



Bamburgh Parking Survey

In November, Bamburgh Parish Council sent out surveys via a paper form and / or the village Google group, about parking issues experienced in the village. The survey was addressed to residents, home owners and business owners, including holiday lets. This report presents the results of the survey. The first part of the report is, simply, what the numerical responses were. The second part of the report has tried to analyse the comments section of the survey.

The 2020 AONB dwelling review showed Bamburgh to have 350 dwellings in total, with 87 second homes, 118 holiday lets and 15 businesses, the remaining 148 dwellings being permanent homes. Bearing in mind that the parking survey took place at a time when many second homes and holiday lets were unoccupied, (and a proportion of holiday lets and some businesses are owned by residents), that the survey produced 122 responses demonstrates that the views expressed are widely and passionately held by those most affected and should be acted upon.

These were the questions asked and, alongside, the percentage responses. Note that as some questions weren't answered and some ticked multiple boxes (eg Resident & holiday let), the total may not be 100% :-

57%	Resident in Bamburgh
6.7%	Business in Bamburgh (excluding holiday lets)
27.5%	Second home owner in Bamburgh
23.3%	Holiday let in Bamburgh
4.9%	Other (please specify)

Please tick the approximate location of your property / properties

15.7%	Links Road / Armstrong Cottages / Red Barns
9.6%	Front Street
12.2%	Ingram Road / Lindisfarne Avenue
13.9%	Lucker Road
4.3%	Church Street
27.8%	Radcliffe Road / Park
18.3%	The Wynding
8.7%	Doctor's Lane / Castle Wynd
8.9%	Other

Do you feel the parking situation in Bamburgh is

0.8%	Acceptable ?
19.8%	Difficult but tolerable ?
79.3%	Unsustainable and action needs to be taken ? (please see follow up question below)
0%	Other

If you ticked “Unsustainable and action needs to be taken ?” in the previous question, please would you indicate which period(s) of the year you feel this applies to.

11.8%	Peak Summer months
	Easter
	Christmas
49%	All of the above i.e. holiday periods
30.4%	All year round
8%	Other included all Weekends, Bank Holidays, Sunny Days !

Following various alterations in parking management in the last few years, the parking on the outskirts of the village has become regulated with payment systems. Would you be supportive of parts of the centre of village having time limited waiting sections in an effort to improve the flow of customers to the shops and businesses ?

74.6%	Yes
13.9%	No
10.7%	Not Sure

Would you be supportive of parts of the centre of the village having “residents’ only” parking ?

64.8%	Yes
16.4%	No
17.2%	Maybe

Analysis of the Survey comments

In the survey we also asked, “how do the parking issues affect you personally” and “Do you have any other suggestions ?” This second section of the report has attempted to categorise these responses to relate them to the survey questions. Whilst many of the comments were of a general nature, a significant number related to specific areas of the village. As a result, we have attempted to summarise the concerns for each of these areas and provide an update regarding ongoing actions. That nearly 80% of the respondents felt that the present situation was unsustainable and that action needed to be taken, (only 1 person, a 2nd home owner and infrequent visitor, felt the situation was acceptable), these concerns should help inform any decisions on what measures might be proposed to improve the situation.

The Wynding

Unsurprisingly the concerns here were the gridlock experienced on many occasions and the difficulty of access for residents to their properties. Access for emergency vehicles was mentioned, with concern that ambulances getting held up could result in fatalities. Enlargement of the 2 car parks on the Wynding was suggested as being helpful. Last year the Parish Council contacted both the County Council and the Police in response to the problems in the Wynding. As a result, ‘no waiting’ cones were deployed as a temporary measure. Following a local meeting the County Council were asked to progress a scheme for double yellow lines. Although seasonal restrictions were suggested the large number of signs required were felt to be unacceptable and a permanent scheme, which would not require repetitive signs, is now being processed.

Lucker Road

Comments here covered 2 aspects. The shortfall of parking spaces against the stakeholders' needs was highlighted. Put simply, the spaces needed for parking for residents, hotel and B&B guests exceeds those available nearby, regardless of day visitors. The need for a car park off Lucker Road was suggested by many.

The other comments related to the uncontrolled parking along the road leaving the village. These raised concerns for road and pedestrian safety as well as the detrimental effect of damage caused by parking on the verge and the views on the approach to the village. A footpath for pedestrian traffic to Glorum was mentioned by some respondents.

The Parish Council have previously included a footpath to Glorum in our transport priorities and are pursuing this. A preferred scheme has been identified but is held up at present until changes to agricultural policy following Brexit become clearer. Our County Councillor has had money allocated towards upgrading Lucker Road from Bamburgh to Glorum.

Ingram Road / Lindisfarne Avenue

Residents here are affected by uncontrolled parking and the lack of street parking for holiday lets in St.Cuthbert's Garth. Like Lucker Road, residents' needs for spaces, in competition with that for holiday lets and day visitors, exceeds spaces available. In September 2019 the Parish Council asked our County councillor, Guy Renner-Thompson to progress a resident's parking scheme for Ingram Road. This was carried out by Northumberland County Council and a decision notice approving the scheme was published in February 2020, Although the report states that there was no response from the Parish Council, we have been unable to find any consultation from NCC.

In March 2020, at the Parish Council meeting Guy Renner-Thompson reported that consultation regarding Lindisfarne Avenue was complete and he would report back. In June, however, he stated that letters were ready to go out but that the Covid pandemic had delayed them. The letters were reported to have been received in August. To date we have not heard the results of this consultation nor has the Ingram Road scheme been implemented.

A large number of comments suggested additional car parks and comparisons were made with Low Newton, Craster and Holy Island. There, visitors' car parks are established on the periphery of the villages with restrictions on parking in the villages. The use of the Glebe Field was seen to be helpful but, as Lucker Road is a major route into Bamburgh for visitors, another car park opposite the Mizen Head, was suggested as a good location. A voucher scheme for holiday lets, hotels, B&Bs and businesses to park in peripheral car parks was also mentioned. (This operates in Seahouses main car park) Additional car parking has been included in the Parish Council transport priorities for some time.

Time limited parking in the centre of the village, (Front Street / Walled garden) was favourably received on 2 grounds. Firstly, that it would discourage all day parking by visitors, who should be encouraged to park in the main car park, and also pointing out that, by charging for the main car park, the County Council had made this worse. (NCC acknowledged this as a factor in the decision re residents' parking in Ingram Road). The second point was that time limited parking would give a larger turnover of clients for the businesses but also allow residents to 'pop to the shop'. The lack of disabled parking spaces was mentioned alongside time limitations.

Although there was a clear majority support for residents parking it was pointed out that hardly any cars parked in the village centre during lockdown which brings into question whether resident parking is an appropriate solution for the centre on its own. Support for both time limited and resident parking highlights that payment for out-of-village parking and unregulated in-village parking are incompatible.

In many cases, tied to these comments, was the need for enforcement. This was also mentioned in relation to inconsiderate parking on pavements/kerbs which causes access problems for older and visually impaired residents. Also comments that an overall plan to improve the situation was needed rather than isolated 'tinkering' which tended to simply move a problem to a different area.

From the comments it would appear that the balance between the popularity of Bamburgh as a visitor destination, with its positive contribution to the local businesses, against the detrimental effect on the environment and quality of life is felt to be weighted towards the detrimental aspects.

It is obvious that at many times of the year, Bamburgh has insufficient parking provision. Along with other solutions, this survey provides conclusive evidence for the need for several car parking areas, external to the village centre.

The Parish Council will be conveying its concern as a matter of urgency. 2020 saw unprecedented numbers of vehicles in Bamburgh with the main car park totally full. This led to inappropriate parking both within the car park and throughout the village. With the continuing restrictions on international travel, summer 2021 has the potential to attract even more visitors making matters worse. The Parish Council will be working with local land owners, Northumberland County Council and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to explore possible courses of action.