



Northumberland County Council

**DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING IN CONSULTATION  
WITH PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

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**PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS, LINDEN WAY, DARRAS HALL**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson**

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**Purpose of Report**

To consider the results of the consultation exercise, regarding a proposal to provide parking restrictions in Linden Way, Darras Hall.

**Recommendations**

Given the results of the consultations and the safety concerns raised, it is recommended that:

- a) A 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) restriction be provided in Linden Way.
- b) A request to provide a footway in Linden Way be recorded so that it can be considered for a future LTP Programme.

**Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the *Places and Environment Aim* in the Corporate Plan:

"Our aim is to maintain and further improve the quality of our towns, villages and countryside and make it easier for residents to access services and high quality, affordable homes and to travel using different modes of transport. To achieve this, we will keep Northumberland clean, green and safe from detrimental impacts of climate change, build more houses to benefit those most in need and provide a convenient, integrated public transport network."

3. Many of the responses stated that the proposal would simply move the problem further into Linden Way. Many also stated that the problem only exists at school times and restrictions were not required at other times of the day. This view was confirmed by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officer.
4. Therefore, a second consultation was carried out in August 2017 on a proposal to provide single yellow lines (No Waiting 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm) on a longer section of Linden Way, (see Appendix C).
5. The responses to this second consultation were:
  - a. For: 5 (46%)
  - b. Against: 3 (27%)
  - c. Neutral: 3 (27%)

A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix D.

6. Some residents objected to the fact that this proposal could restrict visitors to their homes. Others pointed out that the most important issue is that of the safety of pedestrians in the road and that the original double yellow line proposal would address this.
7. Respondents also pointed out that the safety issue could be solved by the provision of a footway.
8. Given the above results it was concluded that the provision of the double yellow line scheme proposed in the first consultation would be the most appropriate solution.
9. Ponteland Town Council supports the proposals.
10. The local ward Member, Councillor Jackson, supports the proposals.

### **Recommendation**

11. Given the results of the consultations and the safety concerns raised, it is recommended that:
  - A 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) restriction be provided in Linden Way (as per the original consultation).
  - A request to provide a footway in Linden Way be recorded so that it can be considered for a future LTP Programme.

**Report sign off.**

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

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Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
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## Appendix B Original Consultation Responses

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	
			Other Relevant Comments
1			At the Middle Drive entrance to Linden Way there are two notices. They are red circle prohibition notice depicting cars and motorcycles 'except for access to off-street premises. They have little or no effect. Yellow line restrictions should be enforced.
1			<p>Thank you for your letter concerning the proposed parking restriction.</p> <p>As a street resident who walks a young child to and from the school, often with a pushchair as well, I am fully in agreement with the proposal as I have first-hand experience of how dangerous the current situation can be. It is lucky that there has not been an accident before now.</p> <p>Cars park almost on the corner with Middle Drive, disregarding the yellow lines, and there appears to be no enforcement of the current restriction.</p> <p>With construction of the new school and even more traffic at the bottom of Linden Way as a result of the revised school entrance I fear there will be a very serious accident unless traffic flow at school times is given more appropriate consideration than merely extending the length of the double yellow lines.</p>
1			It is a good safety measure to implement for the peak usage times around 9.00am & 3.00pm.
1			<p>Re the proposal to have some double yellow lines at the bottom of Linden Way joining Middle Drive Darras Hall (Ponteland).</p> <p>One young mother approached me telling me a tale where she was walking on the right hand side of the road pushing a pram as cars were parked on the left when another car wanted to turn into Linden Way (from the direction of Ponteland) and nearly ran into her pram. That car had to wait as did others following that car as well as cars coming in the other direction.</p> <p>Much appreciated.</p>
1			<p>Whilst I have submitted this response online, reference 101004399417, for completeness I thought I would copy this to you direct.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on this proposal.</p> <p>We support any action that tackles the problems caused by people parking up Linden Way when dropping or collecting their children at the first school. Whilst the proposed restriction might deliver an improvement, it will do so only if it is rigorously and effectively enforced. Moreover, its effectiveness would be improved if the proposed restriction was extended further, at least to the boundaries of number 1 &amp; 2 Linden Way.</p> <p>You will know that, in an attempt to address this issue, the Council has previously applied a restriction prohibiting parking in Linden Way unless visiting a property there. However, this is consistently &amp; continually ignored, such that there are routinely 10 - 12 cars parked on the even numbered side of the Linden Way, twice a day. With that number of cars ignoring the current restriction, they snake their way up to at least number 10/12 Linden Way.</p> <p>The current restriction is just ignored and not enforced. As a result I regularly witness, and experience, cars legitimately driving down Linden Way towards Middle Drive being forced to drive quite a distance on the wrong side of the road. This results in traffic legitimately trying to drive up Linden Way being prevented from so doing, leading to even further congestion on Middle Drive. In amongst this, residents, such as myself, walking down Linden Way are at significant risk of being injured. As a consequence of all of this, I regularly witness arguments, swearing or inappropriate driving from those people who have parked who cannot then drive off when they want.</p> <p>For these reasons, the proposed restriction is supported so long as it is rigorously and effectively enforced. At the same time, it ought to be extended further, to at least the boundaries of numbers 1 &amp; 2 Linden Way. On top of this, the current restriction prohibiting parking in Linden Way unless visiting a property there, should remain but be equally rigorously enforced.</p>

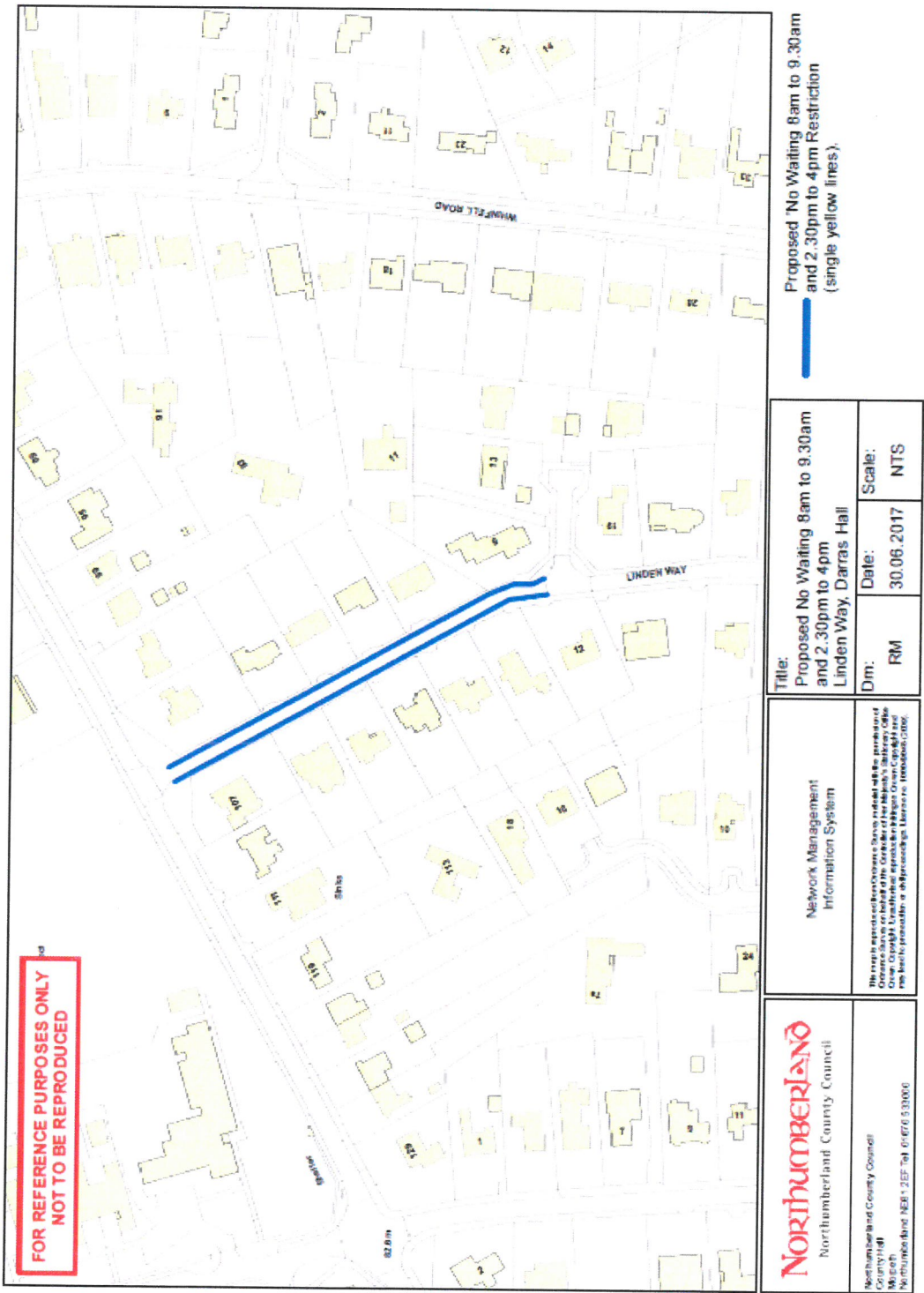
1		<p>We support the proposal set out for the extension of the double yellow lines further into Linden Way. However this is likely to push the problem further along Linden Way where there is still no footpath. You refer to busy times by which you really mean school run times. The problem is principally caused by parents who do not comply with the traffic regulations since they are not visiting properties in Linden Way and its offshoots when they park. Additional to the extension of the double lines, the cooperation of the police is required on a random basis to advise or warn the offending parents.</p>
1		<p>Very much in favour of this.</p>
1		<p>I wholeheartedly support the proposal to extend the double yellow lines in Linden Way.</p> <p>The safety of pedestrians is compromised when they are forced to walk into the middle of the road with no visibility of oncoming vehicles.</p> <p>Any car driver is forced into a similar position and risks a head on collision should another vehicle turn the corner from Middle drive into Linden Way.</p> <p>It would be extremely difficult to justify a decision not to extend the yellow lines in the event of an accident especially as the cost of improving safety is minimal(some yellow paint and half an hours work).</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>
1		<p>The proposal has the further advantage of avoiding having cars heading for one another on the same half of the road.</p>
1		<p>Dear Sir, many thanks for your proposal, however in my view it does not go far enough as parking offenders will continue to park in Linden Way and indeed on Friday parked cars were backed up all the way to No. 10. This in turn is an extremely bad corner and a collision here is inevitable because through traffic is still using Linden Way for access between Middle Drive and Woodside. You have placed at both ends of Linden Way restriction entry for residents only signage which is being completely ignored because of lack of supervision. I understand from your traffic warden that it is not a traffic warden problem, but a police problem and pressure from the Council on the police would be greatly appreciated. I dread the oncoming proposal to rebuild and re-site the school on Broadway as traffic will be even worse. I was a former member of the retained fire crew in Ponteland many years ago but I dread to think how emergency services could possibly get through in these situations. Unfortunately minor double yellow lines extension while welcome, are not the answer.</p>
1		<p>Very much needed, the signs are just ignored so hopefully this will be the deterrent that is required for the safety of our residents</p>
1		<p>Thank you for your letter dated 10th May 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.</p>
1		<p>The best action to improve the safety of pedestrians would be to ENFORCE the current restriction which is to only 'allow access to off-street premises' as shown in the attachment i.e. any cars parking at the bottom of Linden Way, Darras Hall would be clamped or towed away or the owners fined or prosecuted.</p>
1		<p>I feel that the best action for the safety of pedestrians and motorists would be to do as currently signposted (at some time and cost) i.e. only 'allow access to off-street premises', as shown in the attachment. Any cars parking at the bottom of Linden Way, Darras Hall should be removed or penalties given to the owners.</p>
1		<p>I just wanted to pass my comment on re: Linden Way, Darras Hall proposed Double Yellow Lines. I think that this is a good idea as when the Civil Enforcement Officers are present on Middle Drive during school times, we receive many complaints about vehicles parking on Linden Way and we have been unable to do anything about it. So I would welcome the double yellow lines being put down.</p>
1		<p>I agree that the yellow lines leading into Linden Way are too short. They should be extended more or less as you indicate on your diagram. If they are extended too far up residents higher up the road will suffer from congestion. Perhaps the extension could be limited to two or three car lengths. This should give car drivers entering Linden Way time to see any hazard.</p>

		<p>With reference to the above proposals to aid traffic issues within Linden Way. We agree that there is cause for concern to pedestrians moving about safely in this area. This is due to vehicles being parked up one side of the road despite the recent 'No Access' signs being implemented. The suggestion to extend the double yellow lines further up Linden way will not alleviate this problem. The cars will still need to park which will mean they will continue to do so but further up Linden Way.</p> <p>This could prove to be potentially more dangerous to pedestrians. As traffic travels down Linden way they approach the last strip on a bend. If on turning the bend they are suddenly faced with a line of parked cars they will need to veer onto the other side of the road. As residents of the cul-de-sac that joins after this bend we are aware that Pedestrians can be in the road at this point. From leaving our property our son has no option but to walk on the road until he crosses onto middle drive where there are pavements. When traffic turns up from the main road it will be travelling at a slower speed and has better vision of the parked vehicles and pedestrians ahead. We presume that now you are exploring other avenues that the 'no access' signs are not to be enforced and therefore suggest that a safer option would be to provide pavements for pedestrians. They are in place on one side further up Linden Way and also on Middle Drive making it safer for people to walk after parking or just in general.</p> <p>If pavements are not an option we suggest the regulations that applied when going to the expense of erecting the 'No Access' signs are enforced. This does not appear to have happened, had people adhered to this we would not be in this situation worrying about our children trying to walk to school. We look forward to hearing what solutions are decided from these proposals. We do feel sympathetic towards people needing to drop off at the local school but need to address the safety of the people travelling on foot.</p>
1		<p>The area around the first school remains an accident waiting to happen. I support these double yellow lines but they could probably do with extending further into Linden Way. Other areas around the RB at the Edgehill/Middle Drive junction should also be considered as these two are dangerous at dropping off and collection times. Greater parking areas especially if a new larger school is built should be provided. The existing restrictions should also be adequately enforced. As a resident I am forced to avoid these areas in the morning and afternoon school times</p>
1		<p>We fully support Councillor Peter Cowie's recommendation to extend the double yellow lines On Linden Way, as the no access signs are clearly not working.</p> <p>We have experienced traffic problems due to parents parking at school times, which is Very dangerous as there is no footpath on either side of the road, creating a hazard.</p>
1		no comments

1	<p>The proposal for double yellow lines extended at the start of Linden Way does not prevent the parking problem, simply moving it further along the road. Currently a number of cars, presumably drivers linked to the school site, park at the start of Linden Way throughout the school working day. This is not evident in holidays to the same level. No consideration is given to the 'Smarter Parking' school initiative from those concerned, despite the large signs displayed on The Broadway entrance to school.</p> <p>Disregard is given to the signage already in place from the Middle Drive entrance to Linden Way limiting access to residents, with vehicles parking from the turning and along the road blocking access to drives. The restrictions are not enforced so subsequently become redundant. This has recently included parking from vehicles with occupants sharing large plan drawings looking at the school site.</p> <p>The major concern is pedestrian safety on Linden Way and particularly Middle Drive. Pedestrians are forced to negotiate parked vehicles and oncoming traffic turning into the road, as highlighted in the proposed plan.</p> <p>We would support a short section of double yellow lines and portable vehicle resident permit parking for a number of vehicles for occupants at the start of Linden Way. This would limit parking for non residents but not restrict the parking for residents when the new building begins.</p> <p>Careful consideration must be given to pedestrian safety at the start of Linden Way and the junction of Middle Drive. It is extremely dangerous, as is the entire road when used during the school run.</p> <p>Last October, a child was knocked over, injured and concussed by a car on Middle Drive at this junction. The plans for the access to the new school car park are at about the same location where ambulances attended to witness the extreme distress of all concerned. This will happen again with the plans in place for increased traffic, clearly intended to access along Linden Way as a route to miss out congested traffic areas.</p> <p>The objections from numerous local residents in the area to the access along Middle Drive for the new school should be reconsidered. The location of an accident is the chosen entrance to a large car park for a school who are asked to safeguard children as a priority.</p> <p>The Broadway is the logical location for parking and school pedestrian access, as originally designed. Please consider this as a joint response from 4 residents at the above address.</p>
1	<p>As a resident of Linden Way, Darras Hall, I write regarding your letter dated 10th May 2017 about the proposed "No Waiting at Any Time" Parking Restriction. Firstly I am in favour of the extended parking restriction, but I will point out that I have seen cars parked further up the street and despite the recent signs to state residential access only, unfortunately nobody polices this it seems. So the worry might be that the cars simply park further up Linden Way?</p> <p>I agree that the present situation particularly at the bottom of Linden Way nearest Middle Drive is unsafe and this is for a variety of reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cars parked at busy times, particularly parents of school children make access and visibility difficult</li> <li>2) Lack of pavement either side at the bottom of Linden Way - whilst grass verges look nice, surely in the interests of safety, there should be at least pavement maintained on one side of the road? In the autumn and winter months the verges become a sloppy muddy mess and I have often slipped on them walking my dog, or been forced to walk in the road.</li> <li>3) The situation is compounded on wheelie bin collection day (Thursdays) - The wheelie bins straddle the grass verges making it virtually impossible to avoid walking in the road - add in the fact there are then cars parked and you have little choice but to walk in the middle of the road.</li> <li>4) Overgrown hedges - take a look down Linden Way and you will note that the width of the pavements and grass verges vary considerably due to overgrown hedges and trees that encroach beyond the boundaries of the properties. The house 107 Middle drive at the right side of the entrance of Linden Way is a particular culprit - if you look at the width of the beech hedge it has practically consumed the entire grass verge right on the very corner where visibility is a must. If you compare to the true boundary of number 2 Linden Way next door you can see the extent of the encroachment. This is not just this property I might add - there are others down the street (not to mention elsewhere on the estate) and indeed I note the council on the recent street light replacement actually put two street lights next to each other outside one resident's house because his overgrown tree blocked some of the light. As far as I was aware hedges are meant to be kept to a height of 2m and trimmed back near the footpath, yet there are residents whose hedges are far beyond this, but no action is taken?</li> </ol> <p>I enclose a recent picture from the bottom of Linden Way showing the issues of lack of footpath, parked cars, wheelie bins and overgrown hedge of 107 Middle Drive.</p>



# Appendix C Second Consultation Plan





		<p>I'm responding to your letter on the proposed 'No Waiting 8.30 to 9.30am and 2.30 to 4pm' Parking Restriction, Linden Way, Darras Hall.</p> <p>I have a couple of issues with the proposal:</p> <p>The issue lies with the school and your solution is to inconvenience residents. This is not right. If I have visitors that need to park overnight then they will not be able to do so near my house. For example, if I needed to get some building work done and had to park my car away from my drive whilst this was happening, I could no longer park near my house because you are trying to stop non-residents from parking here during certain hours in the school day.</p> <p>The parking restrictions proposed are also a permanent change that will operate 52 weeks of the year, while the school is not in operation for 52 weeks of the year; an even greater inconvenience to residents. As we live on the corner of Middle Drive and Linden way, we already have double yellow lines and single yellow lines around and in front of our house, limiting parking, and do not want to see this extended further. At a local level, the issue is that the school does not provide the facilities for parents to drop off / pick up their children. Why aren't you addressing this issue within the school grounds by allowing some sort of easy drop off / pick up area there rather than have parents park in surrounding streets?</p> <p>There are already single yellow lines on Middle Drive that have restricted parking at different times. These are not policed so why would the proposed restrictions in Linden Way be any better?? Where in your proposal do you cover how this restriction will be policed?</p>
	1	We recommend that this proposal is re-worked.
1		
	1	<p>I do not wish any yellow lines outside my house. We have family members who regularly visit during those times. It would deter them from visiting my elderly parents. I think they would not look appealing to the street also, and devalue the houses in that area. There must be another viable proposition.</p>
	1	<p>I am only supporting yes if there is a guarantee that the situation is monitored and enforced otherwise NO. Cars regularly park on the single yellow at the school outside of the permitted times and sometimes for extended periods of time. On Friday 21st July there were at least a dozen cars parked at lunchtime which caused problems on Middle Drive. Once again, absolutely nothing is done. The whole situation is ridiculous and residents are getting fed up with it.</p>
	1	<p>We do not feel the single yellow line on Linden Way will prevent school run traffic from parking there. There is a single yellow line on Middle Drive which people park the full length of at school drop off/pick up. The only lines the school run traffic seem to avoid are the double yellow lines.</p> <p>The original proposal to extend the double yellow lines towards no.1 and no.2 Linden Way would ease the traffic congestion entering and leaving Middle Drive as this is where the real problem and safety issue is. Speed bumps would also help slow the traffic coming down Linden Way towards the bend in the road.</p> <p>I would also like to point out that if residents occasionally have overnight visitors that would park on Linden Way and still be there up to 9am this would be very unfair.</p> <p>A single yellow line will not stop school run traffic parking as proven on Middle Drive!</p>
1		<p>I am supportive of an extended no waiting single yellow extending up Linden Way, provided the existing double yellow on the Middle Drive/Linden Way remains in place.</p>
5	3	3