

Highways Committee

16 October 2014



WOLSINGHAM PARKING & WAITING RESTRICTIONS ORDER

Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development Councillor Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder Regeneration and Economic Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To advise Members of objections received to the consultation concerning changes to the proposed traffic regulation order in Wolsingham.
- 1.2. To request that members consider the objections made during the consultation period.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the successful implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement in Durham District in 2008 and County Durham North in 2011, the County Council expanded this practice into the South of the County in June 2013. Enforcement of all waiting restrictions within the town was undertaken by the County Council from this time.
- 2.2 The County Council are committed to regularly reviewing traffic regulation orders to ensure that the restrictions held within them are relevant and appropriate.
- 2.3 Earlier this year a public consultation event was held within Wolsingham Library and comments invited as to how the waiting restrictions within the town could be improved. An initial plan drafted by County Council Officers was presented at this meeting. This event was well attended and a number of suggestions were taken forward and added to the proposals which formed the basis of the plans sent out during the initial informal consultation stage.
- 2.4 Initial consultation letters, plans and response cards were delivered to all properties to be directly affected by the proposals. This letter was delivered on the 1st April 2014.

- 2.5 During this stage of the consultation a request for additional restrictions covering the junction of Holywell Lane / Uppertown was received and these were subsequently added to the proposal.
- 2.5 The scheme was advertised formally on site and in the local press on 18th June until the 9th July 2014.

3 Objection 1

- 3.1 The objector opposes the introduction of 'no waiting at any time' restrictions to the front of 27-30 Front Street, adjacent to the Black Bull PH and the Doctors Surgery.

The objector notes that if pavement parking is seen to be the problem at this location then bollards should be installed. They are concerned that the introduction of waiting restrictions would see an increase in vehicle speeds

4 Response

- 4.1 At present there are various restrictions within the town centre that have been implemented over many years to control traffic movements and parking. Whilst it may be true to say that inappropriate restrictions could be detrimental to the local economy, this is not considered to be the case in this instance. There has been a lengthy consultation exercise with several interested business owners from within the town. It is anticipated that the restrictions proposed will improve vehicular turnover and thus improve accessibility within the town for potential customers.

The introduction of these restrictions will improve visibility for vehicles exiting the access road between no.'s 4 and 18 East End. It should also be noted that those with blue badges wishing to access the Doctors Surgery may park on the restrictions for up to 3 hours provided they are not causing an obstruction.

It is felt that by introducing restrictions and not bollards, the correct balance will be obtained at this location. Whilst general parking is not to be encouraged at this location, the restrictions will mean that the option still exists for drivers with mobility issues to park outside the Surgery.

5 Objection 2

- 5.1 The objector states that parking permits for doctors associated with the nearby practice should be issued.

6 Response

- 6.1 The aim of the County Council is to provide a vibrant town centre where potential customers can easily access shops and services. It is anticipated that the restricted waiting bays we propose to implement will go some way towards meeting this objective and we would not look to reserve a bay for an individual or business. The majority of the on-street areas will be free of restrictions on

Sundays and between 6pm-8am on every other day of the week. It is considered that there are several unrestricted areas within walking distance of the surgery that could be used by its staff. Loading and unloading of any heavy equipment could be carried out to the front of the surgery on the proposed 'no waiting at any time' restrictions.

13.0 Local member consultation

The Local Members have been consulted and offer no objection to the proposals.

14.0 Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee endorse the proposal having considered the objections and proceed with the implementation of the Wolsingham Parking & Waiting Restrictions Order.

15 Background Papers

Correspondence and documentation on Traffic Office File and in member's library.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – LTP Capital

Staffing – Carried out by Strategic Traffic

Risk – Not Applicable

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

Accommodation - No impact on staffing

Crime and Disorder - This TRO will allow effective management of traffic to reduce congestion and improve road safety

Human Rights - No impact on human rights

Consultation – Is in accordance with SI:2489

Procurement – Operations, DCC.

Disability Issues - None

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