

## Highways Committee

17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Spennymoor

**Parking & Waiting Restrictions, Traffic  
Regulation Amendment Order 2024**

**Ordinary Decision**



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### 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:**

Spennymoor and Tudhoe.

#### **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To advise Members of objections received to the consultation concerning proposed changes to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in Spennymoor.
- 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 the TRO should be made, 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 Spennymoor.

- 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 Spennymoor (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  | 10-Jan-24 &<br>16-Feb-24 | 31-Jan-24 &<br>08-Mar-24 |
| Informal Consultation | 15-Jan-24 &<br>21-Feb-24 | 05-Feb-24 &<br>13-Mar-24 |
| Formal Consultation   | 09-Aug-24                | 30-Aug-24                |

### 3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 Committee is recommended to:

Endorse the proposal, in principle, to introduce the Spennymoor (Parking and Waiting Restrictions) Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 2024, 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 – Ghent Street & Wilkinson Street, Byers Green** (to introduce no waiting at any time restrictions)

- 4.3 Proposal Background

Byers Green is a village and former civil parish, now in the parish of Spennymoor. It is situated between Willington and Spennymoor, and a short distance from the River Wear.

#### Ghent Street

A local councillor has raised concerns regarding the parking on the junction of Ghent Street and High Street. Long stay parking around the junction is causing obstruction and visibility issues when using it, reducing the safety of the junction.

The introduction of 'no waiting at any time' restrictions will prevent long stay parking around the junction, reducing the number of parked vehicles and improving accessibility and visibility, improving the overall road safety.

#### Wilkinson Street

A local councillor has raised concerns regarding the parking on the junction of Wilkinson Street and High Street. Long stay parking around the junction and into Wilkinson Street is causing obstruction and visibility issues. This is negatively impacting other road users when approaching the junction.

The introduction of 'no waiting at any time' restrictions will prevent long stay parking around the junction and into Wilkinson Street, reducing the number of parked vehicles and improving accessibility, visibility, and overall road safety.

#### 4.4 Informal Consultation:

| Total Properties consulted | Number in favour | Number opposed |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 7                          | 0                | 3              |

#### 4.5 Formal Consultation:

| Consultation dates | Expressions in favour | Expressions against |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 09.08.24-30.08.24  | 0                     | 2                   |

#### 4.6 Summarised objections & responses:

#### 4.7 Objections:

3 properties have objected to this proposal at the informal consultation stage, with 2 expressions against during formal advertisement. The reasons for their objections have been summarised below:

- "Removing parking spaces will cause more issues in a village with very limited parking already."

- “We only park to the front of our house and we lose this parking completely. Wilkinson Street should be closed permanently if safety is an issue.”
- “Limited parking near Ghent Street, elderly woman with a blue badge struggles to walk; parking outside her door would greatly help.”
- “If Wilkinson Street is a safety concern, the entrance should be closed.”

#### 4.8 DCC Response:

- Aiming to address the obstructive parking on junctions, which is obstructing visibility for road users accessing/egressing Ghent Street and Wilkinson Street.
- Whilst there is always a level of displacement when introducing formal restrictions, the purpose of this proposal is to ensure there is unobstructed access/egress and visibility for road users approaching this junction which will enhance road safety.
- The highway authority must protect public access to Wilkinson Street, so removing the entrance is not an option. The goal is to ensure safe access and egress for all users.
- Proposals have been requested by the local County Councillor with the support of Durham Constabulary.

4.9 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 Spennymoor (Parking & Waiting Restrictions) Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 2024, with the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

## 6 Background papers

6.1 Available on request.

**Author(s)**

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Tel: 03000 263368

[Dave Lewin]

Tel: 03000 263582

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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**

It is considered that there are no Climate Change issues to be addressed.

### **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

04/09/2024, 11:15

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



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## Appendix 3: Request History

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### Road Markings- Printable information

Case reference FS-Case-529866344

Case created: 07/07/2023 10:18:15

Printed on: 2023-08-02

### Summary

#### **Details**

Type of issue: Request for new

Type of road marking: No parking

Additional information: Could the junction of Gent Street, Byers Green to High Street have road markings on this junction to prevent cars from parking on the junction and obscuring vision of both pedestrians and cars? I have been advised that cars turning out, also pedestrians, can not see up the road to warn of approaching vehicles coming down the road from the direction of Hagg Lane, Byers Green because of the parked vehicles on this narrow road.

I can arrange to meet an Officer on site if you can advise me when someone can attend to look at this.

#### **Location**

Street Name: street record ghent street, byers green, ,

Map Proximity Address:

Location Info: Could the junction of Ghent Street, Byers Green to High Street have road markings on this junction to prevent cars from parking on the junction

I can arrange to meet an Officer on site if you can advise me when someone can attend to look at this.

#### **Customer details**

Contact: Cllr Liz Maddison

Landline: 03000264343

Mobile number:

Email: liz.maddison@durham.gov.uk

Customer address: County Hall, Framwelgate Peth,  
Durham,

,  
DH1 5UQ

#### **Notes**

Customer Communication History

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## Appendix 4: Objection Details

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### Location 1: Ghent Street & Wilkinson Street

#### Objection 1

#### PROPOSED SCHEME CONSULTATION RESPONSE CARD



Please tick the appropriate box:

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

REF GSWS.....

Comments Removing 4 parking spaces will cause  
more issues in a village with very limited parking already

(Please use **BLOCK CAPITALS**)

Name: ... [REDACTED] .....

Address: [REDACTED] .....

..... [REDACTED] .....

Objection 2

**PROPOSED SCHEME  
CONSULTATION RESPONSE CARD**

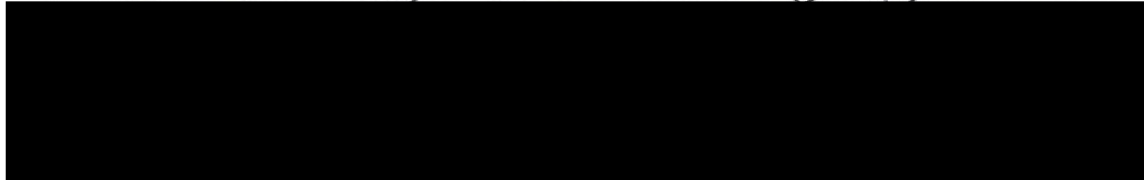


Please tick the appropriate box:

REF GSWS

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

Comments As there is limited parking in the area my 76 year old  
grandmother struggles to walk most times there is no parking  
near as I've marked on Ghent street my grand mother has a blue  
car if there was parking available outside her door this  
please use BLOCK CAPITALS) would help her getting out the house



54270 HEBG

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** Highways Orders <[Highways.Orders@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Highways.Orders@durham.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]:6191671 High Street - ghent street double yellow lines.

Ref: 6191671



I am writing in regard to the proposal of double yellow lines on the corner of High street to Ghent street, Byers green. I am a full time carer for the resident of 80 high street, she is an elderly lady who struggles to walk and parking outside her door is necessary at all times for myself and her as i have caring duties, I will find it impossible to find parking if the yellow lines go ahead as there will be an influx of residents from the main high street finding spaces for their cars in the smaller residential lanes. I have never had any problems with visibility at the junction and have found that if going the correct speed the parked cars either side do not hinder any attempt to pull out in either direction. I believe adding the double yellow lines to these areas would cause more

harm than good and would become a nuisance for all residents in the area.  
Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Traffic Consultations <TrafficConsultations@durham.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]:6191671 High Street - ghent street double yellow lines.

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for getting in touch regarding the proposals for Ghent Street and Wilkinson Street.

I can confirm that these restrictions have been requested by a local Councillor and has received the support of Durham Constabulary. The proposals aim to prevent obstructive parking around the junctions off the High Street to address concerns of safety and near misses which have been reported. The extents surrounding Ghent Street is only to remove roughly a cars length of space to park in an effort to improve the access and visibility, meaning there should still be ample parking available.

We understand that there will always be some level of displacement when introducing formal restrictions and have therefore worked closely with Durham Constabulary to identify and target only locations that have proven road safety concerns in order to minimise displacement beyond a reasonable extent.

Regarding your concerns being a full-time carer for an elderly resident, I can confirm you are able load/unload on 'no waiting at any time' restrictions. This means that any equipment or any time the resident would need access to a vehicle, then you would be able to stop on these markings. If the resident is a blue badge holder, then this would allow parking on the double yellows, assuming it would be in a safe manner.

Following this final stage any recorded objections will be presented before Durham County Council's Highways Committee, where a panel of elected members will discuss the validity of these objections. This committee is due to commence on the 17<sup>th</sup> September, meaning you should be expecting an invite

from the relevant bodies in due course. Please note, it is not a requirement for attendance.

If you have any further queries in the meantime, or would like to discuss the information above further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Dougie Henderson

Strategic Traffic Management Team

Email: [trafficconsultations@durham.gov.uk](mailto:trafficconsultations@durham.gov.uk)

Regeneration, Economy & Growth | County Hall | Durham | DH1 5UQ

Objection 3

**PROPOSED SCHEME  
CONSULTATION RESPONSE CARD**



Please tick the appropriate box:

REF GSWS.....

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

Comments We only park to the front of our house and we loose  
this parking completely. Wilkinson St should be closed permanently  
if safety is an issue.  
Please use **BLOCK CAPITALS**)

Name: [REDACTED].....  
Address: [REDACTED].....

54270 RE&G

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 10:23 AM  
**To:** Highways Orders <[Highways.Orders@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Highways.Orders@durham.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]:Objection to Ref: 6191671

Good Morning,

I'm writing to you as i wish to object to the proposals in the above reference, namely the 'No waiting at any time' section, which takes away a large amount of parking for residents.

The village has a large and ever increasing number of cars and these restrictions are being proposed with no suggestion of any parking improvements for residents, i dont believe the wider picture has been considered. The proposed works will essentially kick the can down the road and cause more problems elsewhere.

I understand Wilkinson Street, as an example, is tight and views out onto the High Street are not great but the proposals wont remedy this and only take away parking. Ghent street is wider and generally okay to use and should be the main way in/ out. If its a safety matter, as suggested previously, then Wilkinson Street should perhaps look to be closed off instead and Ghent

street used in this manner. This would stop the issue of having a bad eye line pulling out onto the High Street from Wilkinson Street and would also afford more parking to the people that live in the village.

As a separate issue that contributes to the risk of cars pulling out onto the High Street, there are some people in the village that clearly exceed the 30mph speed limit past rows of parked cars. Measures should be put into place to reduce this behaviour irrespective of the parking proposals.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** Traffic Consultations <TrafficConsultations@durham.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 10:23 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]:Objection to Ref: 6191671

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for getting in touch regarding the proposals for Ghent Street and Wilkinson Street.

I can confirm that these restrictions have been requested by a local Councillor and has received the support of Durham Constabulary. The proposals aim to prevent obstructive parking around the junctions off the High Street to address concerns of safety and near misses which have been reported. The extents surrounding Ghent Street is only to remove roughly a cars length of space to park in an effort to improve the access and visibility, meaning there would still be ample parking available. In reference to Wilkinson Street, one of the duties of a highway authority is to protect and assert the right of all members of the public to use the highway. Therefore, it would not be an option to remove this entrance into Wilkinson Street as this is not something that is in our power. Our aim is to make the access and egress on Wilkinson Street as safe as possible for those wishing to use the highway.

We understand that there will always be some level of displacement when introducing formal restrictions and have therefore worked closely with Durham Constabulary to identify and target only locations that have proven road safety concerns in order to minimise displacement beyond a reasonable extent.

Unfortunately, speeding issues are not something that our department deals with, therefore I have passed this to our Traffic Assets team to investigate further.

Following this final stage any recorded objections will be presented before Durham County Council's Highways Committee, where a panel of elected members will discuss the validity of these objections. This committee is due to commence on the 17<sup>th</sup> September, meaning you should be expecting an invite from the relevant bodies in due course. Please note, it is not a requirement for attendance.

If you have any further queries in the meantime, or would like to discuss the information above further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Dougie Henderson

Strategic Traffic Management Team

Email: [trafficconsultations@durham.gov.uk](mailto:trafficconsultations@durham.gov.uk)

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