahouses were even considering them, as it would affect the lives of the residents in the long term and change life within the village in general. Our access and parking problem is a summer issue not a winter one. In 2013 an article was written concerning the County Council contacting our parish and looking to address the summer parking issue. However, even then Councillor Stewart stated that he did not want free parking as the tourists would outstay their welcome. Now, 3 years later, instead of this problem being addresses and solved, we have a major problem throughout the village. Unless we provide new car parks, whether park and ride as on Holy Island or a temporary car park in a farmers field during summer months, how can the Parish state they want more tourists. At the meeting it showed money in the budget to spend within the parish. Why can they buy the land for sale on Kings street or such and create a village owned car park? We hope that the double cellow lines are not placed outside of our homes and that you consider our request for residents parking as this way you will actually gain money for your council. Please consider how this will affect our home lives. We felt that no one on the parish council listened to our views, even though we were being affect directly and none of them would be. We don't want access problems, but even the parish jump from articles in the paper saying our lines would solve parking to the next article mentioning access.

Our way would solve all problems. We value any help or advice you can give us and would appreciate being involved in any further discussions relating the area outside of our home.

Appendix G



1.

Appendix H

From: north sunderland parish council <nspcseahouses@gmail.com>

Date: 14 February 2017 at 13:10 Subject: Re: James Street Seahouses

To: Terry Luck <terry.luck@northumberland.gov.uk>

Hi Terry

Sorry for the delay.

North Sunderland Parish Council would like you to go ahead to extend waiting and loading restrictions at the top of James Street as per your diagram and your recent site visit.

Thanks.

Jill Hall

Clerk to North Sunderland Parish Council email: nspcseahouses@gmail.com