

Highways Committee

15th February 2022

Consett

**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:

Consett North

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 Consett.
- 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 Representations have been received requesting a review of existing, and provision of additional, restrictions in Victoria Road (rear) and Waterfront Gardens, Consett.
- 2.3 Having considered these requests, Officers have determined that the changes requested would be of benefit in terms of road safety and reducing congestion. It is therefore proposed to amend the current Consett Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order to allow the changes to be implemented.
- 2.4 All Local Members and Durham Constabulary have been consulted and raised no objection to the proposal.
- 2.5 Consultation Period:

	From	To
Statutory Consultees	29-July-21	19-Aug-21
Informal Consultation	06-Sep-21	29-Sep-21
Formal Consultation	02-Dec-21	23-Dec-21

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 Committee is recommended to:

Endorse the proposal, in principle, to amend the Consett Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order. With the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

4 Background

- 4.1 Reports have been received from Local Elected Members and residents raising concerns regarding obstructive parking, access, visibility and safety issues within the town. It was therefore proposed to make an amendment to the Consett TRO.
- 4.2 The proposals were sent to Statutory Consultees (29/07/21-19/08/21) directly affected frontages (06/09/21-29/09/21), and then formally advertised (02/12/21-23/12/21). Whilst many of the received responses favoured the proposals, several objections were also received.
- 4.4 Victoria Road (rear)

Victoria Road (rear) is situated in the commercial area of Consett. The area also includes residential properties above some business and commercial properties.

There have been reports from local residents highlighting access issues for themselves, with concerns for emergency services and refuse vehicles. Residents have also noted that the manner of parking on some occasions is obstructive and causes visibility and road safety concerns. The proposals are to introduce “no waiting at any time” restrictions on the south west side of Victoria Road (rear) for the full extent.

Site visits have been conducted with the local member who agreed and supported the proposals.

The proposals for Victoria Road (rear) received 2 responses in favour, with 2 objections.

4.5 Waterfront Gardens

Waterfront Gardens has seventeen bungalows within the residential area. There are two schools (St Patrick’s Primary and Consett Academy) in the vicinity with students using the estate for access as well as vehicles parking causing safety concerns. The location is subjected to obstructive parking at school gate drop off and pick up times, causing access and traffic flow issues for residents and other road users. There have been reports of residents missing doctors’ appointments and concerns raised regarding access for emergency vehicles in this location.

Measures were explored to improve driveway access and egress for residents by highlighting to road users of dropped access’ locations. This was done with the installation of white access protection markings. However, reports continued with pedestrian and road safety concerns near the footway access from Waterfront Gardens to St Patrick’s RC Primary School.

It is therefore proposed to introduce ‘restricted waiting and loading’ restrictions (Mon-Fri 08.30-09.30 & 14.30-15.30) on both sides of Waterfront Gardens where the pedestrian access is from St Patrick’s RC Primary School. Which will improve visibility and safety for school children as well as improving traffic flow and access. While reducing obstructive parking in this location.

Site visits have been conducted with the local member who agreed and supported the proposals.

The proposals received 10 responses in favour and 2 objections from directly affected frontages with one objection from a parent who's child attends St Patricks RC Primary School.

5 Objections

5.1 Victoria Road (rear)

5.1.1 Objection 1

Objector 1 is a local business owner/employee who states that parking on this road has not affected the flow of traffic for over a decade. It's used for many businesses for parking, loading and unloading.

5.1.2 Objection 2

Objector 2 is a local businesses owner/ employee who states they have parked in this location for 7 ½ years with no issues. They need to be in and out for deliveries and customers.

5.1.3 Response to Objection 1 & 2

The proposals are to ensure there is access along the full length of Victoria Road (rear). Reports have been received with concerns of access issues in this location. With the locally elected member highlighting the issues.

If vehicles are parked on both sides of the road, there is no access for residents, business owners, deliveries or emergency vehicles.

The proposals allow for vehicles to board and alight as well as load and unload, which will allow commercial and other affected properties to go about their business as normal. The double yellow lines will improve access and visibility, whilst reducing obstructive parking.

5.2 Waterfront Gardens

5.2.1 Objection 1

Objector 1 is a local resident who states that the proposals will only move traffic further into the estate causing further difficulties for residents.

5.2.2 *Objection 2*

Objector 2 is a parent of one of the school children who attend St Patrick's RC Primary School. They state they "feel that the restrictions will push traffic onto other heavily stretched roads such as Hartington Street and Stanley Street", which they feel is "already dangerous for school children due to cars being double parked".

They state they "have witnessed parking of vehicles on Waterfront Gardens, and they park sensibly". The objector continues to state they "used to work as a Civil Enforcement Officer and have experience with parking related matters".

They conclude by stating that "the properties on Waterfront Gardens were built more recent than the school, therefore they feel that the residents should expect some level of disruption during school times".

5.2.3 *Response to Objector 1 & 2*

There were requests from the local County Councillor and residents due to concerns in this location. Waterfront Gardens has two schools (St Patrick's Primary and Consett Academy) in the vicinity and seventeen bungalows within the residential area.

There have been occasions where vehicles are unable to pass, along with concerns with children exiting from the school on foot at this location. Therefore, the proposals are only being introduced as a minimum around the corner to improve access, visibility and safety for both pedestrians and road users.

It's understood that the estate was built more recently than the schools, however this does not justify a reason to not introduce restrictions when safety concerns have been raised. The proposals have been supported by both the Police and the local member.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Having considered the evidence of obstructive and inconsiderate parking and the objections to the proposals, Officers remain of the view that it is necessary to introduce the proposals in order to address 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 Consett: Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order 2022, 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\Consett\Traffic Regulation Orders (Parking
Restrictions)\Amendment 2021

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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

This TRO will allow for effective management of traffic to reduce congestion, reducing the overall amount of CO2 emissions.

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.

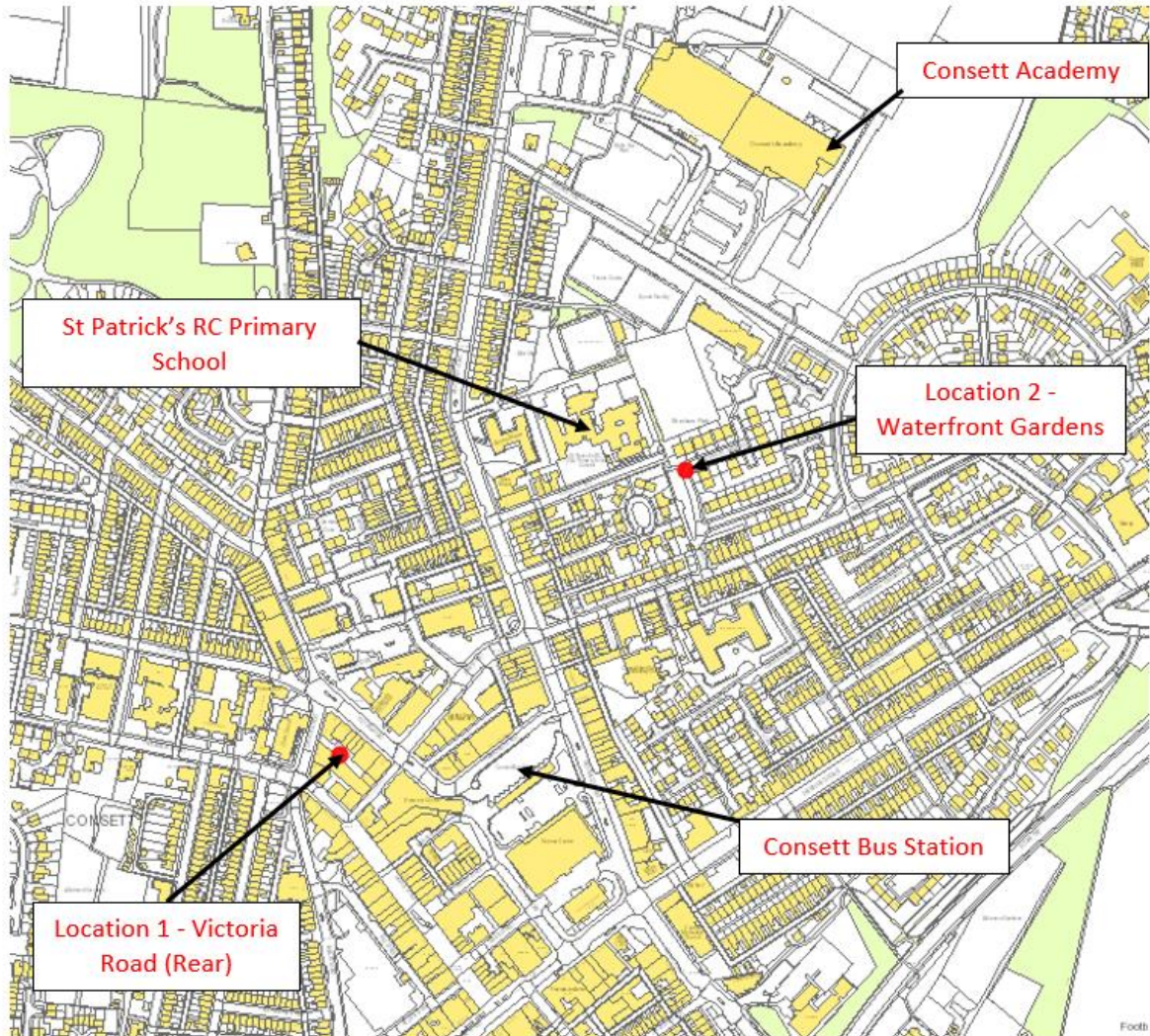
Risk

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:		