

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

Proposal to removal of all advisory Disabled Parking Bays and installation of three 'Blue Badge Holders Only' parking bays – Glovers Green, Alnwick

Purpose of report:

To consider the removal of all Advisory Disabled Parking Bays and the installation of 3 restricted parking bays reserved for disabled blue badge holders, Glovers Green, Alnwick

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation and information received on individuals circumstances, that the proposals for the removal of all Advisory Disabled Parking Bays and the installation of 3 'Blue Badge Holders Only' parking bays, Glovers Green, Alnwick should proceed.

Key issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by Councillor Heather Cairns.
- 2) The scheme will reduce indiscriminate parking in the area.
- 3) The scheme will support vulnerable members of the community.

Report Author

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BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by residents of Glovers Green in Alnwick about inconsiderate parking in the existing advisory disabled bays. Councillor Heather Cairns has also expressed concerns and requested officers consult residents on the possible removal of all advisory disabled bays and the introduction of 3 restricted parking bays reserved for disabled blue badge holders only.
- 2) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 31 residents and 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services, various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix 1).

CONSULTATION

- 3) The consultation exercise ended on Wednesday 6th May 2015, and responses were received from 11 households, with 7 were in favour and 4 against the proposals. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4) Of the statutory consultees consulted only The North East Ambulance Service responded in favour of the consultation.
- 5) Due to comments/observations received regarding the proposed location of the disabled parking bays, a second consultation was held with a revised location as proposed by the consultees. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix 3).
- 6) The second consultation exercise ended on Monday 8th June 2015, and responses were received from 6 households, with 4 were in favour and 2 against the proposals. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix 4.
- 7) For further clarification, a site plan is attached (see appendix 5) to show the extent of the restricted disabled bays alongside the non-restricted parking bays on Glovers Green.

SUPPORT

- 8) Both consultations received majority support for the overall scheme. The second consultation demonstrated a preference for the revised location of the bays.
The consultation was supported by anecdotal evidence supplied by Councillor Heather Cairns after she spoke to the residents. She indicated that residents were in favour of making the new disabled bays enforceable, which would assist in reducing indiscriminate parking in the Glovers Green area. It was also suggested that residents were supportive of the revised location, which allows direct access to the rear of their

vehicles. It is also anticipated that this will assist in resolving anti-social behaviour in the area.

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. The results of the consultation exercise show that the majority of residents who responded support the proposals. It is therefore recommended that all advisory Disabled Parking Bays be removed and 3 restricted parking bays reserved for disabled blue badge holders only be installed, as proposed.
- 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 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.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix 1 – Frist Consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix 2 – Frist Summary of Consultation Responses
Appendix 3 – Second Consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix 4 – Second Summary of Consultation Responses
Appendix 5 – Proposed site plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

File Ref: S:\Highways\PROJECT\14\HO14 Members Schemes\HO145803 -
Glovers Green Alnwick DB

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from Councillor Cairns Local Members Small Schemes Budget
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	Blue Badge Holders will benefit from the introduction of enforceable parking spaces.
Risk Assessment	Residential area, inconsiderate parking issues.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will ensure that only disabled blue badge holders will be able to park in the new disabled bays, promoting a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	Residents will benefit from a reduction in inconsiderate parking.
Sustainability Consultation	None Alnwick Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Alnwick

DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Executive Member and
Executive Director:**

Executive Director of Local Services

Subject:

Proposed removal of all advisory Disabled Parking
Bays and installation of three 'Blue Badge Holders
Only' parking bays – Glovers Green, Alnwick

Consultation:

First Consultation
11 Responses
7 in favour
4 against

Second consultation
6 Responses
4 in favour
2 against

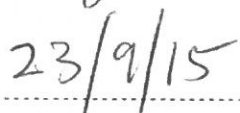
Decision Taken:

To approve the removal of all advisory Disabled
Parking Bays and installation of three 'Blue Badge
Holders Only' parking bays as proposed.

Signature of Executive Director



Date



Appendix 1 – First Consultation

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

The Occupier

Our Ref: H014/AD
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Andrew Douglas
Direct Line: 01670 623861
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: Andrew.douglas2@northumberland.gov.uk
Wednesday 8th April 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed removal of all advisory Disabled Parking Bays and installation of three 'Blue Badge Holders Only' parking bays – Glovers Green, Alnwick

Following a recent parking review at Glovers Green, Alnwick, evidence has shown that there are more disabled bays than required provided in the Glovers Green parking area. Councillor Cairns has raised these concerns and has requested that officers consult residents on a proposal to remove the advisory disabled bays and replace them with three enforceable disabled parking bays which would be governed by the necessary Traffic Regulation Order. The remaining area would be available for all other parking.

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 a proposal to remove the advisory disabled bays and replace them with three enforceable disabled parking bays which would be governed by the necessary Traffic Regulation Order.

The County Council is seeking your views and a free post response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. I would welcome a reply by Wednesday 6th May 2015. 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. You may wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report to be assessed by the Corporate Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to this consultation online.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Douglas
Project Planning Officer

FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED



Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
2015/16
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
01670 522000

Network Management
Information System

This is a reference plan. It is not to be used for the purpose of
designing or constructing a new or existing road or for the
purpose of any other project. It is not to be used for the purpose of
any other project. It is not to be used for the purpose of any other
project. It is not to be used for the purpose of any other project.

Title: Disabled Parking Bays
Proposed - Glovers Green,
Alnwick

DM:	Date:	Scale:
AD	01/02/15	NTS

Appendix 2

First Consultation Summary

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	
			Other Relevant Comments
1			Thank you very much.
1			
	1		I don't agree with these proposed parking bays as the impact to five homes is enormous. It would stop family's maintaining their vehicles also cleaning, loading, unloading. It could devalue the value of these properties. The safety of small children is a huge concern. I believe my plan would have less impact on the estate, as one parking bay per house would remain, leaving more residents with access to their homes.
	1		Do we know how many Blue Badge holders live in Glovers Green? I think the bays are in the wrong place they should be at the other end of the car park against the fence not in front of 3 private homes and as a blue badge holder myself they are to far up the rise for me.
1			Due to these spaces being in place, can you secure spaces for other residents? Other estates (Greenfield and Tanners Garth) use the car park which in turn leaves no space for us. I myself have to park elsewhere as there is no space anymore. Will/can you make it compulsory for disabled vehicles to park in disabled bays? Enclosed with this letter is what I found on one of the disable members cars (secured by the windscreen wiper). This is an example of the childish ill feeling shown by some residents
1			Please ensure when parking bays are outlined it is possible for cars to park in them unlike the currently ones.
1			My only concern for this scheme is the proposal to locate the tree "Blue Badge Holders Only" outside so two abled bodied persons homes. (I refer to the final paragraph of my notes enclosed to A. Douglas Esq in my Reply letter of 25 Oct 2014). Given the current difficulties in getting parked, perhaps it would be a less contentious issue if you considered the proposed "Blue Badge" Bays to be sited in the original location across the head of the cul de sac, facing a brick wall instead of front gates of other tenants homes. (See enclosed amendment suggested on your diagram) in blue ink. I would appreciate if the above could be given some careful consideration, at least you are aware of my opinion, as previous ward councillor for 13 years.
	1		Do not put blue badge holders only parking in front of the house numbered 20 and 21 because that will take away 4 parking spaces from the families who live in houses 20-23. Put the new disabled bays at the opposite side of the car park where some of the existing bays are. Tarmac over the grassed area between 18 and 19 to create more parking spaces and makes it easier for service and large delivery vehicles to turn round. (and save on grass cutting).
1			I agree with 3 blue badge holders bays but not where they are proposes to go as we would loose another 3 residents parking spaces and as there is only just enough at present this would cause problems. A better solution would be along the top where 3 original disabled bays were designated.
1			Thank you for your letter dated 8th April 2015 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an 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 safety programme.
	1		With reference to the above and your letter dated Wed 8th April, REF: H014/AD also following a telephone call to you directly, I would like to highlight my concerns over the proposed bays. Whilst we are not against them for those that require the use of disabled bays we are very much against them being directly in front of our privately owned property. We would appreciate a meeting on site with a representative to gather a clearer picture and perhaps suggest a better location for all those involved. We feel that when we come to put our property on the housing market this will have a huge detrimental effect to the selling power and asking price. We have been advised to seek legal advice if the bays go ahead in the proposed areas to claim damages in this respect. May we also point out that one of the bays, the one proposed outside our home is very close to a number of steps and in health and safety terms this surely cannot be deemed safe for a wheelchair user. There are two other sides to the carpark, one of which remains on the level and that back on to the rear of other properties with no direct access that would solve the solution for everyone. We have direct access to our property from the carpark and pavement which prove crucial when responding to emergency service fire calls. We await your response to our reply in due course
7	4	0	

Appendix 3 – Second Consultation

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The Occupier

Our Ref: H014/AD

Your Ref:

Contact: Mr Andrew Douglas

Direct Line: 01670 623861

Fax: 01670 626136

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Date: Wednesday 13th May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Amended Proposal to removal of all advisory Disabled Parking Bays and installation of three 'Blue Badge Holders Only' parking bays – Glovers Green, Alnwick

Following a recent parking review at Glovers Green, Alnwick, evidence has shown that there are more disabled bays than required provided in the Glovers Green parking area. Councillor Cairns has raised these concerns and has requested that officers consult residents on a proposal to remove the advisory disabled bays and replace them with three enforceable disabled parking bays which would be governed by the necessary Traffic Regulation Order. The remaining area would be available for all other parking. We wrote to you on the 8th April 2015 asking for feedback on the proposal and it was clear from the comments we received, that changing the locations of the proposed 'Blue Badge Holders Only' parking bays was a requirement.

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 a proposal to remove the advisory disabled bays and replace them with three enforceable disabled parking bays which would be governed by the necessary Traffic Regulation Order.

The County Council is seeking your views and a free post response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. I would welcome a reply by Monday 8th June 2015. 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. You may wish to note that any comments received may be included in a Decision Report to be assessed by the Corporate Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/> if you wish to respond to this consultation online.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully


Andrew Douglas
Project Planning Officer

Appendix 4
Second Consultation Summary

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	
			Other Relevant Comments
1			
1			
	1		We are very concerned if the disabled parking goes in front of our house, my husband parks our car in front of our house because of our son. Please could you put the bays further across towards greenfield avenue. - NOTE RESPONSE EDITED -CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
	1		I don't support the plans as it is against ncc rules as there should be no parking at the head of cul de sac's. there is that many cars from other estates it will be impossible to enforce. If there is to be disabled parking I suggest the parking should be down the fence separating Greensfield and Glovers Green. As a disabled driver myself where the bays are Planned at the top of the park is no good to me.
1			
1			Apart from statutory requirements of road markings bordering 'blue badge holders parking bays' given the congested state of parking in Glovers Green:- Would it be possible to limit the width of cross-hatch bordering, V.I.Z. in the corners of the cul de sac? (as per discussions on site with A Douglas) siting the said three bays in situ towards one side of car park in location shown.
4	2	0	

Appendix 5
Proposed Site Plan

