



RESIDENTS PARKING RESTRICTIONS SCHEME FOR BOULMER

REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION – REPORT A

1 Purpose of the Consultation

The level of visitor parking in Boulmer village over the last four months has been the worst in living memory and has caused significant congestion, road safety issues and much anguish for residents especially the nine households who do not have off-street parking. Many complaints both verbal and written have been passed to the local Parish Councillor who has brought these to the attention of the Parish Council and the County Council and appropriate ones to the Police. During July and early August three on-line meetings were held between a senior Northumberland County Council (NCC) Councillor, NCC Director, a Manager of the Highways Department, Councillor Wendy Pattison and Councillors Phillips and Hinchcliffe the Chair and Vice Chair of Longhoughton Parish Council. The purpose of these meetings was to request urgent action to find additional off -road car parking in Boulmer, a short-term solution to road safety issues and to deal with the parking congestion that has been arising.

NCC offered 'no parking' road cones to deal with the road safety issues and these were supplied on 13th August and put down in three places.

NCC also suggested a parking restrictions scheme for consultation with residents. The consultation to be managed by the Parish Councillor for Boulmer reporting back to the NCC and the Parish Council with the outcomes and needs. The letter attached was delivered to all Boulmer households on 20th August 2020 and the consultation ran until Sunday 30th August 2020. During this period 41 households were contacted (51% of the total), of which 27 represented full time residents (55%), 8 holiday let owners (40%) and 6 second home-owners (50%). Due to data protection the requirements of residents for parking bays is the subject of a confidential report. Further residents responded after the deadline.

2 Summary of Views from the Consultation

2.1 Boulmer Needs Additional Off-Street Vehicle Parking as a Matter of Urgency.

Additional off-street car-parking is needed to accommodate tourists, visitors and to meet the needs of Boulmer Memorial Hall and the Fishing Boat Inn. Residents voted in favour of this in 2018 and a solution needs to be found as a matter of urgency.

2.2 Charging for Vehicle Parking.

The users of the car park should pay for parking.

2.3 Parking Restrictions

Ideally, parking restrictions throughout Boulmer should be introduced at the same time as the opening up of additional off-street parking and the introduction of a charging for parking.

2.4 Implement Some Parking Restrictions Urgently

For road safety reasons double-yellow lines should be installed in place of the 'no-parking cones' where they are currently located between the Church corner and the public toilets.

Also, the double yellow lines on either side of the bridge, voted for by residents in 2018, should be installed without delay.

2.5 Prepare a Parking Restrictions Scheme

The County Council should prepare a formal parking restrictions scheme for consultation with residents for it to be ready for implementation should the number of visitors to Boulmer in 2021 be at a similar level that has occurred in 2020.

2.6 Further Consultation

Boulmer residents would like to be kept consulted and informed at key points in the implementation of the changes at 2.1 to 2.5 above.

3 Residents Comments and Views on the Proposals

These are individual issues and views that have been raised by residents during the consultation.

3.1 Off-Road Parking

Additional off road-parking should be developed urgently and should be opened at the same time as a parking restrictions scheme is implemented. Introducing parking restrictions before additional car parking is opened should be deferred as it is going to jeopardise parking for the Boulmer Memorial Hall, guests who are visiting residents, the Fishing Boat Inn and it will move the congestion to outside the 30mph zone.

3.2 Traffic Volume.

In September the Schools will be back and the number of visitors to Boulmer will hopefully drop. Before a Parking Restrictions Scheme is introduced there should be more evidence of what the likely volume will be in Spring and Summer 2021. A scheme should be prepared and agreed by residents for urgent implementation just in case the volume of vehicles in the Spring and Summer of 2021 is at a similar level to 2020.

3.3 Charging for Car Parking

Users of the car park should have to pay parking fees. If a residents parking restrictions scheme is introduced and residents have to pay for parking bays, then it is only fair that visitors, who are causing the need for the restrictions scheme, should have to pay for parking.

3.4 Parking Restrictions Scheme

A parking restrictions scheme should be introduced simultaneously with parking fees in the existing/new car park to ensure that visitors do not avoid the fees by parking on the village street.

3.5 Impact of Double Yellow lines on the setting of the village

Some residents are concerned about the impact of double yellow lines on the setting of the village, although many realise that with the introduction of residents parking bays the yellow lines will not be continuous and the thinner 'antique' lines are more appropriate to a rural setting.

3.6 The Northern Cul-De-Sac and Bowmere.

The five households who reside up the northern cul-de-sac from the Church Corner are of the view that should a parking restrictions scheme be introduced for the main road through Boulmer, the cul-de-sac should also have double yellow lines to prevent visitors seeing an unrestricted road and parking there.

Similarly, the residents on Bowmere, which is a housing cul-de-sac at the south end of Boulmer, have also asked for parking restrictions of some sort for they are within the 30mph zone and are concerned that visitors will park on their cu-de-sac if there are no restrictions.

3.7 Existing Car Park – Noise and Disturbance

Residents in the vicinity of the existing car park complain of noise, disturbance and the constant arrival and departure of vehicles including campervans. This starts at around 4am to 5am with dogs barking and continues throughout the day until well after 10.00pm. The residents ask for the car park to be closed at reasonable times so that there is no disturbance during night-time hours.

3.8 Multiple Car Families

Some families who do not have off-street parking have three or more cars. They are concerned that the rules for the operation of the parking scheme do not provide for them and they see a huge unsurmountable problem in parking more than two vehicles.

3.9 Residents Bays or Residents Parking Zones

In certain situations, residents parking zones may be more appropriate than residents parking bays. Discussion is needed on this with NCC.

3.10 Residents Who Have Parked on the Roadside for Many Years

In Boulmer there are a small number of residents who have parked their vehicles on the pavement side or the grass verge for multiple years. They are very unhappy at being asked to pay for their vehicle to be parked there within the proposed residents parking scheme. These situations need to be discussed and considered within the flexible framework of the Residents Parking Scheme.

3.11 Vacant Properties

The scheme must take into account the possible needs of the new occupiers of properties that are vacant.

3.12 Working Village

The farmers and the fishing families wished to emphasise that for them Boulmer is a working village and they are constantly using the village street for their business. The recent congestion has caused them considerable inconvenience and delays.

3.13 Fishing Catch Vehicle.

One of the Boulmer fishing families has emphasised that the fishing 'catch' vehicle, due to its weight, has to wait on the roadside which would be astride the double yellow lines. The vehicle may have to wait for over one hour on occasions. This clearly is outside the 40 minute loading/unloading time and it is requested that this circumstance is considered and solutions found to overcome this issue.

3.14 The Road from Boulmer to Seaton Point

Residents at Scots Gap, Seaton Barns and Seaton Vale have some concern that moving overspill visitor parking to outside the southern 30mph zone may result in increased congestion for them. They are very concerned about the speed of traffic on the long straight stretch of road. Many people from the caravan sites who have children and dogs, use this road to get to the beach and Boulmer village. There is no pavement and they are concerned for their safety. The latter point is not part of the consultation but is mentioned here due to its importance.

3.15 Consultation

Boulmer residents would like to be kept informed on these developments and consulted at key stages.

End



LONGHOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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20 August 2020

Dear Resident,

Residents Parking Restrictions Scheme for Boulmer

Longhoughton Parish Council is well aware of the parking problems in Boulmer and especially the issues that arose during the Coronavirus lockdown and the huge increase in vehicle numbers that have been coming to Boulmer almost daily since June and causing parking mayhem at times.

We have been talking to Northumberland County Council and Councillor Wendy Pattison about these problems and are trying to find increased off-road parking spaces but this may not happen for some time. We appreciate that residents cannot be expected to put up with the present “parking free for all” and in conjunction with Northumberland County Council we are jointly proposing an “experimental” parking restrictions scheme that can be implemented very quickly if residents agree.

The scheme would involve double yellow lines throughout the Boulmer 30mph zone on both sides of the road. Parking will not be allowed on the double yellow lines except in some circumstances. Special resident parking bays will be established at various points in the village which will be restricted to residents who display parking permits in their vehicles. **Residents will be allocated a maximum of two permits from Northumberland County Council FREE OF CHARGE for the 12 months of the experimental period (normally £25 per permit per year).** This enables you to park in your allocated parking bay. People who park in residents bays **without** displaying a permit will be fined.

The first stage is to establish which residents wish to have a parking place in a residents parking bay. Parish Councillor Adrian Hinchcliffe (*contact details above*) will contact each resident to establish their requirement and how many bays are needed. Once we have that information the Parish Council will write to residents again putting forward the formal scheme and giving each resident the opportunity to vote. The scheme will only go-ahead if more than 50 percent of those voting are in favour.

If accepted, I want to stress that **this scheme is intended to be for a 12-month experimental period only.** We will review the effectiveness of this scheme towards the end of the 12-month trial period to see if it should be continued. As part of this, there will be a further public consultation where you will have the opportunity to let us know how you feel this has worked.

On the reverse of this letter I include a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that gives further information about what this scheme involves.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Eleanor Phillips
Chair of Longhoughton Parish Council

BOULMER PARKING SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 Why is a parking restrictions scheme being proposed for Boulmer?

Email correspondence and informal discussions with residents has highlighted their continuing concern regarding the parking situation in Boulmer. Residents are distraught, annoyed and concerned that a quiet coastal village is being irrevocably changed and their lives disrupted. They believe that this is the 'new normal' and needs action now.

2 What does the scheme consist of?

Double yellow lines will be put down on both sides of the road from the 30mph sign on the road to Longhoughton to the 30mph sign on the road to Lesbury. Parking bays for residents will be established where needed by residents. These bays will be identified by road markings and signs and will be restricted to parking for residents vehicles that display a permit. The scheme will be experimental for one year. At the end of the year it will be reviewed and if necessary, amended or discontinued after a further public consultation.

3 Residents permits to park.

To park in the residents parking bays residents vehicles will have to display a parking permit. Two permits for each household (one for their own vehicle and one for a guest or second vehicle) will be supplied by Northumberland County Council. Normally there is a charge but due to the scheme being 'experimental' in the first year, no charges will be made. In subsequent years the charge will be £25 for each permit per annum.

4 I have private off-road parking, do I need to have a permit for a residents parking area?

It is up to you. You can have a residents parking bay for your own vehicle and a guest provided that you have a permit on display in the vehicles.

5 Parking on Double Yellow Lines

Parking is not permitted on double yellow lines at any time of day or night and is punishable by a fine. In some circumstances parking for a short period is permitted for such purposes as delivery or pick-up, and loading and unloading is permitted for up to 40 minutes. Blue badge holders are permitted to park on double yellow lines provided they are not causing an obstruction.

6 I don't have a car, can I still have a permit?

Yes, you can have a residents bay and a permit that can be used for guests.

7 What do I do when workmen or visitors come to my house?

If guests/workmen come to your house they will need to use one of your permits unless you can offer them private off-road parking.

8 What will happen to vehicles that park in the resident bays without displaying valid permits?

The village will be patrolled regularly by the County Council's Parking Enforcement Officers. Any vehicle seen to be parked without a valid permit will be issued with a fine. It is important that all vehicles parked in residents bays have a parking permit on display.

9 Do Blue Badge Holders have to display a resident or guest permit to park in a residents bay?

Yes - Blue Badge holders are not exempt.

10 Where will tourists/visitors be allowed to park their vehicles?

They will be able to park in the existing car park or on the roadside outside the 30mph zone.