



Northumberland County Council

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

**Paul Jones**

---

**Proposed Residents Parking Zone  
North View Back Lane, Ashington**

**6th February 2017**

---

**Purpose of Report**

To consider the consultation regarding the proposed removal of the existing parking restrictions (single yellow lines) and the introduction of a Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) on North View Back Lane, Ashington.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the current restrictions remain and a Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) not be introduced on North View Back Lane, Ashington.

**Key Issues**

1. This area has been the subject of concerns over a period of time i.e. indiscriminate parking causing obstruction to residential properties causing concerns for the residents and the local County Councillor.
2. The Scheme was to be funded and supported by County Councillor Thomas Wilson.
3. The results of the consultation showed support from residents for the proposals, however, objections were received from the Town Council, local businesses and the Town Team. There was also an objection from council's parking services officers who were concerned that due to the nature of the narrow street they would not be able to enforce a Resident Parking Zone at this location.
4. Following discussion between NCC Senior Officers and Councillor Wilson the decision has been made not to proceed with the proposal.

## **Background**

1. Concerns were identified to Councillor Wilson by residents on a number of occasions, with regard to obstruction of their garages by parked vehicles.
2. The existing restrictions; No Waiting and Loading between 8am and 6pm (single yellow line) (monday to saturday) on both sides of the road do allow parking during the evening and night. This facility is primarily used by residents and under the terms of the order the businesses can load continually for a 30 minute period between 8am and 6pm.
3. It was proposed to remove the existing parking restrictions and introduce a Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) at all times, supported by No Waiting At Any Time restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) on certain areas of the street as shown on the consultation plan attached. This would help provide parking for the residents of North View Back Lane at all times.
4. This scheme was proposed prior to the refurbishment works taking place on Station Road, Ashington. This has resulted in a conflict with the proposal for North View Back Lane i.e. due to the limited capacity for unloading on Station Road and the back lane being traditionally used as a 'service access' for businesses.
5. North View Back Lane, like Station Road Back Lane (on the south side of Station Road) are primarily used as service access for Station Road businesses during the day.
6. North View is narrow and becomes restricted, particularly when businesses on Station Road receive deliveries or refuse collections. The 'narrowness' is exacerbated by large business refuse bins left in the back lane. See photographs (see Appendix C)

## **Consultation**

1. These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise, conducted on the 14th June 2016. This involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 18 residential properties, 29 business premises and 21 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
2. The consultation exercise ended on 12th July 2016 and responses were received from 19 consultees, with 13 in favour, 5 against and 1 who was neither for nor against the proposal. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.

3. As expected a significant number of residents were in favour of the proposals, however, objections were received from local businesses and in particular from council parking services officers who explained why they would struggle to enforce this proposal.
4. An objection was also made by Ashington Town Council, highlighting that the County Council is currently undertaking a full strategic parking study of Ashington Town Centre specifically to address parking needs. Therefore, they cannot support the proposal at the present time.
5. Councillor Wilson was notified of the results of the consultation.
6. Councillor Wilson after discussions with Council Officers regrettably confirms he does not wish to proceed with the scheme.

### **Recommendations**

1. The proposal was made by Councillor Wilson who understood there was a good level of local support for the scheme.
2. However, in view of the conflict of restrictions with Station Road (highlighted previously in this report), together with the objections of the Town Council and further discussion with NCC Senior Managers Councillor Wilson no longer wishes to proceed with the proposal.
3. Councillor Wilson and Officers will continue listening to the residents and road users' needs in the area and take forward information received via the Directory of Requests where appropriate.

### **File References**

S:\Highways\PROJECT\15\HO15 Members  
Schemes\HO155880\_ASHINGTON\_North View RPZ\_WILSON

### **Appendix Index**

Appendix A - Consultation 1 -Copy of Consultation Letter  
Appendix B - Consultation 1 - Summary of Responses  
Appendix C - Reference photographs - North View/Station Road  
Back Lane Ashington

## Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	None
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	To be funded through the Member's Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor Thomas Wilson
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Procurement</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The introduction of a Residents Parking Permit Zone has been considered alongside existing restrictions and the needs of the local community, including businesses.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Illegal parking and obstruction of access
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Scheme was anticipated to improve access to properties and parking for residents in the area and the usual consultation has taken place
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	Ashington Central

### 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](mailto:Terry.Luck@northumberland.gov.uk)

## DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer(s) and Portfolio Holder** Director of Local Services and Housing

**Subject:** Proposed introduction of Residents Parking Zone

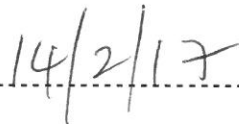
**Consultation** 19 Responses  
13 For  
5 Against  
1 Neither for nor against

**Decision Taken:** Not to Introduce Residents Parking Zone as proposed.

Signature of Director/  
officer/Portfolio Holder



**Date**





# NORTHUMBERLAND

## Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF  
• Web: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO155880  
Your Ref:  
Contact: Terry Luck  
Direct Line: 01670 622588

E-mail: [HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk)  
Tuesday 14th June 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

### Proposed Residents Parking Zone North View / Station Road Back Lane, Ashington

Concerns have been raised by residents regarding the lack of parking on North View, Ashington with Councillor Wilson, who has requested that Officers formally consult residents on a proposal to remove the existing parking restrictions and replace them with a Residents Parking Zone supported by No Waiting at Any time restrictions, (Double yellow lines).

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 following proposals:

To introduce a 'Residential Parking Zone' and 'No Waiting at Any time' traffic regulation order at North View in Ashington as shown on the attached plan.

Signs at the entry to the street would dictate where Resident Permit Parking is in operation. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit equivalent to less than 30p/week). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for residents and one for visitor parking.

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 Tuesday 12th July 2016. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

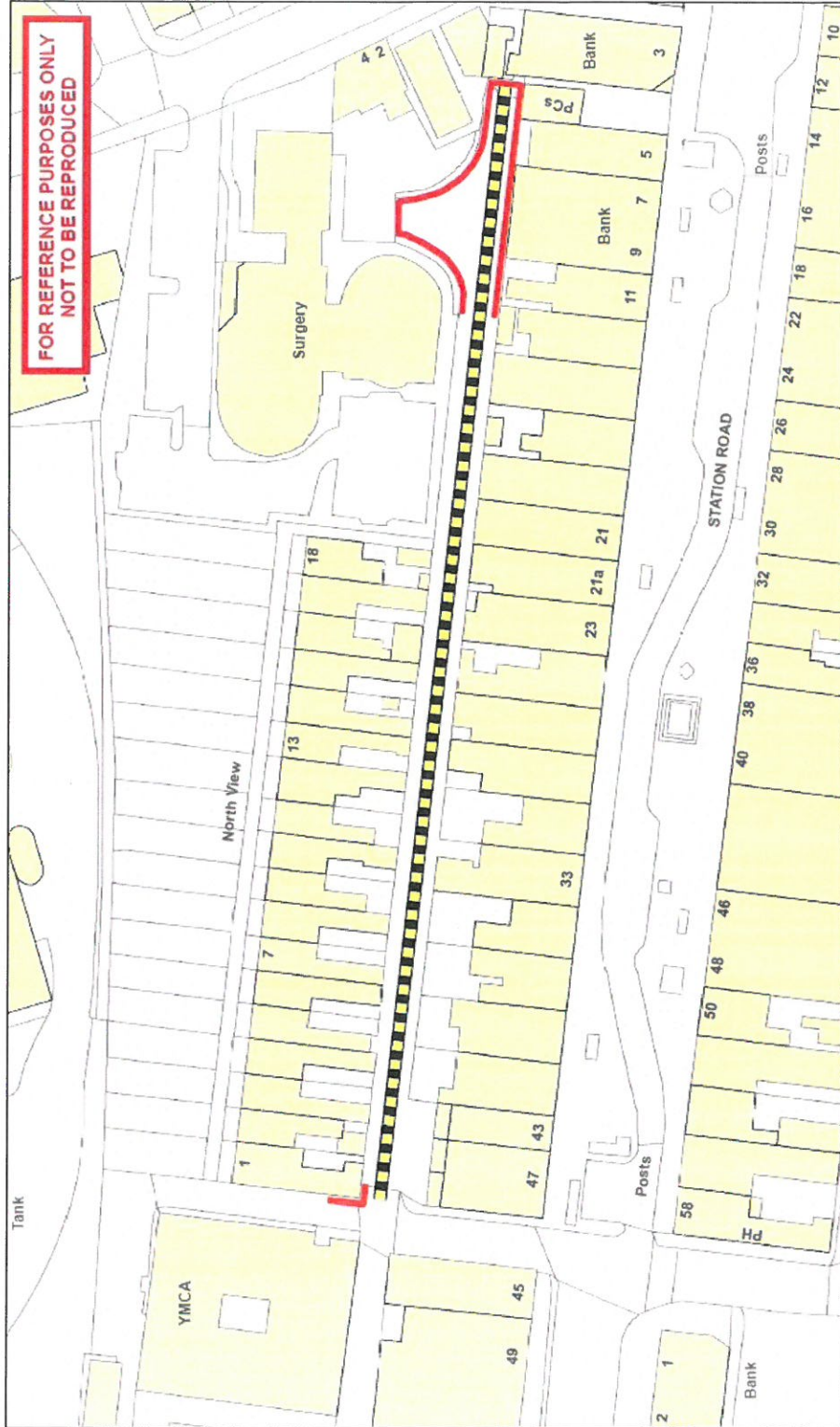
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

Yours faithfully



Terry Luck  
Programme Officer (Member Schemes)





<p><b>Northumberland</b> Northumberland County Council</p>	<p><b>Network Management Information System</b></p> <p><small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright and database right. All rights reserved. Licence no. 100049048 (2023).</small></p>	<p><b>Title:</b> Proposed Residential Parking Zone North View, Ashington</p>	<p><b>PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED EXTENT OF RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE</b></p>
<p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Northumberland NE1 2EF Tel: 01670 533000</p>		<p><b>Dm:</b> AW <b>Date:</b> June 16 <b>Scale:</b> NTS</p>	



## Appendix B

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments
		1	Thank you for your letter dated 14th June 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.
		1	We (Parking Services back office) have looked at the letter and proposed restrictions and have some feedback. We feel the proposed restrictions may not work for a number of reasons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North View is a very narrow street and may become congested with vehicles making it very difficult for vehicles (especially larger vehicles) to enter and exit.</li> <li>Garages back onto the street and residents or visitors may park in front of the garages causing an obstruction. Parking Services would be unable to enforce if the vehicle is displaying a valid permit and this would become a police issue.</li> <li>Commercial buildings back onto North View and delivery vans currently park on the yellow line to load or unload. If residents are parked on the opposite side of the street a delivery lorry entering or exiting would cause significant problems. The vehicles may not have anywhere to park to load or unload.</li> </ul> Whilst we appreciate the residents have limited parking on North View we feel the resident scheme would not work due to the points raised above.
1			A concern over the number of utility vehicles and delivery lorries accessing rear properties of Station Road.
1			why can we not have the walk way from ow lane to high street past the public toilets and t s b be blocked of so we do not have cars flying up the lane to the bank and street we have a lot of bover in ow lane by people cutting down the back of the shops.
		1	On April 27 2016 I attended county hall to meet with Neil, Ali, Dan and Terry for your discussions regarding TRO proposals. We discussed this possible scheme at length and it was agreed that this was not possible to introduce. The lane is very narrow. If we introduce a resident scheme this will significantly increase the volume of cars in the lane. On the south side we have a large amount of businesses who require large wagons to access the rear of the property. When parking opposite a car with a residents permit the lane will become blocked. What we have at present is working fine. In my opinion this is a totally unworkable scheme and should be discarded.
1			We are in full support of this scheme as it would benefit us greatly due to parking being a real issue. Being able to park on the street outside of my house would be fantastic as I sometimes struggle to get my car on or off the drive due to people illegally parking. parking opposite a car with a residents permit the lane will become blocked. What we have at present is working fine. In my opinion this is a totally unworkable scheme and should be discarded.
1			no comments
1			
1			I think it's only fair to have permits, as we can't have visitors to our property if there are no parking spaces at the YMCA for them to park.
1			
1			
		1	We have a daily twice a week. Please explain where van is supposed to park, also people drop off donations for the charity at rear of the shop as no parking on front.
1			2 permits would e required Mrs Joan Davies is disabled and uses a wheelchair. Doctors and nurses attending to her must be blue to park at the door without being ticketed. Transferring her to our car does take about 10 minutes she has a blue badge to display in the car and is registered disabled. When trying to access Station Road at the Lloyds TSB bank it is impossible due to indiscriminately parked vehicles in the turning head at the end of North View.
1			No comment
		1	there appears to be no provision for businesses to load/unload at rear of properties. and with the new road layout at the front of the street how are we to carry out our day to day activities? will be allowed a 20min drop of window? this

		is vital to the shops survival as we receive between 100/150 bags of stock per week and could not hand bail this along the street.
1		Myself and my husband fully support the proposals and would require 2x parking permits. Many thanks
1		I hope you consider this proposal, as there are times I have to park over by the masonic hall as I could park at rear of YMCA. Also the traffic up this back lane is excessive because people using it to get to the bank. It gets dangerous just getting out of my yard gate as cars speeding up lane. Also cars sometimes park opposite my garage and I can't get my car out.
1		I fully support the proposal as current parking restrictions limit access to residents by family and friends significantly. Residents may have more than one family vehicles as well which makes it very difficult to ensure that all vehicles are safely parked next to their homes. This area has become very busy with *** from the public and also *** vehicles. This can make it very hard for residents to park in their own street and surrounding area. And resident parking permit scheme will reduce the above *** significantly and allow residents to feel more comfortable and secure in their community.
	1	<p>Regarding the proposal, please find attached the formal response of Ashington Town Council. Thank you for your recent correspondence and invitation to comment on the proposal to introduce a "Residential Parking Zone" and "No Waiting at Any Time" traffic regulation order at North View in Ashington.</p> <p>I would inform you that this matter was discussed in full at a very recent meeting of the Town Council's Planning and Regeneration Committee where it was unanimously resolved that the proposal be not supported at this time.</p> <p>In reaching the decision members were mindful and sympathetic to residents' concerns at this time but were also of the clear view that the timing of the proposal is inappropriate given the major construction work underway on Station Road and also the fact that the County Council is currently undertaking a full strategic parking study of Ashington Town Centre specifically to address parking needs.</p> <p>The terms of reference for that study include analysis of existing parking provision and shall include "all existing off-street car parks, both public and private and on-street parking within the study area" which includes North View. In the light of this work, the Town Council consider that any current proposals should be assessed against the findings and recommendations of the study.</p> <p>It is also the view of the Town Council that the current Temporary Traffic Regulation Order in place for the duration of the regeneration and highway work in the Town Centre specifically allows for delivery and waiting times on North View. I am sure that the Highways and Transport Team will be able to advise further on this matter.</p> <p>Please ensure that all the views and comments of the Town Council are properly considered and included in the Decision Report relating to this matter.</p> <p>further to full consideration and discussion of the issue. The letter is self-explanatory and sets out the reason for not supporting the proposal at this time. Please acknowledge safe receipt and ensure that the comments are considered in full and included in the issue of the normal Decision Notice. If you require any further detail or wish to discuss any point please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
13	5	1

## Appendix C

Photographs of North View/Station Road Back Lane - For reference only



