



Northumberland County Council

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

**PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC AND PARKING
RESTRICTIONS ON SIXTH AVENUE IN BLYTH**

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed introduction of a one way system and associated parking restrictions on Sixth Avenue in Blyth

Recommendations

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

Key Issues

- 1) Sixth Avenue is the exit/entrance to Bede Academy for both pedestrians and vehicles.
- 2) Residents unable to access their driveways during peak times with reports of anti-social behaviour from drivers parked on Sixth Avenue.
- 3) Carriageway reduced down to single lane traffic during peak times, resulting in vehicles meeting head on and mounting the pavement causing a danger to pedestrians.

BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by residents, parents and Bede Academy regarding inconsiderate parking on Sixth Avenue. It has been reported that vehicles are parking on both sides of Sixth Avenue, causing two-way traffic to be reduced down to one lane. This is resulting either:-
 - a) Vehicles coming head to head, with one or more vehicles either being forced to make a reverse manoeuvre to allow traffic movement to continue.
 - b) Vehicles being forced to mount the pavement in an attempt to pass obstructing vehicles.
- 2) In order to improve road safety outside of Bede Academy the following proposals have been considered:
 - a) One Way System on Sixth Avenue (starting on Fifteenth Avenue and ending at Eighth Avenue.
 - b) Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) on Sixth Avenue, Monday - Friday, 8am - 9am and 3pm - 4pm

CONSULTATION

- 3) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to approximately 36 residents and approximately 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/ organisations. A plan showing the proposals and a copy of the consultation letter is attached as Appendix A.
- 4) The consultation exercise ended on Thursday 16th February 2017 and responses were received from 13 consultees with 11 in favour and 1 against the proposals. The North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee to respond and they did not state a preference. A summary of the responses received is attached as Appendix B.

COMMENTS

- 5) Two residents commented that the restrictions times should be extended in the afternoon as vehicles are still parking up until 5pm - Vehicles may be parking on Sixth Avenue until 5pm, but the density of children and vehicles in the area at this time is considerably reduced, therefore reducing the congestion and road safety concerns.
- 6) One resident who did not support the proposals stated the scheme was solely for the school and did not benefit residents - This scheme was proposed to improve both congestion and road safety in the area and to benefit both residents and the school. Quality of life for residents will improve from the reduction in vehicles parking on Sixth Avenue and

blocking driveways, which has resulted in reports of anti-social behaviour. The reduction in vehicles parking and the one way system will improve road safety on Sixth avenue by improving visibility for school children crossing the road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7) 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 has shown that the majority of consultees who responded to the consultation supported the scheme. Therefore, it is recommended the following restrictions are introduced on Sixth Avenue:
 - a) A one way system, starting at Fifteenth Avenue and ending at Eighth Avenue.
 - b) A Restricted Parking Zone, starting at Fifteenth Avenue and ending at Eighth Avenue, Monday - Friday, 8am. - 9a.m. and 3p.m. - 4p.m.
- 8) 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

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 inconsiderate parking and anti-social behaviour, whilst promoting a safer environment.
Customer Consideration	Both residents and the school will benefit from the introduction of the restriction by improving quality of life and making a safer environment.
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Blyth 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 introduction of Traffic and Parking Restrictions on Sixth Avenue in Blyth

Consultation

14 responses received
11 in favour
1 against
1 expressing no preference.

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of the following restrictions:

- A one way system, starting at Fifteenth Avenue and ending at Eighth Avenue
- A Restricted Parking Zone, starting at Fifteenth Avenue and ending at Eighth Avenue, Monday - Friday 8a.m. - 9a.m. and 3p.m. - 4p.m.

Signature of Director



Date



NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

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

The Occupier

Our Ref: HE163341-18
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Dan Fraser
Direct Line: 01670 624125
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Date: Thursday 5th January 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Sixth Avenue, Blyth

Concerns have been raised by residents, parents and Bede Academy regarding inconsiderate parking on Sixth Avenue. It has been reported that vehicles are parking on both sides of Sixth Avenue, causing two-way traffic to be reduced down to one lane. This is resulting in vehicles coming head to head, with one or more vehicles either being forced to make a reverse maneuver to allow traffic movement to continue, or being forced to mount the pavement to pass obstructing vehicles.

Therefore, we are proposing to introduce a one way system, starting at Fifteenth Avenue and ending at Eighth Avenue, with the introduction of a Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) Mon – Fri, 8:00am – 9:00am and 3:00pm – 4:00pm. These parking restrictions prevent vehicles from stopping and waiting during the times indicated on the zone entry signs. The restrictions will be enforced by NCC Civil Enforcement Officers and any vehicle witnessed stopping within the zone during the restricted period, will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice. These restrictions are enforced by the use of signs only at the entrance and exit to the RPZ without the need for road markings.

It is anticipated the introduction of the proposed restrictions will reduce congestion and improve visibility on the carriageway, making for a safer environment around the entrance/exit to Bede Academy.

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 introduction of a "Resident Permit Zone, Monday – Friday 8:00am – 9:00am and 3:00pm – 4:00pm" and a One Way System heading west from Fifteenth Avenue to Eighth Avenue, 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 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 16th February 2017. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.



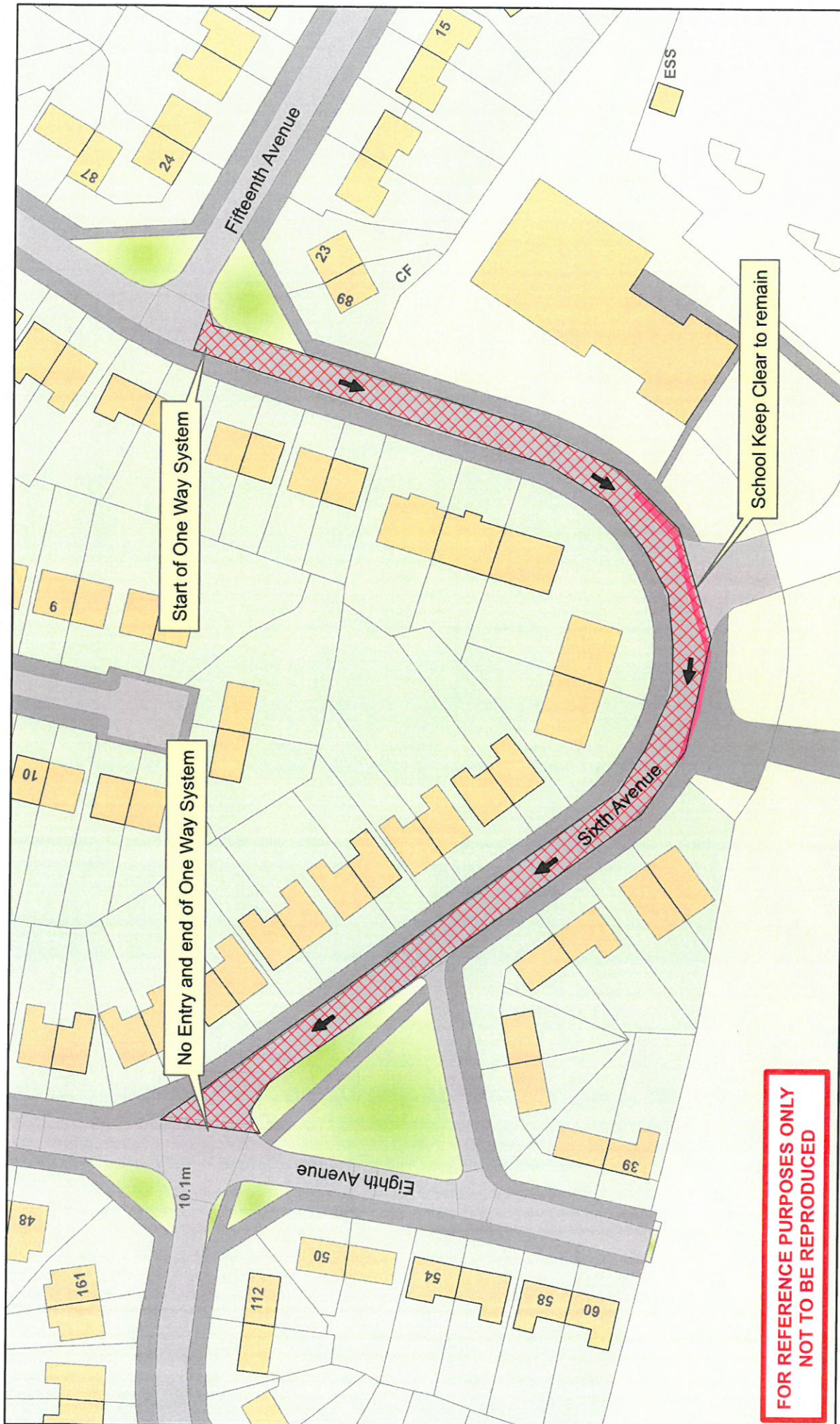
I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan Fraser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Fraser
Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)



**FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED**

<p>Northumberland Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 01670 533000</p>		<p>Network Management Information System</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 Stationary Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License no. 100049048 (2009).</small></p>		<p>KEY</p> <p>Proposed Restricted Parking Zone, Monday - Friday 8am - 9am & 3pm - 4pm</p> <p>Proposed One Way Traffic</p> <p>Existing School Keep Clear</p>	
<p>Title: Sixth Avenue Blyth Proposed Parking and Movement Restrictions</p>		<p>Drm:</p>	<p>Date:</p>	<p>Scale:</p>	<p>Drn:</p>

Appendix B

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
		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		I do not support your proposal as it is solely for the school, and no benefit for the residents, the hours you suggest is not helpful to the residents, it means anyone can park opposite between those hours, and I would still have to phone the school with registration and make of vehicle for them to ask their visitors to move the car so that we can get out of our drive with ease, the road is not wide enough to allow parking. If you do put signs up I would like it to read no parking at all times residents only. Before the school was built there was a meeting held in the old sixth form block residents questions, the council, builders, and education representative were there my wife ask council and education staff are you going to build a drive through 'no' are you taking the hedge back for a lay by in front of the six block 'no' are you going to put double yellow lines down 'no' what are you going to do 'answer' we are going to ask the pupils to walk to school. I am hoping someone would spend time and monitor the traffic that does park after 4pm when kids still coming out up until 5pm some nights later.
1			This is a positive move in what is a problematic street. It is long overdue and should meet the expectations of the residents concerned. I would strongly recommend the introduction of this scheme however clear instruction should be given to the residents in plain English.
1			I have lived across from Bede Academy for 7 years sometimes I leave home at 8-15 for work I have to put my car outside of my drive at 7-50 or I get blocked in by people dropping kids off for school or others are racing past my drive and make no effort to let me out. Somedays I start work at 7-30am when I finish I cannot get in my drive when I get home I have been verbally abused threatened with violence my wife who is disabled has asked drivers to keep the drive clear has been sworn at on lots of occasions I have been told to report this to police but not bothered.
1			I have no problem with the one way system it will most likely help the situation in 6th Avenue beside Bede Academy. My only concern is if I have family or friends visiting my home during restricted times can they without any problem as my car would be on my driveway so they would be on roadside. How would this work? Also you could be moving the problem you have in 6th Avenue to the surrounding area, as school children will be being dropped off as near to school as possible.
1			I would like the later time to 4.30pm because most days there is still cars picking up at 5.00pm.
1			I have a concern that the proposal will only move the problem to 25th a ensue/Newlands road. Traffic is increasing year on year at school start and finish time, with irresponsible parking. It also appears that some pupils are parking their cars for the day at this entrance.
1			I live on ~Fifteenth avenue. I have 2 children, 1 of whom is 8 years old and Autistic. We often have trouble parking outside our own house at school collection time. If things are too busy, my son can become easily frustrated and can be difficult to deal with, adding the trouble of not being able to park close to the house can really add to pressures on us. My son can be sporadic and sometimes runs out onto the road, so being able to park outside my house or on the driveway is very important in order to ensure the safety of my child.
1			We would to see some thought put into the parking on Fifteenth Avenue to ensure the safety of our residents.
1			I live on Sixth Avenue and I personally think it is a terrible morning and night, people just get dropped off in the mornings but come 3.30 there is a street full of cars on both sides, people driving along the paths and roads, I can't even let my son play outside until after the cars have passed and children have been picked up it's too dangerous. I also have a older child at bede and I can state that when he first started and I had a meeting at the school the head teacher stated that pupils were to get dropped off on Plessey Road if travelling by car, parents obviously didn't listen to this and still continue to park I personally have no consideration for people who live in houses around and across from the school and it's only a matter of time before a child from the houses around gets hurt or injured or a pupil from the school.
1			I fully support the proposals as I am furious of having to park away from my own house due to people blocking outside it children play outside and cars are squeezing past. I say no one should be allowed to park anywhere unless you are a resident of the street or official business. School parking on Plessey Road to Newsham as avenues are too small for loads of vehicles.
1			We would strongly support these proposals as they are likely to improve the quality of life for many of the local residents at key points during the day. They will significantly improve the safety of the road for children crossing it, as it currently stands it is dangerous at the beginning and end of the school day and we post staff at the gates to try to mitigate these risks. Equally, we feel that they will create a more pleasant and safer method of access for people using the street at key points

			during the day.
1			<p>Im aware that 6th Avenue is horrendous and a potential accident waiting to happen at School closing times (as are most schools actually) and I appreciate that the proposals will help to ease the situation. However, I'm also aware that it may just move the problem from 6th Avenue onto 12th Avenue and also parents may start using the entrance on Newlands Road. We currently have quite a few drop offs in the morning and a few cars parking on the bend between Newlands Road/25th Avenue at the evening. This term we have also had 2 -3 6th formers parking their cars on the road/pavement for the day.</p>
1			<p>I welcome these proposals that will alleviate the problems that I have experienced. I have white lines across the entrance to my drive, but this has not stopped people parking there. As a result I have experienced difficulty accessing my home when returning from shopping in a taxi, or in an ambulance from a hospital appointment. I am 84 years old and have mobility problems (I have a blue badge and a wheelchair), so any difficulty in getting near to my home is a huge problem. I have come to dread the dropping off and picking up periods for the school. As well as prohibiting access to my home, the additional problem is the constant banging of car doors. This thudding inevitably causes headaches. I think you need to be determined in policing your new restrictions, as in my experience drivers will happily ignore any restrictions. I have seen teachers monitoring at the school gates and they do nothing when cars pull up on the current yellow zig zag lines. When I have asked people to move from my access, the reply is, " I will park where I like". Anything that improves this situation will be welcome.</p>
11	1	1	