

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING: PAUL JONES

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT MAIDENS WALK, HEXHAM

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed removal of No Waiting 8a.m. - 6p.m. parking restrictions at Maidens Walk in Hexham.

Recommendations

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, the No Waiting 8a.m. - 6p.m. is removed and the following restrictions are introduced:

- Resident Permit Parking Bays 8a.m. - 5p.m.
- Time Limited Parking Place 8a.m. - 5p.m.
- Extension to the double yellow line to guard the junction of Maidens Walk and Allen Drive
- No Loading is introduced on the bend on the east side of Maidens Walk.

Key Issues

- 1) Residents of Maidens Walk unable to park outside of their property during the day with no other convenient parking available.
- 2) Parking restrictions have been in place for a number of years and are now out of date when considering current surroundings.
- 3) Site is in close proximity to town centre and Hexham General Hospital.
- 4) Residential properties and scout hut on Maidens Walk.

BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by residents regarding the unnecessary existing parking restriction on Maidens Walk, Hexham. This restriction is now out of date and prevents residents from parking outside their properties during the hours of 8am until 6pm. Representatives of the County Council have been working together with County Councillor Cath Homer to consider any appropriate amendments that could be made to the current Traffic Regulation Order to improve the parking situation on Maidens Walk.
- 2) The following was proposed:
 - Removal of existing single yellow line
 - Double yellow line is extended by 10 metres to protect the corner of Maidens Walk and Allen Drive.

It was considered that the removal of the single yellow line would introduce enough space for approximately 14 vehicles to park on Maidens Walks and improve the quality of life for residents.

CONSULTATION

- 3) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 7 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 consultation letter (see Appendix A).
- 4) The consultation exercise concluded on Wednesday 9 November 2016 and responses were received from 5 consultees all in favour. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix B. However, feedback received suggested that resident permit parking be introduced due to the close proximity to the town centre and the Hospital. It was also suggested that time limited bays be introduced outside the Lookwide Centre (Scout Hut) to allow for short stay parking.
- 5) Taking into account the feedback that we received, it was agreed that residents should be canvassed for their comments on the principle to introduce a resident permit parking place outside of the residential properties and time limited parking 2 hours, No return within 3 hours, outside of the Lookwide Centre. A plan showing the proposals is attached with a copy of the canvas letter (see Appendix C).
- 6) The canvas exercise ended on 17 January 2017 and responses were received from 4 residents, all being in favour. A summary of those responses is attached as Appendix D.

COMMENTS MADE DURING THE CANVAS EXERCISE

- 7) One comment suggested that the restrictions be in place during the hours of 8a.m. - 5p.m to allow visitors of the Lookwide Centre to park when there are events on.
- 8) Concerns were also raised regarding vehicles parking on the corner opposite the Lookwide Centre - the introduction of a No Loading Parking Restriction would prohibit vehicles from stopping on the bend.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9) 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 and canvas exercises and the canvas letter highlighted that there were no objections although there was requests for resident parking and time limited parking to replace the single yellow line. It is recommended the following parking restrictions are introduced:
 - Resident Permit Parking Bays 8am - 5p.m
 - Time limited Parking Place 8a.m - 5p.m
 - Extension to the double yellow line to guard the junction of Maidens Walk and Allen Drive
 - No Loading is introduced on the bend on the east side of Maidens Walk.

A plan showing these restrictions is attached as Appendix E.

- 10) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended an inquiry is not held.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix A - Copy of consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix B - Consultation Summary of Responses
Appendix C - Copy of canvas letter and plan
Appendix D - Canvas letter summary of responses
Appendix E - Agreed Restrictions

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	None
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will reduce vehicle speeds and promote a safer environment
Customer Consideration	Residents will benefit from the introduction of additional parking places
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Hexham Town Council, the emergency services, and interested road use organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area
Wards	

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Dan Fraser - Programme Officer (Highway Safety)**
(01670) 624125
Daniel.Fraser@northumberland.gov.uk

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed changes to parking restrictions on Maidens Walk, Hexham

Consultation

5 responses received to consultation, all in favour, however, amended restrictions were requested. A further consultation was held with 5 responses received, 4 in favour and 1 expressing no preference.

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of the following parking restrictions:

- Resident Permit Parking 8am - 5pm
- Time Limited Parking 2 hours, No return within 3 hours 8am - 5pm
- No Loading
- No waiting at Any Time

Signature of Director



Date

23/2/17

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Northumberland County Council

Appendix A County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO166100
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Dan Fraser
Direct Line: 01670 624125
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: Daniel.Fraser@northumberland.gov.uk
Wednesday 28th September 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Maidens Walk, Hexham

Concerns have been raised by residents regarding the unnecessary parking restriction on Maidens Walk, and the inability to park outside their properties during the hours of 8am until 6pm. Representatives of the County Council have been working together with County Councillor Cath Homer to consider what alternative changes could be made to the current Traffic Regulation Order to improve the parking situation on Maidens Walk. It is therefore proposed that the single yellow line be removed and the double yellow line is extended by 10 metres to protect the corner, as shown in the attached plan. It is considered that the removal of the single yellow line will introduce enough space for approximately 14 vehicles to park on Maidens Walk and improve the quality of life for residents. However, it must be taken into account that the space created are not resident parking places, and may be utilized by anybody who wishes to park in the vicinity.

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 proposed removal of the "No Waiting, 8:00 – 18:00" parking restrictions and the extension of the "No Waiting" parking restriction by 10 metres", 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 Wednesday 9th 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

Dan Fraser - Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)

Appendix B – Consultation Summary of Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			We have been waiting for years for this and at last sense has prevailed. The removal of yellow line is green neurs.
1			The only downside I see is that non residents will use these spaces, especially with them being so close to the hospital and Marks & Spencer, and local residents might not be able to find a space.
1			After years of arguing that this should be the case I am very happy to have the yellow lines taken away. The only point I would make is that I still would prefer parking for residents only. I am more than happy to pay for permit, rather than coming home to find I can't park outside my house due to hospital staff taking the spaces.
1			The County Council's Building Conservation section do not raise any objections to this proposal subject to keeping any new associated signage to a minimal to avoid unnecessary highway clutter within this part of the Hexham Conservation Area which would be to the detriment of its character and appearance.
1			Hexham Town Council considered this consultation yesterday and has no objection to the proposed removal of the No Waiting 8:00-18:00 parking restrictions and extension of the No Waiting parking restriction by 10 metres as shown on the attached plan.
5	0	0	

Appendix D – Canvas Letter Summary of Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			I am definitely in favour of permit parking on Maidens Walk for residents
		1	I would inform you that as an emergency service we may be required to use the above road 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			1. The access area in front of our drive to the Lookwide Centre (scout Building) to be left free. 2. The existing double yellow line opposite our building to have a loading restriction applied. 3. The area in front of our building to have a 2 hours limited waiting as your proposal. 4. The resident parking bays to allow anyone to park after 5.00pm. The above items were agreed at our site meeting on Friday 6th January 2017.
1			The Town Council's Planning & Infrastructure Committee considered this consultation at its meeting on Friday 13th January. It was noted that the Council had responded to a previous consultation on lifting lines and this proposal was for residents' permit parking places. It was further noted that proposed changes to Maidens Walk include double yellow lines on the bend due to limited vision for motorists; time limited parking for 3 hours; an access guaranteed "H" marking; and a "no loading" restriction opposite the potential residents' permit parking places. It was agreed to support these proposed changes
1			At last sense prevails. Many thanks for the work involved.
4	0	1	

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The Occupier

Our Ref: HO166100
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Dan Fraser
Direct Line: 01670 624125
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Dear Sir/ Madam

Resident Permit Parking Places – Maidens Walk, Hexham

Following on from the consultation to remove the single yellow line on Maidens Walk, the responses we received were all in favour of the proposals. However, it has been suggested, that in light of the new bus station, and the close proximity to the town centre, the derestricted area would become a parking area for workers of Hexham, and residents of Maidens Walk would struggle to find a parking place outside their property.

To guarantee there is an area available for local residents only, it is suggested that a Resident Permit Parking Place is introduced. It has also been highlighted that if resident permit scheme were introduced, this would create a need for time limited parking outside of the scout hut which would available for anybody to use.

Therefore, I would like to canvas your opinion on a Resident Permit Parking Place outside of the residential properties on Maidens Walk, and Time Limited Parking Place, 2 hours, No return within 3 hours outside of the scout hut, as shown in the attached plan.

To make this scheme enforceable, signs and bay markings are required on the highway and residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for residents and one for visitor parking. As the restriction is proposed to be in place every day, anyone who did not wish to purchase a resident permit would not be able to park in the resident bays at any time.

If you wish to comment on the proposals, please do so before Tuesday 17th January 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.

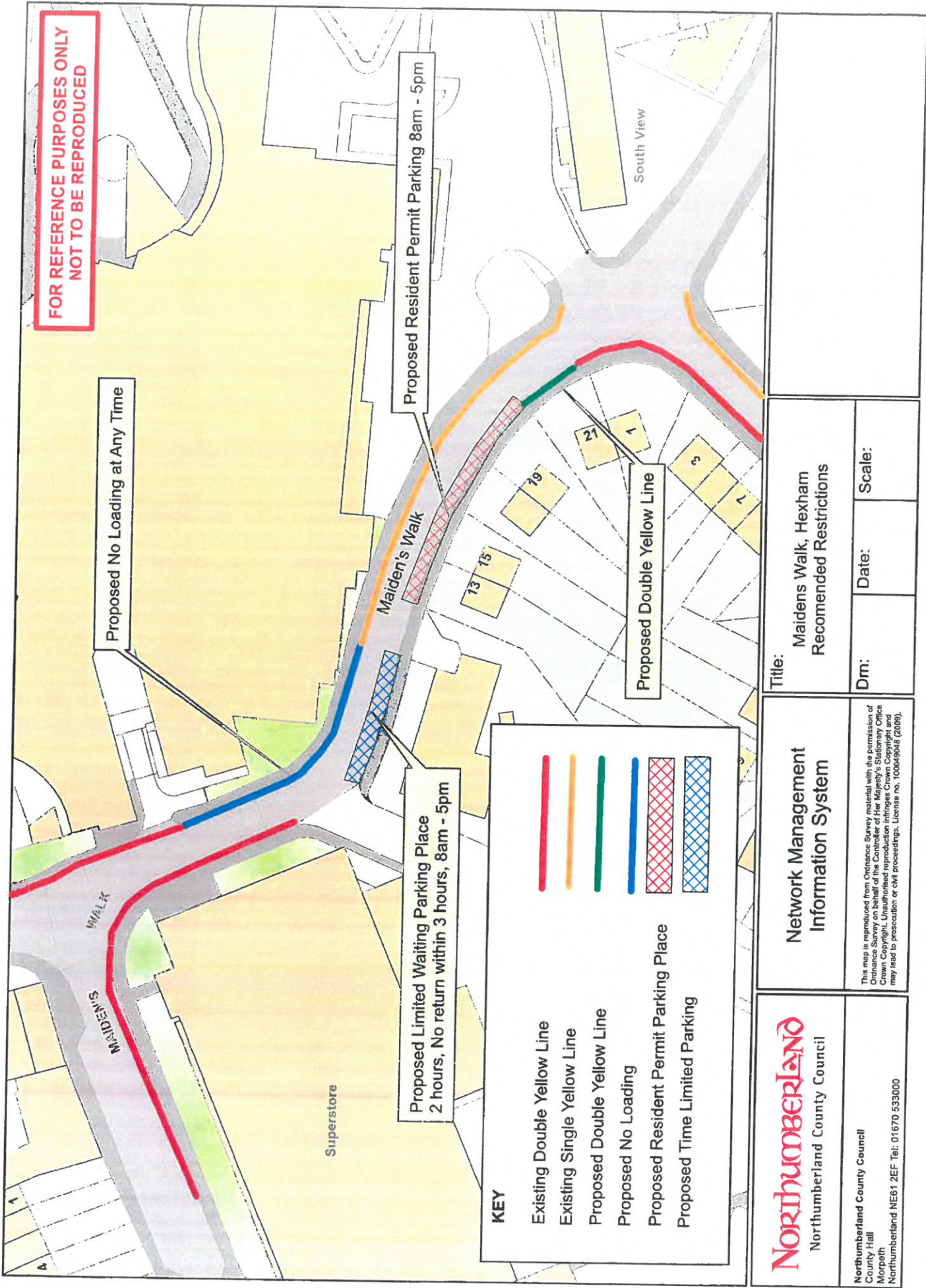


I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents/businesses who take time to return the canvassing form. If no comments are received by the closing date it will be assumed that you do not wish to make any representations.

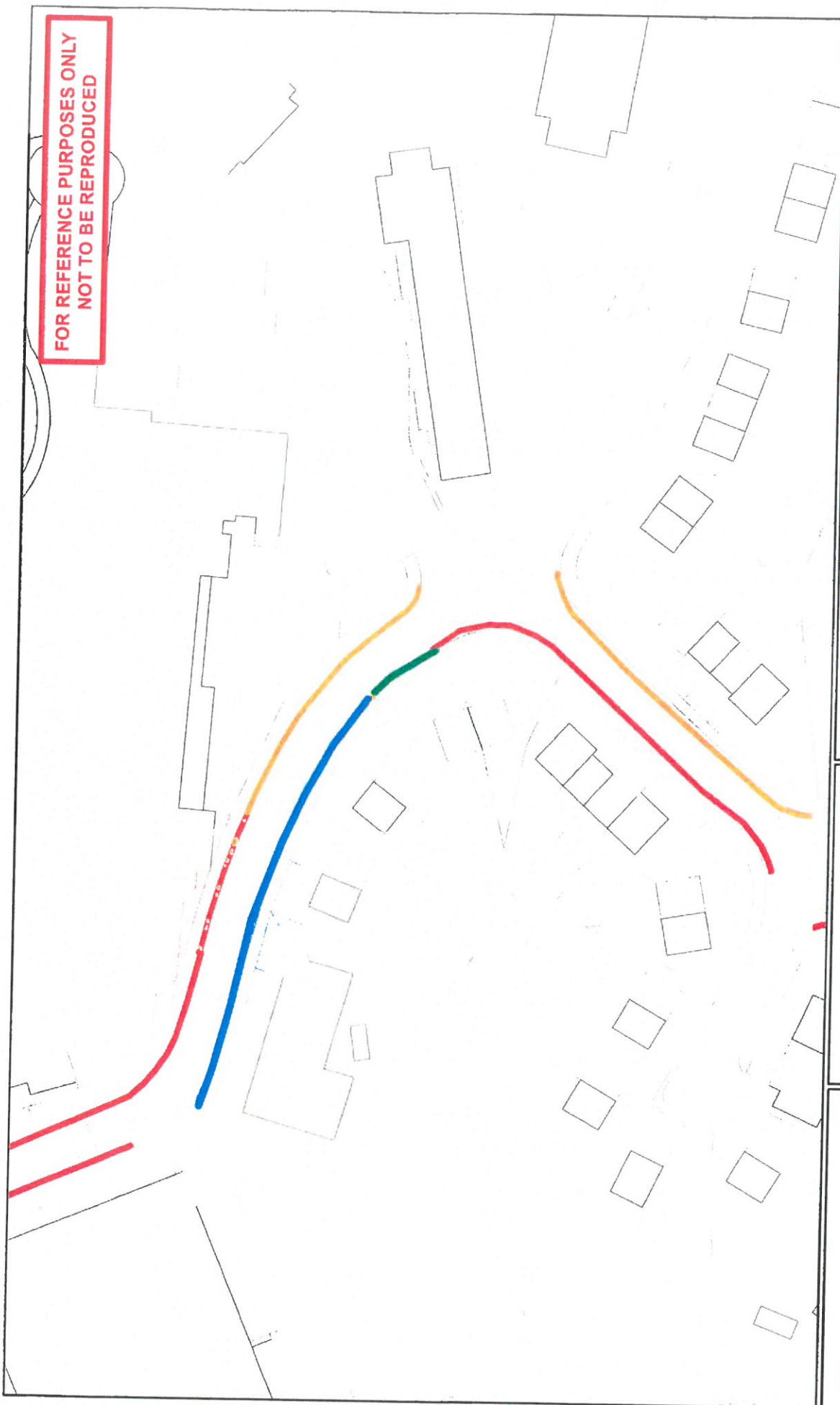
I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



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Northumberland County Council

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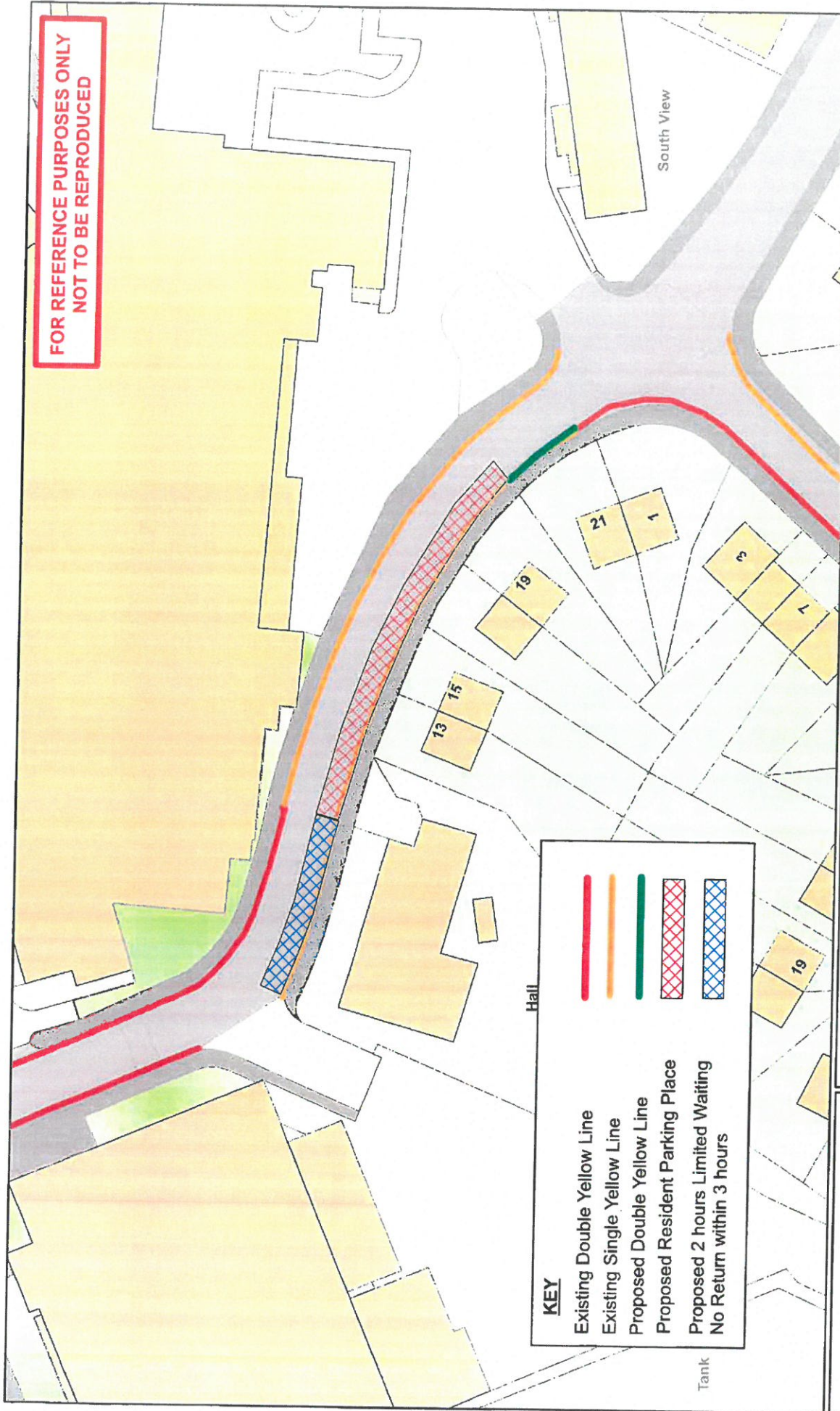
Network Management Information System

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Title: Maidens Walk, Hexham	
Dm:	Scale:
Date:	

KEY	Existing double yellow line
	Existing single yellow line
	Proposed extension to double yellow line
	Proposed removal of single yellow line

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NOT TO BE REPRODUCED



KEY

- Existing Double Yellow Line
- Existing Single Yellow Line
- Proposed Double Yellow Line
- Proposed Resident Parking Place
- Proposed 2 hours Limited Waiting
No Return within 3 hours

Northumberland

Northumberland County Council

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**Network Management
Information System**

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**Title: Maidens Walk, Hexham
Revised Parking Restrictions**

Drn:	Date:	Scale:
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