

Highways Committee

6th June 2022

West Rainton, Pitlington, Sherburn and
Ludworth

Parking & Waiting Restrictions
Amendment Order 2022

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:

Sherburn

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 West Rainton, Pitlington, Sherburn and Ludworth.
- 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 any objections, 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 West Rainton, Pittington, Sherburn and Ludworth.
- 2.3 Having considered these requests, Officers have determined that the changes listed below would be of benefit in terms of improving road safety and reducing congestion. It is therefore proposed to amend the current West Rainton, Pittington, Sherburn and Ludworth Parking and Waiting Restrictions Traffic Regulation Order to allow the identified 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	02-Dec-21	23-Dec-21
	16-Feb-22	09-Mar-22
Informal Consultation	28-Jan-22	18-Feb-22
	18-Feb-22	11-Mar-22
Formal Consultation	07-Apr-22	28-Apr-22

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 Committee is recommended to:

Endorse the proposal, in principle, to amend the West Rainton, Pittington, Sherburn and Ludworth Parking and Waiting Restrictions Traffic Regulation Order. With the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

4 Proposal, Objections & Responses

- 4.1 The proposed locations for the TRO that received objections during the consultation stages are detailed below.
- 4.2 Location 1 – Tollgate Fields (Unc 20.8) (Introduce ‘no waiting at any time’ restrictions)

Proposal background

Tollgate Fields is a main road which is fronted by a mixture of residential and commercial buildings. The businesses include a pharmacy and West Rainton Surgery which is accessed via a footpath from Tollgate Fields.

Concerns have been made by West Rainton Parish Council previously regarding obstructive parking across residents’ driveways in this area. The County Council have attempted to resolve this by introducing advisory access protection markings. Unfortunately, motorists on occasion ignore these road markings and park across the driveways leaving residents unable to access their driveways.

The proposal is to introduce “no waiting at any time” restrictions on Tollgate Fields (Unc 20.8).

Informal Consultation:

Total Properties balloted	Number in favour	Number opposed
3	1	0

Formal Consultation:

Consultation dates	Expressions in favour	Expressions against
07/04/22 – 28/04/22	0	5

Summarised objections & responses:

Objections:

5 people have objected to this proposal, the reasons for these objections have been summarised below:

- There are concerns that the restrictions would displace vehicles.
- Displaced vehicles will cause more traffic problems
- An increase of parking on Station Road would lead to a higher risk of accidents for vehicles and pedestrians
- Would cause access issues for residents on Station Road who don't have any rear access

DCC Response:

- Site investigations have shown that there is continued obstructive parking across accesses with road users ignoring the existing access protection markings. The restrictions will allow enforcement to ensure residents have unimpeded access to their properties.
- It is expected that the displaced vehicles would park north-east of the proposed restrictions where there is ample unrestricted carriageway to accommodate them.
- Whilst vehicles are not permitted to park here, they may load/unload and board/alight passengers for as long as necessary.

See appendix 3 for full details of the objection(s).

4.3 Location 2 – C12A to Station Road Junction (Introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions)

Proposal Background

Station Road to C12A is a main road which leads to the A690. This is a main route regularly used by a high number of motor vehicles including including HGV's.

There have been concerns raised by West Rainton Parish Council with inappropriate parking on this junction causing visibility issues.

The proposal is to introduce “no waiting at any time” restrictions on the junction of C12A to Station Road.

Informal Consultation:

No informal consultation was carried out at this location as there are no directly affected frontages.

Formal Consultation:

Consultation dates	Expressions in favour	Expressions against
07/04/22 – 28/04/22	0	5

Summarised objections & responses:

Objections:

5 people have objected to this proposal, the reasons for these objections have been summarised below:

- There are concerns that the restrictions would displace vehicles that would cause traffic problems for bus services and other road users.

DCC Response:

- The introduction of ‘no waiting at any time’ restrictions would improve accessibility and visibility for bus services and other road users.
- The restrictions are only proposed on the southern side of the junction leaving the northern side unrestricted to allow for access to properties along Station Road.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 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 amendment of West Rainton, Pittington, Sherburn and Ludworth. Parking and Waiting Restrictions Traffic Regulation Order, with the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

6 Background papers

- 6.1 Correspondence and documentation in Traffic Office File:

L:\TRAFPROJ\06REGULATIONDESIGN&IMPLEMENTATION\Settlement\West Rainton, Pittington, Sherburn, Ludworth & Shotton Colliery\Traffic Regulation Orders (Parking Restrictions)\West Rainton October 21

Author(s)

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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.

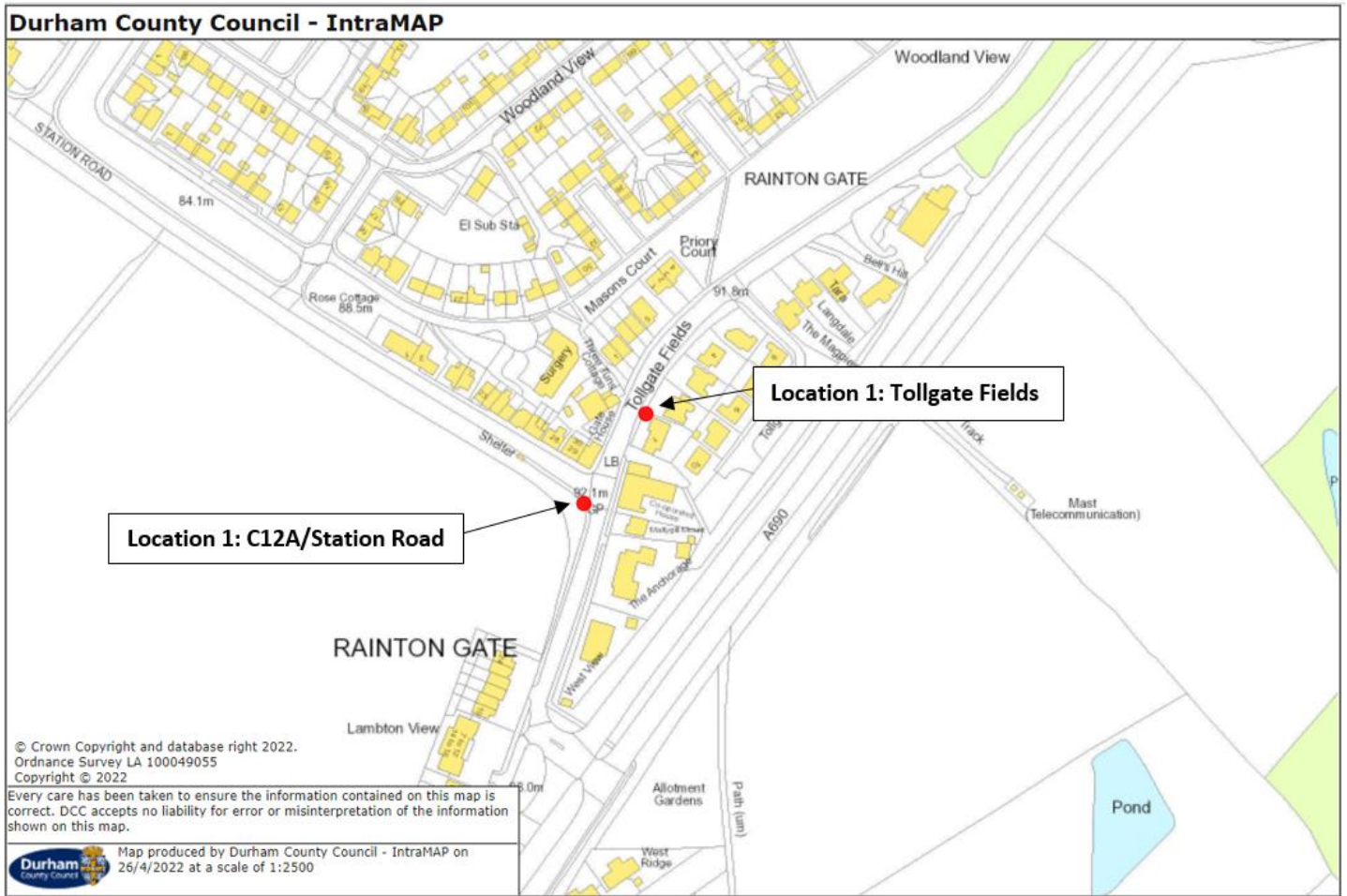
Risk

Not Applicable.

Procurement

Operations, DCC.

Appendix 2: Location of Proposals



Appendix 3: Objection Details

Location 1 and 2: Tollgate Fields and C12A/Station Road Junction

PROPOSED PARKING AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS - WEST RAINTON (Ref 33041)

We write collectively to object to the above proposal to introduce 'No waiting At any time' restrictions on the eastern side of Tollgate Fields (Unc 20.8) from a point adjacent to Number 5 Tollgate Fields in a northerly direction for a distance of 30 metres and the southern side of Station Road from a point opposite 28 Station Road in an easterly then southerly direction for 42 metres onto C12A to a point opposite The Anchorage. Our objection is on the following grounds:

By introducing the proposed restrictions it will not stop vehicles being parked near the commercial businesses it will undoubtedly just force drivers to find alternative parking locations in the immediate area, either at the front of the commercial businesses, northerly onto the Rainton Gate bank and onto Station Road. Any increased parking in any of these areas will undeniably cause major traffic problems at the junction of Station Road and Bells Hill Road, the top of Station Road and Rainton Gate bank leading to the A690 junction.

The properties located at the top of Station Road numbers 29 down to 25 (6 properties) do not have rear access, consequently, access and residents parking is only available at the front of our properties, therefore, all of these properties rely on having continued free access and as permanent residents having somewhere to park. If this access is lost and the ability to park this will have a considerable impact on the existing residents and a dramatic impact on the quality of life for Station Road residents. As residents in this area we already suffer greatly from drivers blocking our accesses and homes while working and visiting the commercial premises at the junction of Station Road and Bells Hill Road but currently this situation is manageable, any additional increase will be unbearable.

We highlight and wish it to be strongly considered that the proposed area of Tollgates is located on a minor road which has a 30MPH speed limit, the proposed site is on a slight bend and does not suffer from large volumes of traffic. If the parking issue is migrated onto the adjacent areas and Station Road this becomes a much bigger issue not only for us local residents but the wider village community. It is well known Station Road is the busiest road in the village, it is straight and has a 40MPH limit so traffic is faster. Station Road has a much larger volume of traffic including a large number of HGV's, tankers, horse boxes and farm vehicles. Also it is well known that Station Road is the 'rat run' for commuter traffic from the A690 to commercial and industrial locations north of Durham a route which avoids the need to go through the city; it is a daily occurrence for Station Road and the Rainton Gate A690 junction to be gridlocked. A small increase of parked vehicles on this road will create further problems and greatly increase the risk of accidents for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Additionally, it should be noted that Station Road is the primary route for the No.20 bus service, buses going up and down this road every 15 minutes, there is one bus stop at the top of Station Road which services the northerly side of the village. This bus stop is popular and well used by the community, especially by the elderly and younger commuters. Two issues of concern are any increased parking in this area would make crossing an already extremely busy road more difficult for bus users and would cause further difficulties for the bus service maintaining a timetable and accessing Bells Hill Road. Buses are currently finding it difficult to turn right at the top of Station Road and often unable to stop adjacent to the Rainton Gate stop due to vehicles parked in this area.

As local residents we fully support and respect having local businesses in the area and we wish to see these businesses succeed and survive. Therefore, we consider the loss of the few available parking spaces in this area will impede the local businesses ability to trade successfully and prosperously, especially in the current economic climate and this is not the time to deny our local businesses trade.

Yours Faithfully

Appendix 2: Correspondence from West Rainton Parish Council

Morning,

Thanks very much for this and actions instigated.

In relation to the "overall review" we also mentioned Station Road and South Street/North Street around the Jubilee Hall / Italian Farmhouse . Parking further along South Street on the bend near the Care home and around the junction with Hall Lane / Marks Lane and the entrance to Sheen Close also have an impact on road safety. Parking further back from the photograph you attached on that stretch of road back towards the garage (Tollgate Fields) was also highlighted . I have sent another email attaching some photographs taken by another parish councillor that may be of assistance

We also mentioned parking around the Doctors surgery as this was discussed at a recent meeting with Jonathan Cardy and the practice manager who are looking into options for increasing parking provision around the surgery by tarmacing some grassed areas. The path from the surgery to the road was also highlighted at this meeting with a view to it being improved/tarmaced. Not sure how Jonathan intended to take this forward so if you haven't already done so it might be worth liaising with him.

Thanks again for all you are doing.

Hello

I have finally got round to writing this up.

Chantry Place – near the pharmacy / access to doctors.

I got a couple of my colleagues to go out yesterday to measure up road / footway widths to determine whether or not there was scope to provide double yellow lines on the side with the existing keep clear markings to enable some footway amendments opposite.



If we could widen the footway on the right hand side and formalise the no parking on the left it should hopefully provide a safer route for pedestrians between the doctors and the pharmacy.

Regarding the unmade unofficial path between the main road and the doctors, I have asked my colleague with land registry access to do a search on it to see if we can determine a land owner. They are on leave at the moment so it might be a little while until I get the results.

Burns Close

I will pass the message on to our public transport team to assess whether or not the bus stop needs to stay seeing as the route has been discontinued.

Primary School

I detailed the junction areas we discussed to my team members who visited West Rainton yesterday. The potential to improve / increase the restrictions in the junction areas at this location will be investigated and proposed if feasible (I think it is feasible). I have also spoken with who is the Section Manager in Road Safety. One of her colleagues is going to be speaking to the headmistress after half term regarding the various road safety campaigns and initiatives they can help with and provide resources for.

I've also requested that we put an order on to refresh the lines near the school. I've asked them to look at the whole stretch of that road and to refresh anything that looks faded or worn.

Various other locations

As mentioned on Wednesday, I am hoping to give the whole village a bit of an "overall review" in terms of parking restrictions. Other areas that I wrote down that you mentioned including Chantry Place (brow of the hill) and near the play park along from the school and both will be looked at as part of this exercise. I am mindful that I don't want to introduce measures that will displace parking into other adjacent areas so we will be looking at these locations predominantly with the viewpoint as to how the parked vehicles are effecting road and pedestrian safety.

I think that captures it all but please remind me if I have missed anything off.