

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport Date: 25 October 2019

Traffic Regulation
Order – Alma Place,
North Shields

Portfolio(s): Environment and Transport

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr C Johnson

Report from Service Area: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Responsible Officer: Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure (Tel: 0191 643 7295)

Wards affected: Preston

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report seeks the approval of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to introduce a 'Limited Waiting' restriction on Alma Place and set aside eleven objections received to the proposal.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport:

- (1) considers the objections;
- (2) sets aside the objections in the interests of providing short stay, parking provision for customers of local businesses and other visitors to the area; and
- (3) determines that the Traffic Regulation Order should be made unchanged.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Objections relating to proposed Traffic Regulation Orders are a standard item on the Forward Plan.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The proposals in this report relate to the following priority in Our North Tyneside, the Council Plan 2018 to 2020:

- Our places will:
 - have an effective transport and physical infrastructure

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The proposal to introduce a short stay, free parking area within the permit parking scheme on Alma Place was developed as a result of a request from a local dental practice. Concerns were raised about the lack of customer parking following the withdrawal of parking vouchers as part of changes to North Tyneside Council's permit parking policy introduced in 2018. These vouchers could previously be used by customers visiting the practice to park within the existing permit parking zone which operates between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

Changes to the permit parking policy were introduced following an extensive review conducted by the Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with input from residents, businesses and other stakeholders. This established that the previous permit system needed to be simplified and that parking vouchers were being abused in certain cases.

The introduction of a limited waiting restriction in Alma Place will allow visitors to the area including customers of the dental practice to park for up to 2 hours (with no return in 4 hours) between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside these times, parking will be unrestricted at this location.

Affected residents were informed of the proposal by letter. In accordance with the statutory process, a Notice of Intention for the amended proposal was displayed on site, in a local newspaper and on the Authority's website outlining the proposed restrictions.

Eleven objections were received in response to the statutory Notice of Intention. A summary of the objections is provided below.

1.5.2 Statutory Consultation

Parking proposals are subject to statutory legal process. Schemes must be advertised on site and in the local press. This enables members of the public or businesses to object to the proposal. Any objectors are first sent a detailed response and invited to reconsider their objection. Any objections not withdrawn are referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for consideration in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation for Cabinet Members.

1.5.3 Summary of Objections

Ten of the objections were submitted by local residents whilst the remaining objection was received from a local charity operating from an address in the area. The majority of objectors raised the following concerns about the proposed short stay parking bays:

- Concern that the bays would reduce the amount of dedicated parking for residents in Alma Place and by allowing customers of the dental practice to park in the area, could create tension between residents and the business.
- Concern that the bays would not just be used by customers of the dental practice but would attract visitors to North Shields town centre looking for free parking.
- Expressing the view that introducing free parking provision for the dental practice would be unfair to residents as they are required to buy permits to park in the area.
- Stating that the bays have only been proposed to address an issue caused by the removal of the previous system which allowed businesses to purchase parking vouchers for the use of their customers, and expressing the view that if these vouchers were reinstated, or alternatively if the practice was allowed to purchase business permits for the use of customers, the issue would be resolved.

An officer wrote to the objectors to clarify that the proposal had been developed primarily to support the operation of the dental practice and in particular to make it easier for elderly patients and those with mobility issues to access the practice although the bays could be used by any visitor to the area. Clarification was provided that whilst some residents had concerns that the proposal would result in a loss of parking provision for residents themselves, the restriction will only operate during the day when parking surveys have shown there is a significant amount of spare capacity in the street and that the bays could be used by residents themselves if required.

It was explained that changes to the previous permit system (including the withdrawal of the parking voucher scheme) had been introduced following an internal review which concluded that the system needed to be simplified and that parking vouchers were being abused in certain cases. In response to the suggestion that business permits should be issued to the practice, it was confirmed that these are intended for operational vehicles rather than staff or customers and would therefore not be appropriate.

It was also explained that the introduction of shared use parking schemes (i.e. a combination of limited waiting or pay and display and permit parking) was in line with North Tyneside Council's Parking Strategy which specifies that schemes in areas with commercial demand should be of this type.

The officer's response to the local charity confirmed that the effectiveness of the short stay parking bays would be monitored if they were introduced and the provision of additional bays (which could also be used by visitors to the charity's premises) would be considered if appropriate.

The objectors were invited to reconsider their objections in light of this information by responding to officers in writing by 6 September 2019. Responses were only received from two of the objectors, Mr L and Mr C, both confirming that they wished their objections to remain in place and reiterating their view that the proposal would inconvenience residents living in the vicinity of the practice.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport:

Option 1

Approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2.

Option 2

Not approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended as the proposals will support the operation of a local dental practice and any other businesses in the area whilst keeping any impact on permit holders to a minimum.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1 Details of objection and associated correspondence

Appendix 2 Legal Notice of Intention as published in local press

Appendix 3 Plan of scheme

1.9 Contact officers:

Andrew Flynn, Integrated Transport Manager, 0191 643 6083

Nicholas Bryan, Highway Network Manager, 0191 643 6622

Nick Saunders, Senior Traffic Engineer, Capita, 0191 643 6598

Cathy Davison, Principal Accountant Investment (Capital) and Revenue, 0191 643 5727

1.10 Background information:

North Tyneside Transport Strategy

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1237/transport-strategy>

North Tyneside Parking Strategy

http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse.shtml?p_subjectCategory=360

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Funding is available from the 2019/20 (Parking Management) Local Transport Plan capital budget.

2.2 Legal

Parking proposals that involve revocations or amendments to existing parking orders and any new parking restrictions are subject to statutory legal process set out in the Road

Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Regulations that flow from that Act, namely, the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996. All schemes are formally advertised and include a 21-day period for objections. Before making a Traffic Regulation Order the Authority must consider all objections made and not withdrawn, and can decide whether to make the Order unchanged, to make the Order with modifications or not to proceed with the Order.

In accordance with the Authority's scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members, if any objections cannot be resolved, then the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport is asked to consider those objections made and not withdrawn and to determine the Traffic Regulation Order.

The Legal Notice of Intent was published in the local press and may be cited as the North Tyneside (On Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2019 Variation Order 2019.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal consultation

Ward members' views on the proposal were sought as described in section 1.5.1.

2.3.2 Community engagement

Local residents' views on the proposal were sought as described in section 1.5.1. The proposal was advertised in line with statutory process as described in section 1.5.2.

2.4 Human rights

The proposals within this report do not have direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no adverse equalities or diversity issues arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Head of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service

Details of Objection – Mr O (dated 21st July 2019)

I'm writing to express my concern about the limited waiting space proposal for Alma Place, North Shields where I live.

I think it would make far more sense to have a paid parking permit scheme with e.g. 2 paid permits for business e.g. [a local] Dental Practice. This would be in line with our own permit scheme and would ensure the spaces are not taken / used by others not linked to the local business or to residents with visitor permits.

Having payment would also help to fund the scheme.

Details of Objection – Mr I (dated 22nd July 2019)

Dear Sir,

I live in Alma Place and wish to register my objection to the proposal to create time limited waiting spaces outside [a local] Dental Practice. I understand the need of the business, and why they would like parking for their clients.

However, like many residents, I am completely unconvinced by the proposed solution as the spaces will not be restricted to use by the dental practice clients. In effect anyone will be able to use these spaces.

I for one will recommend that visitors to my property use these spaces if they are created (I refused to pay the recent new charge of £75 for a guest permit). I know a lot of other residents will do the same. In addition, members of the public will use these spaces to pop into North Shields. Delivery drivers will use them, as will tradesmen.

Furthermore, this proposal could create tension between the business and residents. [A local dental practice] will no doubt see the spaces as 'their spaces' and become frustrated at their constant use by people who are not visiting their practice.

The proposal simply will not support the [dental practice] business in the intended way and will create many unintended consequences. Why not just introduce 'business visitor permits'? Allow the dental practice to purchase two of these and they can hand them to their clients on arrival. This seems far more sensible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Details of Objection – Mr S (dated 22nd July 2019)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the proposal for limited parking provision in Alma Place, North Shields. As a long-time resident, I remember opting in to the current parking system although it was ALL free at that time. (A subject for another time perhaps).

As time goes by and houses are sold to new residents, the number of cars per dwelling usually increases and so the available parking space decreases. This is a problem at night of course, because residents are home, and people from adjacent streets use the space. During the working day, not everyone uses their car and indeed one resident parks quite a large vehicle at most times.

This is a residential street and although the dental practice has been there for many years it is the only house which requires the comings and goings of clients. Furthermore when it was originally set up, it was a National Health practice, not the Private practice it is now.

I do not deny the right of patients to park near to the practice under the current arrangement, where the dentist provides a visitor permit and if he has to pay for the privilege then that is his choice. **It works!**

The idea that providing parking spaces for the patients which may also be used freely by any passer-by is clearly unfair to those of us who have to pay for a visitor permit, which may be used once or twice a year when family come on holiday. (I still have a quantity of 'scratch cards which were used when necessary, and for which I paid, but I believe are no longer used.)

I sent a similar letter to this to my local councillors who replied suggesting that their views would "probably be overruled by others not responsible for the ward".

I suspect the reason for the proposal is a response from the dental practice to the moaning of patients not prepared to find a parking space on Preston Road, Grosvenor Place or Cleveland Road like many shoppers and those who work in the town.

Details of Objection – Ms O (dated 26th July 2019)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I'm writing to express my concern about the limited waiting space proposal for Alma Place, North Shields where I live.

I think it would make far more sense to have a paid parking permit scheme with e.g. 2 paid permits for business e.g. Alma Place Dental Practice. This would be in line with our own permit scheme and would ensure the spaces are not taken / used by others not linked to the local business or to residents with visitor permits. Having payment would also help to fund the scheme.

Details of Objection – Ms J (dated 1st August 2019)

I write to add my concerns to that of the other residents who may have contacted you recently to raise issue with the limited waiting parking proposal outside [a local] dentist practice on Alma Place.

Given that a lot of the houses in the street have been separated into flats, there is a lot of pressure on parking for residents - especially in areas where there are multiple occupancy residents with several cars between them.

The proposed limited waiting means that residents will lose access to more spaces - which may mean some are forced to park on Preston Road.

Given that the dental practice is only 3 houses away from Preston Road - would it not be more practical to place the bays here? (If required at all - as this road does not even have a permit scheme?)

It seems unfair that residents who pay for parking will be at a disadvantage as we will not be able to use the bays - and will be paying for a permit which they cannot make use of, whereas visitors of the dentist, (or any North Shields business) be provided with a guaranteed space on our street for free - I imagine it won't take long for people to realise that there are "free" spaces on Alma Place rather than paying at parking machines near the YMCA etc,

Please could you speak with the dentist and look at the proposals again? I think returning to the previous scratch card scheme which was satisfactory for all parties for some time would be a solution to this problem.

Details of Objection – Mr W (dated 2nd August 2019)

I am writing to you to object to the proposed changes to parking scheme in Alma Place, North Shields. My objection is based on the following:

As there appear to be no plans to change the scheme in either Frank Place or Waterloo Place and along with the withdrawal of the scratch card system, I have to assume this change is for the benefit of [a local] Dental Practice.

I have absolutely no gripe with the dental practice as their business doesn't affect me however I feel that this is an extremely unfair proposal. Since these changes are being initiated only for the benefit of the dental practice, if the change is to go ahead then we as residents of Alma Place will be subsidising a commercial venture by still having to pay to park in our street. This, whilst the dental practice and its customers do not.

The system used for residents' visitors' permits works and so I do not see why there is not a similar business version that dental practice can use. Presumably in other parts of the borough where there is a business in a residential parking zone there is a solution so why can the same system not be used here? Even if it is that customers of a business have to walk from a parking place which is outside the residential parking area.

There is ample free parking available for the customers of the dental practice a matter of metres away on Preston Road or Cleveland Road.

In summary as I see it, the changes are proposed for the benefit of [a local] Dental Practice only. Alma Place is predominately a residential street and to change the entire parking system for the benefit of the only business with a trading presence is unacceptable especially when parking spaces are at a premium and it is the residents who are to subsidise a private, money making commercial concern.

Details of Objection – Mr D (dated 6th August 2019)

To whom it May Concern,

This email is to register my concern at the new proposals regarding the above subject.

In my opinion, introducing Limited Waiting Bays is not the most efficient way to solve the problem of parking for businesses in Alma Place and will only result in tension and unfair bias.

I believe that the problem with allocating visitor passes to the businesses will also be problematic for the businesses due to visitors driving away without returning the pass.

The scratch-card system is probably the simplest method for parking and proves cheaper than other council car parks in the area. For example, if you visit other businesses in any town centre there will still be a need to park and most likely you would need to pay by the hour at no less than 60p per hour. So, it is not unreasonable for businesses to charge their clients the nominal fee for the scratch-card.

I believe this only affects [a local business] and [a local dental practice], either way the system of scratch-cards is simple and I am a believer in keeping things as simple as possible.

Alternatively, there could be an online system that businesses can be registered and provided with a unique code for that day which can be displayed or tagged to the registration of the visiting car.

The charge for this can be equal to the amount that residents currently pay for visitor passes, which I believe is £20 per year.

Please consider that Limited Waiting Bays are a bad and unfair idea which will be abused and probably grow when visitors discover the 3 bays full and park in adjacent bays, pleading ignorance.

Council Response to all objections above (dated 23rd August 2019)

I am writing with reference to your recent objection to the proposal to introduce three short stay parking bays in front of [a local] dental practice on Alma Place. To provide some more background to the proposal, it was developed primarily to support the operation of the dental practice and in particular to make it easier for elderly patients and those with mobility issues to access the practice although the bays can be used by any visitor to the area and residents themselves. If introduced, the effectiveness of these bays will be monitored, and changes will be considered if appropriate. This may include the provision of additional bays in this area if necessary. The proposal has been brought forward following changes to North Tyneside Council's permit parking policy (adopted by Cabinet in 2017) which meant that parking vouchers for the use of most businesses were withdrawn. These changes were introduced following an extensive review conducted by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with input from residents, businesses and other stakeholders which established that the previous permit system needed to be simplified and that parking vouchers were being abused in certain cases. Whilst business permits may be issued by North Tyneside Council to businesses located within permit parking schemes, these are designed for operational vehicles and are not intended for the use of staff or customers and so would not be appropriate in this case.

The new permit parking policy also established certain criteria relating to permit parking schemes which included a requirement that parking schemes in areas with commercial demand should be shared use in nature (i.e. combined permit parking/short stay free parking or permit parking/pay and display) to support the operation of local businesses and encourage the vitality of town centres. The proposed short stay parking bays in Alma Place are in accordance with this approach although in fact, if the permit parking scheme in this area were to be introduced now, it would probably be shared use in nature like those on the periphery of Whitley Bay town centre for example. This would potentially have meant that free short stay parking would have been available throughout Alma Place and not just in front of the dental practice.

Whilst I understand that some residents have concerns that the proposal will result in a loss of parking provision for residents themselves, the restriction will only operate during the day when parking surveys have shown there is a significant amount of spare capacity in the street. It should also be noted that the proposed bays could be used by residents themselves if required (although they would also be subject to the 2 hour maximum stay restriction during the day).

If you would like to withdraw your objection in light of the information provided above, I would be grateful if you could let me know in writing by 6th September. If I do not hear from you before then, I will assume that you still object to the proposed scheme and your objection will be included in a report to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for consideration in the near future. You will be notified of the Cabinet Member's decision with regard to this proposal in due course.

Details of Objection – Mr C (dated 21st July 2019)

As a resident of Alma Place, North Shields, I wish to object to the proposed introduction of limited parking bays in this street on the following grounds.

Firstly, the proposal of itself is divisive, introducing unnecessary tension between residents and the business the proposal purports to support.

Secondly, the bays will not be only be available to the targeted business but to any visitor, to residents, to the business or to people generally simply visiting North Shields. Again, the proposal does not support the business it is intended to support.

Thirdly, residents must pay for their visitors passes. Neither the business nor the visitors will pay, so in effect we subsidise non-residents in their parking.

This problem arises because of the Council decision taken last year to suspend the ability of businesses to buy the scratchcard permits available to residents. This left businesses without any ability to arrange for parking for their clients. This decision in effect punishes all similar businesses because of the alleged abuse of the system by a few.

The concerns of business would be better met by either the reintroduction of the scratch card system or the introduction of business visitors permits paid for by the businesses themselves. This would be a simpler and much less bureaucratic system than the proposed solution.

Council Response (dated 23rd August 2019)

Dear Mr C,

I am writing with reference to your recent objection to the proposal to introduce three short stay parking bays in front of [a local] dental practice on Alma Place. To provide some more background to the proposal, it was developed primarily to support the operation of the dental practice and in particular to make it easier for elderly patients and those with mobility issues to access the practice although the bays can be used by any visitor to the area and residents themselves. If introduced, the effectiveness of these bays will be monitored, and changes will be considered if appropriate. This may include the provision of additional bays in this area if necessary. The proposal has been brought forward following changes to North Tyneside Council's permit parking policy (adopted by Cabinet in 2017) which meant that parking vouchers for the use of most businesses were withdrawn. These changes were introduced following an extensive review conducted by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with input from

residents, businesses and other stakeholders which established that the previous permit system needed to be simplified and that parking vouchers were being abused in certain cases. Whilst business permits may be issued by North Tyneside Council to businesses located within permit parking schemes, these are designed for operational vehicles and are not intended for the use of staff or customers and so would not be appropriate in this case.

The new permit parking policy also established certain criteria relating to permit parking schemes which included a requirement that parking schemes in areas with commercial demand should be shared use in nature (i.e. combined permit parking/short stay free parking or permit parking/pay and display) to support the operation of local businesses and encourage the vitality of town centres. The proposed short stay parking bays in Alma Place are in accordance with this approach although in fact, if the permit parking scheme in this area were to be introduced now, it would probably be shared use in nature like those on the periphery of Whitley Bay town centre for example. This would potentially have meant that free short stay parking would have been available throughout Alma Place and not just in front of the dental practice.

Whilst I understand that some residents have concerns that the proposal will result in a loss of parking provision for residents themselves, the restriction will only operate during the day when parking surveys have shown there is a significant amount of spare capacity in the street. It should also be noted that the proposed bays could be used by residents themselves if required (although they would also be subject to the 2 hour maximum stay restriction during the day).

If you would like to withdraw your objection in light of the information provided above, I would be grateful if you could let me know in writing by 6th September. If I do not hear from you before then, I will assume that you still object to the proposed scheme and your objection will be included in a report to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for consideration in the near future. You will be notified of the Cabinet Member's decision with regard to this proposal in due course.

Further response from Mr C (dated 27th August 2019)

I note in your email a suggestion that were the parking scheme to be introduced from scratch now it would be on a shared basis. As one of my principle objections is that number 4 is being dragged along and unwillingly into a scheme to benefit number 3, that objection would not stand. All residents would be being treated equally.

However, this is not the case. None of my objections or proposed alternatives have been considered and therefore my objections very clearly stand.

Details of Objection – Mr L (dated 23rd July 2019)

Dear Sir,

I write to add my concerns to other residents who may have contacted you recently to raise issue with the limited waiting parking proposal outside [a local] dentist practice on Alma Place.

Given that a lot of the houses in the street have been separated into flats, there is a lot of pressure on parking for residents - especially in areas where there are multiple occupancy residents with several cars between them.

The proposed limited waiting means that residents will lose access to more spaces - which may mean some are forced to park on Preston Road.

Given that the dental practice is only 3 houses away from Preston Road - would it not be more practical to place the bays here? (If required at all - as this road does not even have a permit scheme?)

It seems unfair that residents who pay for parking will be at a disadvantage as we will not be able to use the bays - and will be paying for a permit which they cannot make use of, whereas visitors of the dentist, (or any North Shields business) be provided with a guaranteed space on our street for free - I imagine it won't take long for people to realise that there are "free" spaces on Alma Place rather than paying at parking machines near the YMCA etc,

Could you please look at the proposals again - ideally returning to the previous scratch card scheme had been satisfactory for all parties for some time.

Council Response (dated 23rd August 2019)

Dear Mr L,

I am writing with reference to your recent objection to the proposal to introduce three short stay parking bays in front of [a local] dental practice on Alma Place. To provide some more background to the proposal, it was developed primarily to support the operation of the dental practice and in particular to make it easier for elderly patients and those with mobility issues to access the practice although the bays can be used by any visitor to the area and residents themselves. If introduced, the effectiveness of these bays will be monitored, and changes will be considered if appropriate. This may include the provision of additional bays in this area if necessary. The proposal has been brought forward following changes to North Tyneside Council's permit parking policy (adopted by Cabinet in 2017) which meant that parking vouchers for the use of most businesses were withdrawn. These changes were introduced following an extensive review conducted by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with input from residents, businesses and other stakeholders which established that the previous permit system needed to be simplified and that parking vouchers were being abused in certain cases. Whilst business permits may be issued by North Tyneside Council to businesses located within permit parking schemes, these are designed for operational vehicles and are not intended for the use of staff or customers and so would not be appropriate in this case.

The new permit parking policy also established certain criteria relating to permit parking schemes which included a requirement that parking schemes in areas with commercial demand should be shared use in nature (i.e. combined permit parking/short stay free parking or permit parking/pay and display) to support the operation of local businesses and encourage the vitality of town centres. The proposed short stay parking bays in Alma Place are in accordance with this approach although in fact, if the permit parking scheme in this area were to be introduced now, it would probably be shared use in nature like those on the periphery of Whitley Bay town centre for example. This would potentially have meant that free short stay parking would have been available throughout Alma Place and not just in front of the dental practice.

Whilst I understand that some residents have concerns that the proposal will result in a loss of parking provision for residents themselves, the restriction will only operate during the day when parking surveys have shown there is a significant amount of spare capacity in the street. It should also be noted that the proposed bays could be used by residents themselves if required (although they would also be subject to the 2 hour maximum stay restriction during the day).

If you would like to withdraw your objection in light of the information provided above, I would be grateful if you could let me know in writing by 6th September. If I do not hear from you before

then, I will assume that you still object to the proposed scheme and your objection will be included in a report to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for consideration in the near future. You will be notified of the Cabinet Member's decision with regard to this proposal in due course.

Further response from Mr L (dated 23rd August 2019)

Thank you for your detailed response, I understand that this is a complex area, and whilst you have explained some areas well, I am still concerned about the following:

Whilst I understand that some residents have concerns that the proposal will result in a loss of parking provision for residents themselves, the restriction will only operate during the day when parking surveys have shown there is a significant amount of spare capacity in the street. It should also be noted that the proposed bays could be used by residents themselves if required (although they would also be subject to the 2 hour maximum stay restriction during the day).

When I get home in the evening, there is very little capacity on the street, as such I would envisage needing to use the limited waiting bays, especially as I have experienced hostility - (escalating to police involvement) from neighbours when parking outside others houses (even when I cannot park outside my own).

This will be fine overnight, and up till 8 am the next morning, and if I plan to drive to work the following day, then again, no problem.

I do work away at times though, and so can see me needing to get up and move my car to (hopefully a free spot) at whatever time of the morning it is. This may sound a minor inconvenience, but it just seems unfair that I am going to be subject to this clock-watching, and anxiety that if I forget I will receive a penalty for parking on my street, especially when I pay for a residence permit, whereas the visitor would be free to come and go without any expense at all.

I understand that this must be balanced against the option of removing parking restrictions on Alma Place altogether, which would undoubtedly see increased usage by visitors during the day (whilst most residents are working) although possibly into the evening. It would only free-up 2 additional spaces at night for residents and would likely be resisted by residents who don't work, who would find it harder to park in their street when using their car during the day.

Overall - yes, I would like for you to maintain my objection, as I feel the logic behind the decision to removing the "complex" business permit system taken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is flawed, and serious consideration needs to be taken as to whether the "simple" time-limited waiting bay solution offered above affords an advantage over the old scratch card system - (which all in Alma Place, resident and business alike, agree worked well)

Details of Objection – Ms B (dated 22nd July 2019)

Hi
With regard to a circular we have received through our door from a resident of Alma Place, North Shields. We are a children's charity based in Alma Place and wish to put our views forward about the new parking system. When we first relocated our charity to Alma Place 16 years ago, parking was one of the factors which made us decide upon Alma Place. As a lot of the residents were out at work through the day, there were plenty of spaces for our clients to use. A few years ago, the council introduced scratch cards which we could buy for 50p and sell to our clients. The charge then went up to £1 a scratch card but it still worked really well for us

as some of our clients are elderly grandparents with walking difficulties and it was easy for them to park near our door. They now have to walk down from Grosvenor Place which isn't always easy for everybody. Apart from the inconvenience for our clients, there have been several times when some of the residents in Grosvenor Place have told our staff who also have to park in Grosvenor Place that they shouldn't be parking there even though we were told by the council that is where our staff also had to park. We would welcome the return of a scratch card system as it made it fairer for everyone and we have had so many comments from our clients concerned about not being able to have them any more. I would appreciate your comments on this matter.

Council Response (dated 23rd August 2019)

Dear Ms B,

I am writing with reference to your recent objection to the proposal to introduce three short stay parking bays in front of the dental practice on Alma Place. To provide some more background to the proposal, it was developed primarily to support the operation of the dental practice and in particular to make it easier for elderly patients and those with mobility issues to access the practice although the bays can be used by any visitor to the area and residents themselves. If introduced, the effectiveness of these bays will be monitored and changes will be considered if appropriate. This may include the provision of additional bays in this area if necessary. The proposal has been brought forward following changes to North Tyneside Council's permit parking policy (adopted by Cabinet in 2017) which meant that parking vouchers for the use of most businesses were withdrawn. These changes were introduced following an extensive review conducted by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with input from residents, businesses and other stakeholders which established that the previous permit system needed to be simplified and that parking vouchers were being abused in certain cases. Whilst business permits may be issued by North Tyneside Council to businesses located within permit parking schemes, these are designed for operational vehicles and are not intended for the use of staff or customers and so would not be appropriate in this case.

The new permit parking policy also established certain criteria relating to permit parking schemes which included a requirement that parking schemes in areas with commercial demand should be shared use in nature (i.e. combined permit parking/short stay free parking or permit parking/pay and display) to support the operation of local businesses and encourage the vitality of town centres. The proposed short stay parking bays in Alma Place are in accordance with this approach although in fact, if the permit parking scheme in this area were to be introduced now, it would probably be shared use in nature like those on the periphery of Whitley Bay town centre for example. This would potentially have meant that free short stay parking would have been available throughout Alma Place and not just in front of the dental practice.

Whilst I understand that some residents have concerns that the proposal will result in a loss of parking provision for residents themselves, the restriction will only operate during the day when parking surveys have shown there is a significant amount of spare capacity in the street. It should also be noted that the proposed bays could be used by residents themselves if required (although they would also be subject to the 2 hour maximum stay restriction during the day).

If you would like to withdraw your objection in light of the information provided above, I would be grateful if you could let me know in writing by 6th September. If I do not hear from you before then, I will assume that you still object to the proposed scheme and your objection will be included in a report to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for consideration in the near future. You will be notified of the Cabinet Member's decision with regard to this proposal in due course.

Details of Objection – Ms W (dated 27th July 2019)

Dear Sir

I am writing to object to the proposed changes (introducing parking bays) in Alma Place, North Shields.

This is a pleasant, predominantly residential street but your proposals would turn it into a public car park, as it has become before the introduction of restricted parking.

I understand that the reason for the proposed changes is to assist the business located in the street which (like other small businesses) has suffered since the Council's withdrawal of parking scratch card vouchers. I do not believe the proposals would achieve this aim, however. It would soon become widely known that free parking was available in Alma Place and the spaces would be used by anyone shopping or with other business in North Shields (especially since the sale of a nearby car park for private development has increased the difficulty of parking in the town). Patients coming to the dental practice could therefore never be confident of finding a parking place available.

Also the scheme if adopted would cause tension and ill feeling between the business and residents. It seems unreasonable and extremely unfair that residents should be charged for visitor parking permits while others, including the business would enjoy free parking. In other words residents would be subsidising parking for the business.

The proposed changes include relocating a disabled parking bay from its existing location (where it is needed) to outside of my house. There are three residents at my property and although we are all over 60 and I am almost 80 none of us is registered disabled. Moving the bay would be an unjustifiable use of scarce public resources. It would also completely unreasonably permanently prevent my parking outside my own house.

The problems the proposals seek to address have been caused entirely by the Council's decision to stop the ability of businesses to buy scratch card permits. This has caused unnecessary hardship to small businesses and appears to be punishing all for the alleged abuse of a few.

I suggest a better solution would be to reintroduce the scratch card system or to introduce business visitor permits to be paid for by the businesses themselves.

Council Response (dated 23rd August 2019)

Dear Ms W

I am writing with reference to your recent objection to the proposal to introduce three short stay parking bays in front of [a local] dental practice on Alma Place. Whilst it was originally proposed to relocate the existing advisory disabled bay, this is no longer the case. To provide some more background to the proposal, it was developed primarily to support the operation of the dental practice and in particular to make it easier for elderly patients and those with mobility issues to access the practice although the bays can be used by any visitor to the area and residents themselves. If introduced, the effectiveness of these bays will be monitored and changes will be considered if appropriate. The proposal has been brought forward following changes to North Tyneside Council's permit parking policy (adopted by Cabinet in 2017) which meant that parking vouchers for the use of most businesses were withdrawn. These changes were

introduced following an extensive review conducted by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with input from residents, businesses and other stakeholders which established that the previous permit system needed to be simplified and that parking vouchers were being abused in certain cases. Whilst business permits may be issued by North Tyneside Council to businesses located within permit parking schemes, these are designed for operational vehicles and are not intended for the use of staff or customers and so would not be appropriate in this case.

The new permit parking policy also established certain criteria relating to permit parking schemes which included a requirement that parking schemes in areas with commercial demand should be shared use in nature (i.e. combined permit parking/short stay free parking or permit parking/pay and display) to support the operation of local businesses and encourage the vitality of town centres. The proposed short stay parking bays in Alma Place are in accordance with this approach although in fact, if the permit parking scheme in this area were to be introduced now, it would probably be shared use in nature like those on the periphery of Whitley Bay town centre for example. This would potentially have meant that free short stay parking would have been available throughout Alma Place and not just in front of the dental practice.

Whilst I understand that some residents have concerns that the proposal will result in a loss of parking provision for residents themselves, the restriction will only operate during the day when parking surveys have shown there is a significant amount of spare capacity in the street. It should also be noted that the proposed bays could be used by residents themselves if required (although they would also be subject to the 2 hour maximum stay restriction during the day).

If you would like to withdraw your objection in light of the information provided above, I would be grateful if you could let me know in writing by 6th September. If I do not hear from you before then, I will assume that you still object to the proposed scheme and your objection will be included in a report to be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for consideration in the near future. You will be notified of the Cabinet Member's decision with regard to this proposal in due course.

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL
(On Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2019 Variation Order 2019

North Tyneside Council gives notice that it proposes to make a Variation Order under Sections 32, 35 and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers.

The effect of the Order, if made, will vary the North Tyneside (On Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2019 so that: -

- A. Permit Holders Parking Places – Marked Bays, operational between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday, be introduced on;
- (i) Alma Place, North Shields – north side from a point 10 metres west of its junction with Preston Road to a point 28 metres west of that junction.
 - (ii) Alma Place, North Shields – south side from a point 10 metres west of its junction with Preston Road to a point 44 metres west of that junction.

B. Limited Waiting without Charge Parking Places, 2 hours no return within 4 hours operational between 9am and 5pm, Mondays to Fridays, be introduced on Alma Place, North Shields – north side from a point 28 metres west of its junction with Preston Road to a point 44 metres west of that junction.

C. The existing operation of Permit Holders Parking Places – Zones Item 25 be amended to, Alma Place, North Shields – from a point 6 metres south of its junction with Cleveland Road to a point 44 metres west of its junction with Preston Road.

Full details of the proposals, may be examined at the address below between 8.30am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays or on the Council's website www.northtyneside.gov.uk (Statutory Notices). If you wish to object to the proposals, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to the undersigned or via email to democraticsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk by 7 August 2019.

Any objections received will be placed in the working file and can be viewed by the public if requested.

17 July 2019
Head of Law & Governance
Quadrant, Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY

