

Highways Committee

15th February 2022

Blackhill and Shotley Bridge

Parking & Waiting Restrictions Amendment Order 2021

Ordinary Decision/Key Decision No.



Report of Corporate Management Team

Amy Harhoff Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy & Growth

Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Growth.

Electoral division(s) affected:

Benfieldside

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To advise Members of objections received to the consultation concerning changes to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in Blackhill and Shotley Bridge.
- 1.2. To request that members consider the objections made during the informal and formal consultation period.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to decide, in principle only, whether to set aside or uphold objections received, which will then guide the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth in the exercise of delegated decision making. The final decision is therefore one for the Corporate Director, under delegated powers.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The County Council are committed to regularly reviewing Traffic Regulation Orders to ensure that the restrictions held within them are relevant and appropriate.

- 2.2. The County Council are proposing to introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions on both sides of the junction of Wood Street / Swordsmiths Lane. These restrictions were requested by Durham County Council (DCC) Corporate Property & Land.
- 2.3. The proposed restrictions will prevent this area of land from being used for parking and should subsequently reduce issues with access and road safety in the future.
- 2.4. Consultation Period:

	From	To
Statutory Consultees	11/06/21	18/08/21
Informal Consultation	02/08/21	23/08/21
Formal Consultation	06/11/21	27/11/21

- 2.5. One objection was received from a local resident during the informal consultation.

3. Recommendation(s)

- 3.1. Committee is recommended to:

Endorse the proposal in principle to proceed with the implementation of the Blackhill and Shotley Bridge Parking and Waiting Restrictions Amendment Order 2021. With the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

4. Background

- 4.1. The area of concern is predominantly residential in nature and is regularly subjected to elevated levels of public parking. Recently, large boulders were placed on DCC land by residents to prevent parking near the junction of Swordsmiths Lane and Wood Street. These boulders create a road safety issue, and it has been requested that they be removed. It would be expected that vehicles will again park at this location once the boulders are removed if there are no restrictions in place.
- 4.2. The initial consultation exercise was undertaken with statutory consultees and directly affected frontages between 11/06/21 and 23/08/21. One objection was received from one of the directly affected frontages. The proposals as outlined were fully supported

by Durham Constabulary and the Local Members.

- 4.3. The objector made no initial comments other than that they objected to the scheme. The objector was contacted, and they were unwilling to withdraw their objection.
- 4.4. The proposals were advertised formally on site, online and in the local press (06/11/21-27/11/21). No further objections were received at this point. The majority of responses throughout the various consultation stages were favourable, with 1 objection from a local resident during the informal consultation stage in relation to the proposed double yellow lines near their property.
- 4.5. Consultation Response:

Ballot cards sent	11
In favour	3
Against	1

5. Objections

5.1. *Objection 1*

Objector 1 is a local resident who states that *'parking is hard enough in street'* and that *'resident only parking should be provided instead of the yellow lines'*.

5.2. *Response*

The proposed restrictions have been requested by the County Council's Corporate Property and Land section. The proposals are supported by both Durham Constabulary and the Local Elected Members. Site visits and photographic evidence have shown that the area is currently subjected to a high density of parking, which could cause issues with access and road safety.

The proposed 'no waiting at any time' restrictions are to discourage people from parking their vehicles on and around a junction at this location. The Highway Code (rule 243) advises that "a vehicle should not park within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction".

Permit parking in this location would not meet the criteria set within Durham County Council's Parking Policy. Permit parking will only be considered for residential streets in commercial areas which are

subject to a high demand for long stay commuter parking. The proposals are not expected to significantly affect parking for residents as there is unrestricted parking availability in the surrounding area.

6. Conclusion

Having considered the risk of potential obstructive parking, Officers remain of the view that it is necessary to introduce the proposals in order to prevent the identified highway safety issues. Accordingly, it is recommended that Members agree in principle to endorse the proposal to proceed with the implementation of the Blackhill and Shotley Bridge: Waiting and Parking Restrictions Order 2021, with the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

7. Background papers

7.1. Correspondence and documentation in Traffic Office File:

L: TRAFPROJ\06 REGULATION DESIGN &
IMPLEMENTATION\Settlement\Blackhill and Shotley Bridge\Traffic
Regulation Orders (Parking Restrictions)\April 2020

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

All orders have been advertised by the County Council as highway authority and will be made in accordance with legislative requirements.

Finance

LTP Budget.

Consultation

Is in accordance with SI:2489.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

It is considered that there are no Equality and Diversity issues to be addressed.

Climate Change

No impact.

Human Rights

Any interference with human rights is considered to be necessary in accordance with the law and proportionate in order to address highway safety issues.

Crime and Disorder

This TRO will allow effective management of traffic to reduce congestion and improve road safety.

Staffing

Carried out by Strategic Traffic.

Accommodation

No impact.

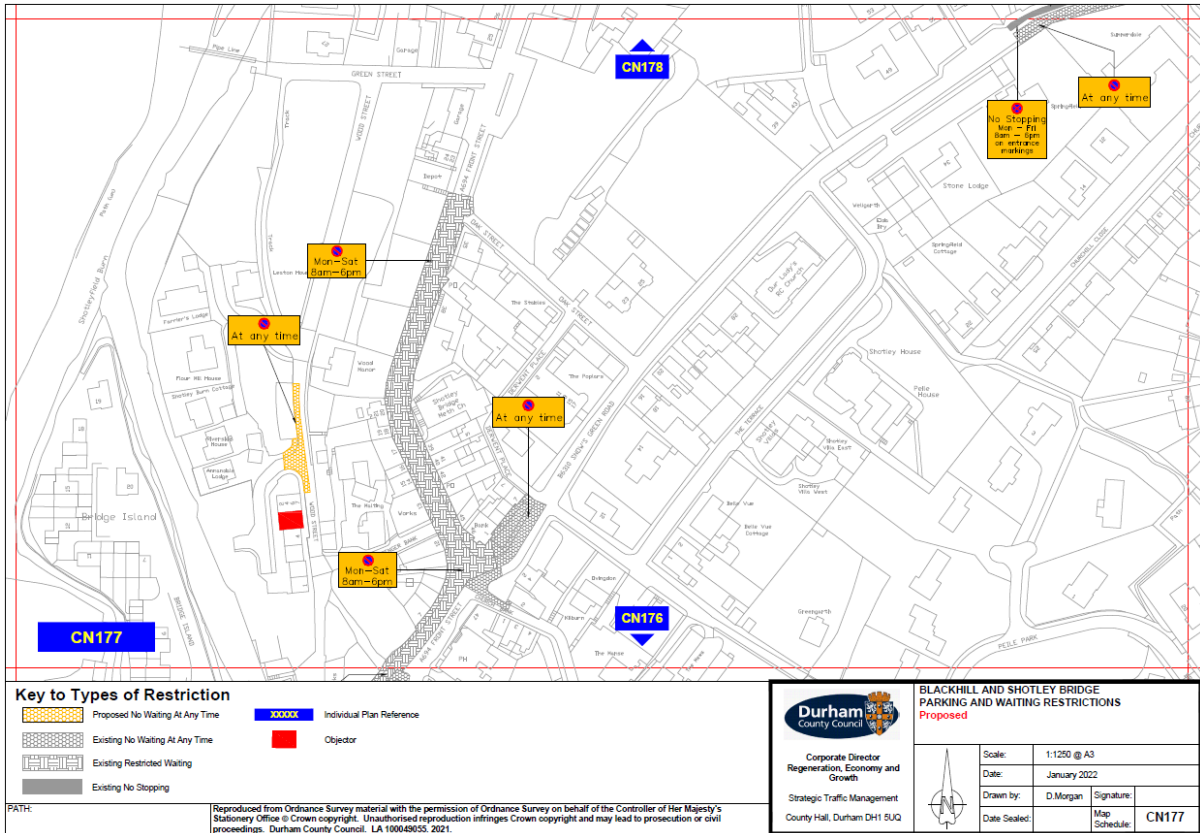
Risk

Not Applicable.

Procurement

Operations, DCC.

Appendix 2: Location of Proposals



Approvals trail: to be removed before Cabinet/Committee

Name	Title	Response or approval date
Contributors:		
Approvers:		