

Highways Committee

10th November 2022

Langley Moor, Meadowfield, Brandon & Browney



Parking & Waiting Restrictions, Traffic Regulation 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:

Brandon

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 Langley Moor, Meadowfield, Brandon & Browney.
- 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 proceed with the Amendment Order, 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 Langley Moor, Meadowfield, Brandon & Browney.
- 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 Parking and Waiting Restrictions, Traffic Regulation Order for this area to allow the identified changes to be implemented.
- 2.4 Local members fully supported all proposals. Durham Constabulary are in full support.
- 2.5 Consultation Period:

	From	To
Statutory Consultees	04.02.22	25.02.22
Informal Consultation	29.03.22	20.04.22
Formal Consultation	22.09.22	13.10.22

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 Committee is recommended to:

Endorse the proposal, in principle, to amend the Langley Moor, Meadowfield, Brandon & Browney 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 – A690, High Street** (to introduce no waiting at any time restrictions)

- 4.3 **Proposal Background**

The A690, High Street is the main access road connecting Langley Moor, Meadowfield, Brandon and Browney to settlements such as Durham City to the north and Willington to the south. To the far north of the High Street, as the commercial premises begin, white road hatching was installed to channel vehicles away from the existing on street bays

We have received reports via the local elected member, Councillor Jonathan Elmer, that vehicles have begun to park on these hatched markings which has reduced visibility and increased congestion.

It is therefore proposed to introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions for the extent of these hatched markings to further prevent vehicles from parking in an obstructive manner.

During statutory consultation, Durham Constabulary highlighted the presence of existing informal double yellow lines on site on the northern-most junction to High Street South Back. It was requested these markings be formalised through this TRO to allow effective enforcement.

Initial proposals also included proposals to extend the existing 'limited waiting, Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm' bays immediately south of the proposed 'no waiting at any time' restrictions, however this proposed extension was withdrawn following responses from the informal consultation.

4.4 Informal Consultation:

Total Properties balloted	Number in favour	Number opposed
27	2	3

4.5 Formal Consultation:

Consultation dates	Expressions in favour	Expressions against
22.09.22 – 13.10.22	0	0

4.6 Summarised objections & responses:

4.7 Objections:

3 objections from local residents were recorded. As the informal consultation initially included proposals to extend existing parking restrictions (Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, 2 hours, no return within 1 hour), of the 3 objections received as part of the informal consultation, whilst none directly objected to proposed 'no waiting at any time' restrictions, the reasons have been summarised below:

- “Current restrictions are too harsh, for residents and shop/office workers all along street.”
- “2 hours parking will not work for my clients. Also, my staff and myself have nowhere else to park.”

4.8 DCC Response:

- Durham County Council were asked by Councillor Jonathan Elmer to consult on proposals to extend the existing parking restrictions (Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, 2 hours, no return within 1 hour).
- These proposals aimed to improve vehicle turnover along Langley Moor’s commercialised High Street which would improve access to businesses in the area, in turn boosting their economic vitality.
- Following an initial consultation exercise, it was clear that businesses in the area felt these restrictions would restrict access to their premises by clients rather than improve it. After raising this feedback with Councillor Elmer these proposals were withdrawn.
- Whilst we understand there is a level of displacement when formal restrictions are introduced, it is proposed that ‘no waiting at any time’ restrictions be formalised in areas where parking causes legitimate concern for road safety in reducing the visibility of approaching road users.
- Given there are existing informal markings in place at the junction from the A690, High Street into High Street South Back, whilst these aren’t currently enforceable, it is anticipated vehicles should not currently be parking in this location.

4.9 See appendix 4 for full details of the objection(s).

4.10 Location 2 – Sawmills Lane (to introduce no waiting at any time restrictions)

4.11 Proposal Background

Sawmills Lane is accessed via the A690, High Street and is one of the major access routes leading through Brandon, to Brandon Village in the north.

We have received reports from local residents that vehicles parked around the access to Stoneacre Garages restrict visibility and traffic flow on Sawmill Lane. A combination of waiting and loading restrictions have previously been introduced on this stretch of road to address similar obstruction issues, including ‘no waiting and no

loading/unloading at any time' restrictions on the eastern side of this junction.

It is now proposed to introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions on the western side of this junction to improve visibility and access/egress for approaching road users.

4.12 Informal Consultation:

Total Properties balloted	Number in favour	Number opposed
1	0	1

4.13 Formal Consultation:

Consultation dates	Expressions in favour	Expressions against
22.09.22 – 13.10.22	0	0

4.14 Summarised objections & responses:

4.15 Objections:

1 property has objected to this proposal, the reasons for their objection has been summarised below:

- "Cars drive fast down Sawmills Lane. It slows the cars down."

4.16 DCC Response:

- It has been reported that vehicles are parking immediately around the junction from Sawmills Lane leading into the Stoneacre garages. This obstructive parking is reducing visibility for road users approaching the junction.
- In an effort to address this level of obstructive parking, 'no waiting and no loading/unloading at any time' restrictions were introduced on the eastern side of junction which has since displaced these issues to the western side.
- Whilst speeding on Sawmills Lane has been raised as a concern it is believed there is sufficient unobstructive on-street parking which provides natural traffic calming however Councillor Jonathan Elmer

has enquired about the feasibility of further traffic calming measures with Durham County Council's Traffic Assets team. This will be addressed separately from this report.

4.17 See appendix 4 for full details of the objection(s).

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 implementation of the Langley Moor, Meadowfield, Brandon & Browney Parking & Waiting Restrictions, Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 2022 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\06 REGULATION DESIGN &
IMPLEMENTATION\Settlement\Langley Moor, Browney, Brandon &
Meadowfield\Traffic Regulation Orders (Parking Restrictions)\2022 January

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.

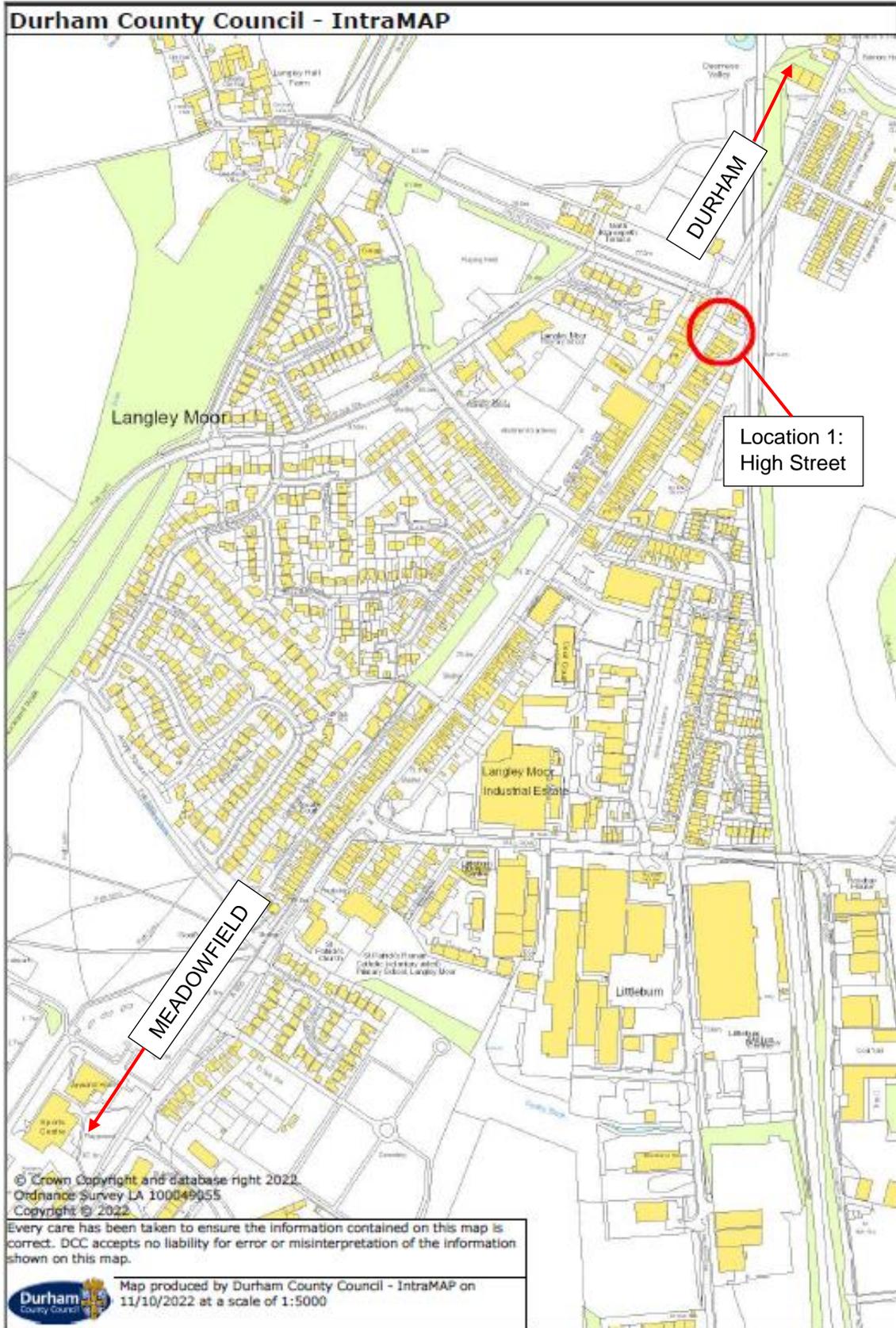
Procurement

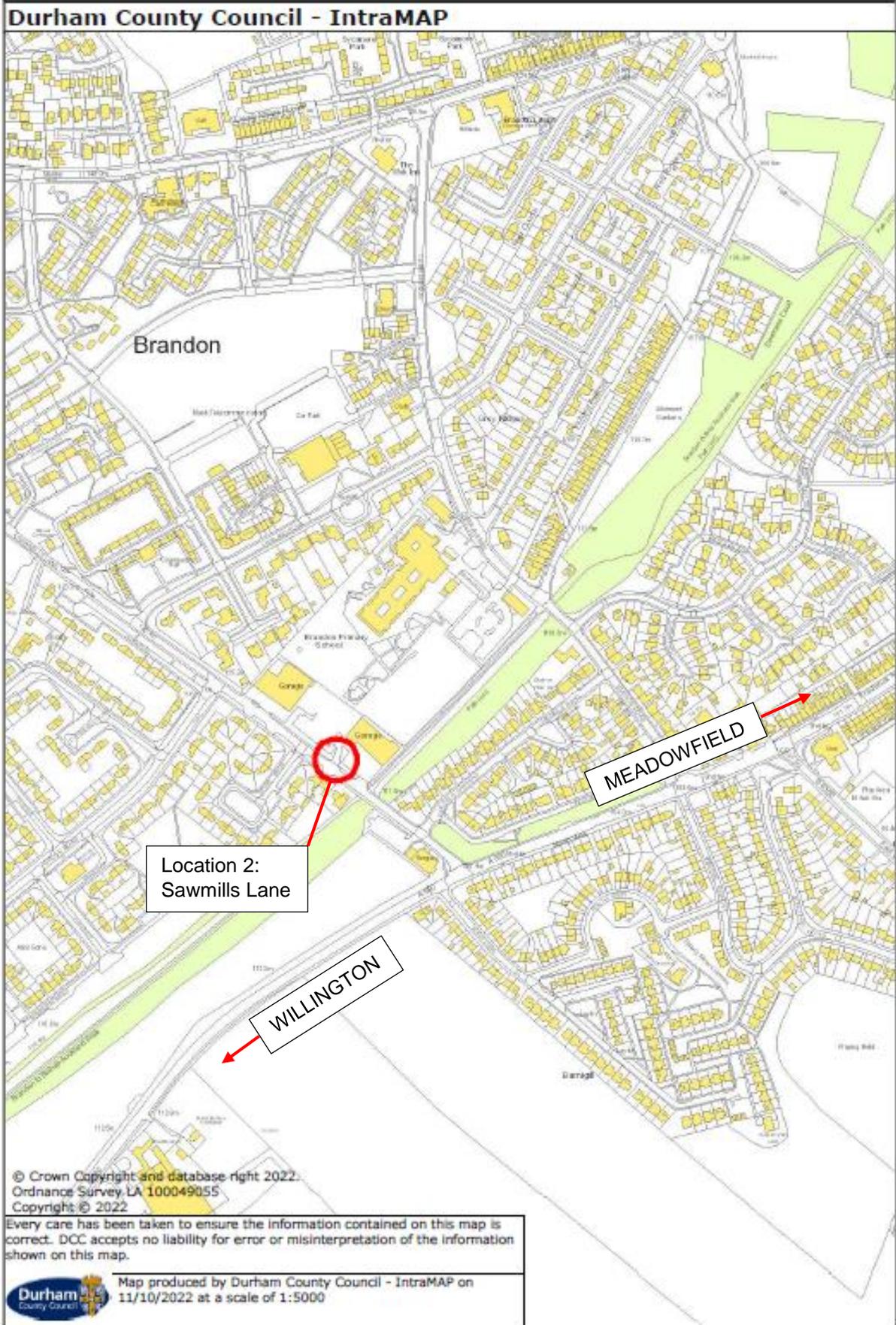
Operations, DCC.

Appendix 2: Location of Proposals

11/10/2022, 14:15

Plan for identification purposes only; not to be used for scaling or formal documentation





Appendix 3: Request History

Location 1 – High Street:

From: Cllr Jonathan Elmer <Jonathan.Elmer@durham.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 September 2021 12:04
To: Dave Lewin <dave.lewin@durham.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Langley Moor Shopping Parade

Hi Dave,

I understand that this is a complex situation, but I'd very much appreciate your wider thoughts on the matter. How best might we discourage parking in the white hatched areas and how best might we work with shop keepers and staff to dissuade them from taking up the available parking spaces (which restricts customer parking).

Do see the useful email from [REDACTED] (on the high street) below.

Best,

Jonathan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2021 10:34
To: Cllr Jonathan Elmer <Jonathan.Elmer@durham.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Langley Moor Shopping Parade

Gents,

Firstly, Jonathan I think I may have missed you off the circulation list for my previous email, this was accidental, I am sorry for this error.

Just an update to confirm nothing has changed in the practice of parking on the A690 in Langley Moor - I attach a photo from mid-day last week. You will note parking on the full length of the hatched area from the junction (the lamp post in the foreground is about 4m from the side road). You will note cars parked in the restricted parking bay area - they are parked there at least 5 days per week all day.

To recap on events, Civil Enforcement came and photographed at least 1 car, which still parks in the same location most days as before.

A police officer spoke to car owners who use the hatched area and sought clarification regarding the meaning of the white hatching. It turns out the County Council determined that the highway (A690) was too narrow at this point to safely have a (restricted) parking bay so wished to "discourage" parking by applying white hatchings. According to the car owners a council employee has apparently since written to the shop owners giving them permission to park at will on the hatched area.

It appears bizarre that where the Council Highways dept. decide it's not safe to have parking they then write to give permission to park! so, does liability for parking in this unsafe area fall to the council as they are permitting it? interesting.

So to recap, the "parking" team at County Hall say they have no jurisdiction to monitor parking on the white hatching and say it's a police matter. But the Police can't do anything because the council say it's ok. The upshot is that to avoid a parking ticket we should all park in the area where the road is too narrow to allow parking.

Kind Regards

██████████

Site Photos – Taken: 21.10.22



Location 2 – Sawmills Lane:

Road Markings- Printable information

Case reference FS-Case-155134477

Case created: 05/11/2019 14:19:29

Printed on: 2019-11-21

Summary

Details

Type of issue: Request for new

Type of road marking: No parking

Additional information: Customer calling to request double yellow lines to be installed due to parking issues (vehicles parked out of restricted areas he will report to 101), would like call back with outcome

Location

Street Name: street record moor edge, brandon, ,

Map Proximity Address:

Location Info: outside of kia garage & stoneacres

Site Photos – Taken: 25.10.22



Appendix 4: Objection Details

Location 1 – A690/High Street:

**PROPOSED SCHEME
CONSULTATION RESPONSE CARD**



Please tick the appropriate box:

I am in favour of the scheme

I am opposed to the scheme

REF High street.....

Comments I OBJECT, AS A BUSINESS WHOSE CLIENTS REQUIRE LONGER THAN 2 HOURS FOR APPOINTMENTS ACCOMADATE THEM. WITH ONLY 6 BAYS @ THE FRONT WHICH MY CUSTOMERS CAN PARK, WHERE DOES DCC SUGGEST THE DO THIS IF CHANGES ARE MADE? IN FRONT OF PEOPLE'S HOUSES IN THE ESTATE - LIKE MYSELF THERE ARE OTHER BUSINESSES WHICH REQUIRE BETTER PARKING FACILITIES.

(Please use **BLOCK CAPITALS**)

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

45612 RLS

**PROPOSED SCHEME
CONSULTATION RESPONSE CARD**



Please tick the appropriate box:

I am in favour of the scheme

I am opposed to the scheme

REF High street.....

Comments CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ARE TOO HARSH, FOR RESIDENTS AND SHOP/OFFICE WORKERS ALL ALONG STREET.

(Please use **BLOCK CAPITALS**)

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

45612 RLS

**PROPOSED SCHEME
CONSULTATION RESPONSE CARD**



Please tick the appropriate box:

- I am in favour of the scheme
- I am opposed to the scheme

REF High Street.....

Comments As I own a hairdressing salon 2 hours
parking will not work for my clients. Also my
(Please use BLOCK CAPITALS) AND MYSELF HAVE NO WORK
TO PARK

Name: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

Location 2 – Sawmills Lane

**PROPOSED SCHEME
CONSULTATION RESPONSE CARD**



Please tick the appropriate box:

- I am in favour of the scheme
- I am opposed to the scheme

REF Saw Mills Lane.....

Comments Cars drive fast down Sawmills
lane. it slows the cars down

Please use **BLOCK CAPITALS**)

Name:
Address:
.....
.....

45612 RLS