

Highways Committee

Date 9th February 2011

A68 and C42 West Auckland Prohibition of Waiting



Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services

Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic Environment and Leisure

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise members of objections to a proposal to introduce waiting restrictions on the A68 and C42 Front Street / Chapel Street, West Auckland
2. Having considered the objections to the proposal, the Committee is recommended to endorse the proposal to proceed with the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order to introduce 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions on the A68 and C42 Front Street/Chapel Street, West Auckland.

Background

3. The Council has been asked to consider the introduction of waiting restrictions following complaints of indiscriminate parking made to both Durham Constabulary and the County Council. Parking in close proximity to a mini roundabout and various side road junctions is causing road safety concerns.
4. Pedestrians, especially those with pushchairs and disabled aids, are also being prevented from using a footway running alongside the A68 due to parked cars. (See Photograph in Appendix 2).

Proposal

5. To make a Traffic Regulation Order that will prohibit parking with a view to improving overall road safety for both motorists and pedestrians.
6. The order will introduce 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions on the A68 and the C42 Front Street / Chapel Street in West Auckland. (See plan Appendix 3).

7. As part of the consultation process, a site meeting was undertaken on the 14th September 2010 with members of West Auckland Parish Council, County Councillor Andy Turner and Officers of Durham County Council to discuss the proposal further. The Parish Council Members who attended the site meeting wanted to provide further restrictions on the C42. However, following discussions between the Area Traffic Manager and Durham Constabulary, these changes were not considered feasible, as parking was not deemed to be a major road safety issue at these additional locations.
8. Commercial and residential properties in the immediate vicinity were likewise consulted. Responses were received from six properties, four of which were opposed to the proposals with two offering support. Replies were sent to the four objectors offering more information and attempting to address the concerns they had raised by reducing the length of waiting restrictions, making the proposal less restrictive. As a consequence, two responses were received - one retracting the original objection and one from a resident who had not originally objected.
9. The Traffic Regulation Order was drafted and advertised to introduce the restriction set out in paragraph 6 above, as per the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 with the statutory objection period ending 17th December 2010.
10. The statutory consultation did not result in any further objections being raised. Durham Constabulary, being a key partner and also the enforcement authority for dealing with waiting restrictions, are supportive of the proposals.
11. The objections referred to in paragraph 8 above are still outstanding and unresolved and are set out below for members to consider in making a determination.

Objections & Responses

12. Will cause complete chaos on Front Street. No consideration for residents who pay council tax.
 - 12.1 *The proposed waiting restrictions on Front Street are intended to resolve parking problems which are leading to road safety concerns presently occurring at the junction mouths with the C42 and A68 and are not intended to restrict parking opportunities in the vicinity of the residential and commercial properties.*
13. We do not want lines on the A68 road.
 - 13.1 *The A68 is one of the main arterial routes through the County. The proposed restrictions will improve both traffic flow and road safety in the vicinity of a mini roundabout and at a side road junction with a poor visibility splay.*

14. This proposal neither considers residents nor shop owners – other avenues ought to be explored.
- 14.1. *Opportunity for on-street parking exists elsewhere in West Auckland and there is an off-street car park close by. Historically, the Council has been asked to consider the construction of additional off-street car parks in West Auckland, but in the main, land that is not adopted public highway is designated as Village Green with the statutory protection this status affords, preventing redevelopment.*
15. Waiting restrictions will result in displacement of parked vehicles having a knock on affect on Front Street where I live and we have a problem with people parking outside my house for up to 12 hours a day already.
- 15.1 *The purpose of a highway is to facilitate the passage and re-passage of road users. In the circumstances, parking is not a permitted activity unless the highway or part of it is designated for parking. However, parking is often tolerated unless the vehicle is causing an obstruction to other road users. As such, residents are not guaranteed parking in the immediate vicinity of their homes.*

Local Member Consultation

16. Local members, Councillors Turner and Yorke were both consulted but no representations have been received.

Recommendations

17. It is **RECOMMENDED** that, having considered the objections, the Committee endorses the proposal to proceed with the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order to introduce 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions on the A68 and the C42 Front Street / Chapel Street in West Auckland as per the plan in Appendix 3.

Background Papers

17. Area Traffic Office Scheme File.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Local Government Reorganisation

None

Finance

The scheme is being funded using the LTP2 area programme 'Road Safety' budget.

Staffing

None

Equality and diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None

Environment

None

Human rights

None

Localities and rurality

None

Young people

None

Consultation

Completed in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

APPENDIX 2

Photograph showing the Parking Problems on the A68 affecting the footway:



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