

REPORT TO: Environment & Urban Renewal
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 9 September 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Consultation results re: introduction of waiting restrictions to prevent parking on parts of Ash Priors and Parklands, Widnes.

WARDS: Hough Green

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report on consultation that has been carried out in accordance with the Board minute EUR 27 of the meeting held on 19th November 2014, which requested that a wider consultation exercise be conducted regarding the possible introduction of waiting restrictions in Parklands & Ash Priors.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION That the process be commenced to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order to implement 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions as set out in Appendix A and shown on Appendix D.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At a previous meeting on 19 November 2014, the Board considered a petition containing 27 signatures, together with a covering letter, that cited noise, disturbance and parking problems associated with the Parklands Club. Its receipt followed a limited consultation exercise which had been undertaken on waiting restriction proposals adjacent to the Club (shown on Drg. No. 9754 in Appendix B) and which extended only to the first few properties on Ash Priors and the Parklands club itself. Whilst the petition was not an objection to the parking restriction proposals, one objection was received to the proposals from the Club itself. In addition, two letters were received from/on behalf of the occupiers of properties immediately outside the range of the proposed waiting restrictions, requesting the proposals be extended to cover the frontages of further properties amid concerns that, if introduced as originally proposed, the waiting restrictions would see displacement of the parking issues to outside other nearby homes.

3.2 Having considered the matter, the Board requested that a wider consultation area be agreed with ward councillors. This covered the whole of Ash Priors and Shipton Close, a total of 33 properties. Drg. No. 9755B in Appendix 'C' shows the boundary of this area. This second consultation exercise received 18 responses, with 16 of these being in favour of the introduction of 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions in the immediate area of the Club. Only one of the respondents who opposed these restrictions cited any reasons, these being:

- the lack of enforcement action
- the restrictions would prevent the writer stopping to post letters
- the funding could be better used elsewhere

Should waiting restrictions be introduced, Cheshire Police would be requested to carry out specific enforcement, the restrictions would not prevent a driver stopping to post letters and these proposals are being put forward as a direct result of complaints and requests received from residents of the area.

- 3.3 In undertaking the consultation, residents were advised that any waiting restriction proposals that extended to cover their frontage would be likely to have a direct impact on themselves and their visitors as on-street parking here would be prohibited at all times. They were, as a consequence, asked to comment accordingly. Of 14 respondents, 10 were essentially in favour of seeing waiting restrictions extend further from the immediate area of the Parklands Club and unsurprisingly support for this was strongest in Ash Priors, although the survey results did not display a clearly-defined pattern of being in favour or against along this road.
- 3.4 Of the four questionnaires returned from Shipton Close properties, three were opposed to the introduction of waiting restrictions in their Close and it is, therefore, recommended that no waiting restrictions be introduced in this Close other than immediately around the junction with Parklands in order to protect sightlines.
- 3.5 The following issues were raised during the consultation exercise:
- 2 residents suggested that waiting restrictions on Parklands should be extended further to the south-west beyond the area immediately outside the Parklands Club.
 - 1 resident suggested waiting restrictions should extend over the whole of Ash Priors.
- 3.6 After reviewing the consultation results, ward councillors believe that the legal process should be commenced to introduce “At Any Time” waiting restriction extending further into Ash Priors from Parklands, on Chapel Lane on either side of the Parklands junction and on Parklands itself extending to just west of Ellerton Close with junction protection to Ellerton Close and Clanfield Avenue junctions to protect sight lines. Drg. No. 9755C in Appendix “D” refers and the proposed restrictions are detailed in Appendix “A”. Should the recommendation be approved, a formal consultation exercise would be undertaken with affected frontages and any objections would be reported back to this Board prior to going to the Executive Board in the agreed way.
- 3.7 Compliance with any waiting restriction is dependent on enforcement action from the Police and if the proposed waiting restrictions are introduced, enhanced enforcement will be requested. Should the proposed restrictions lead to parking displacement into surrounding areas, further restrictions may become necessary.
- 3.8 Officers at Knowsley Council have been approached with a view to it proposing the simultaneous introduction of ‘At Any Time’ waiting restrictions on the section of Parklands which falls within its boundary. At the time of writing this report, confirmation as to its intentions, in this regard, are awaited.
- 3.9 The ward councillors for Hough Green have been consulted and support the recommended actions. Cheshire Police has been consulted and has raised no objections to the proposals.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost of introducing the requested waiting restrictions would be approximately £1000. This would be funded through annual traffic management revenue allocations.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The proposed waiting restrictions could serve to prevent obstruction and protect sightlines for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 There is a variable and uncertain road safety risk associated with not introducing these requested waiting restrictions, the degree of risk depending on the degree to which drivers would continue to park so as to obstruct the highway, desire lines and sight lines. This risk would have to be balanced against the proposal to introduce restrictions that would prohibit parking 24 hours a day, every day of the year in response to parking problems associated with events that can occur irregularly and for limited periods of time on a particular day.
- 7.2 There is also a risk that by introducing the restrictions, parking would be displaced further into the estate causing similar problems elsewhere and a consequent demand for additional restrictions. This would be likely to lead to even more pressure on already stretched police enforcement resources and the possible loss of on-street parking for residents.
- 7.3 There is the risk that any residents that would be directly affected by the proposed restrictions, most notably those on Ash Priors, may object when they realise the potential implications of losing on-street parking in the immediate vicinity of their homes in response to a parking problem that occurs occasionally and for limited periods of time.
- 7.4 No full risk assessment is required.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.

- 8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

9.0 KEY DECISIONS ON THE FORWARD PLAN

9.1 These proposals do not constitute a key decision and are not included in the Forward Plan.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 **Document:** Report to Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board, (Item 27, 19th November 2014 meeting) - Objection Relating to Proposed 'At Any Time' Waiting Restrictions, Parklands and Ash Priors, Widnes and Petition about Parklands Club and Associated Issues.

Place of Inspection: Via intranet.

Contact Officer: Steve Johnson, Lead Officer, Traffic & Road Safety

Details of Proposed Order:

[a] "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions.

[b] Details:

Ash Priors: Both sides, for a distance of 100 metres measured along the centreline from the south kerb line of Parklands.

Parklands: Both sides, from a point 10 metres west of the centreline of Ellerton Close, eastwards to the Borough boundary.

Clanfield Avenue: Both sides, from the north kerb line of Parklands northwards for a distance of 11 metres.

Ellerton Close: Both sides, from the south kerb line of Parklands for a distance of 10 metres.

Chapel Lane: Both sides, over a length of 50 metres centred on the junction with Parklands.

[c] Plans: Drg. No. 9755C (attached in Appendix "D").

[d] Associated revocations: None.

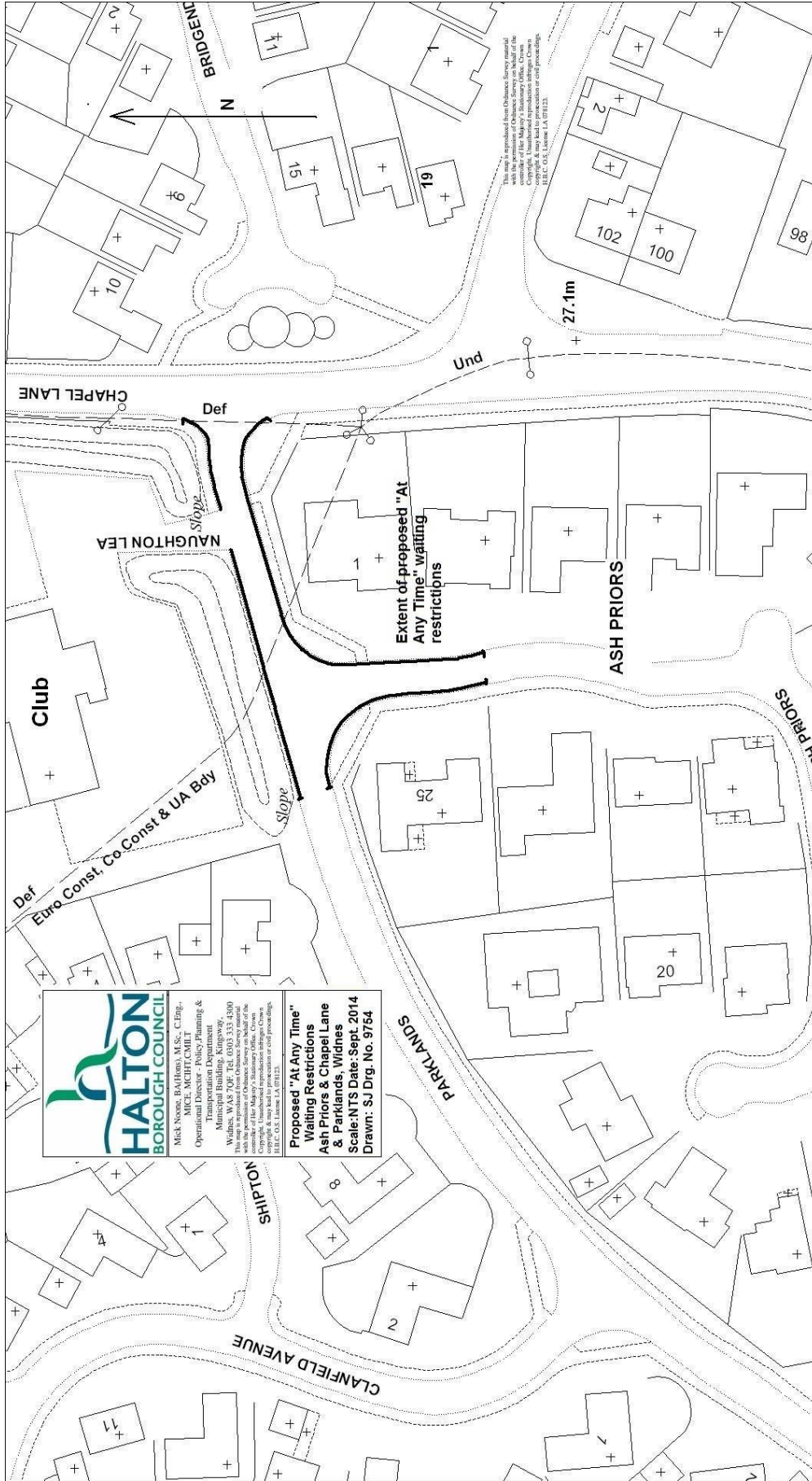
[e] Exemptions: Standard

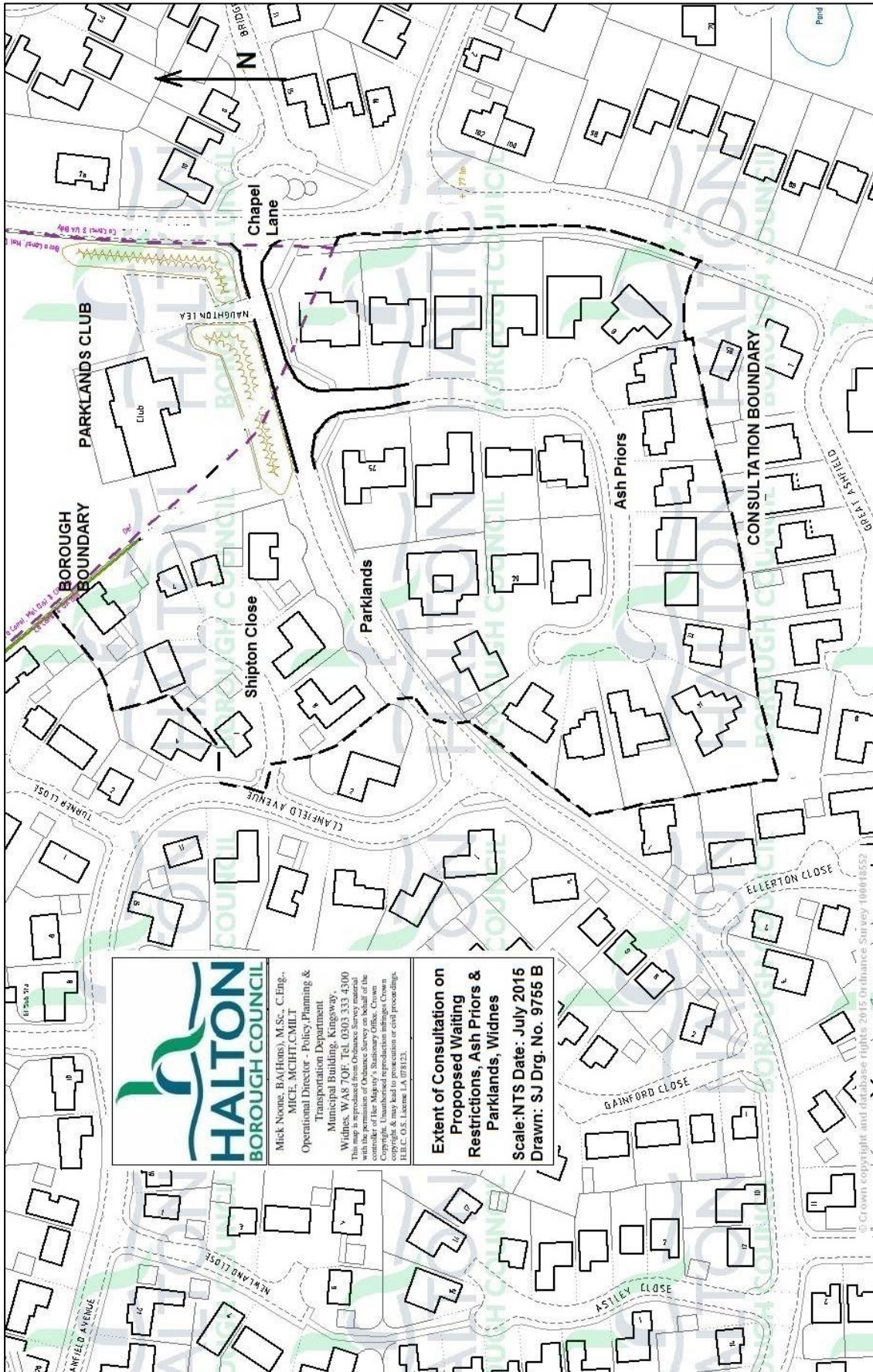
[f] Date to be advertised: ASAP

[g] Date to be effected: ASAP

[h] Advertising code: 2050 1625 W041

Justification: To prevent obstructive parking and protect sightlines around junctions.



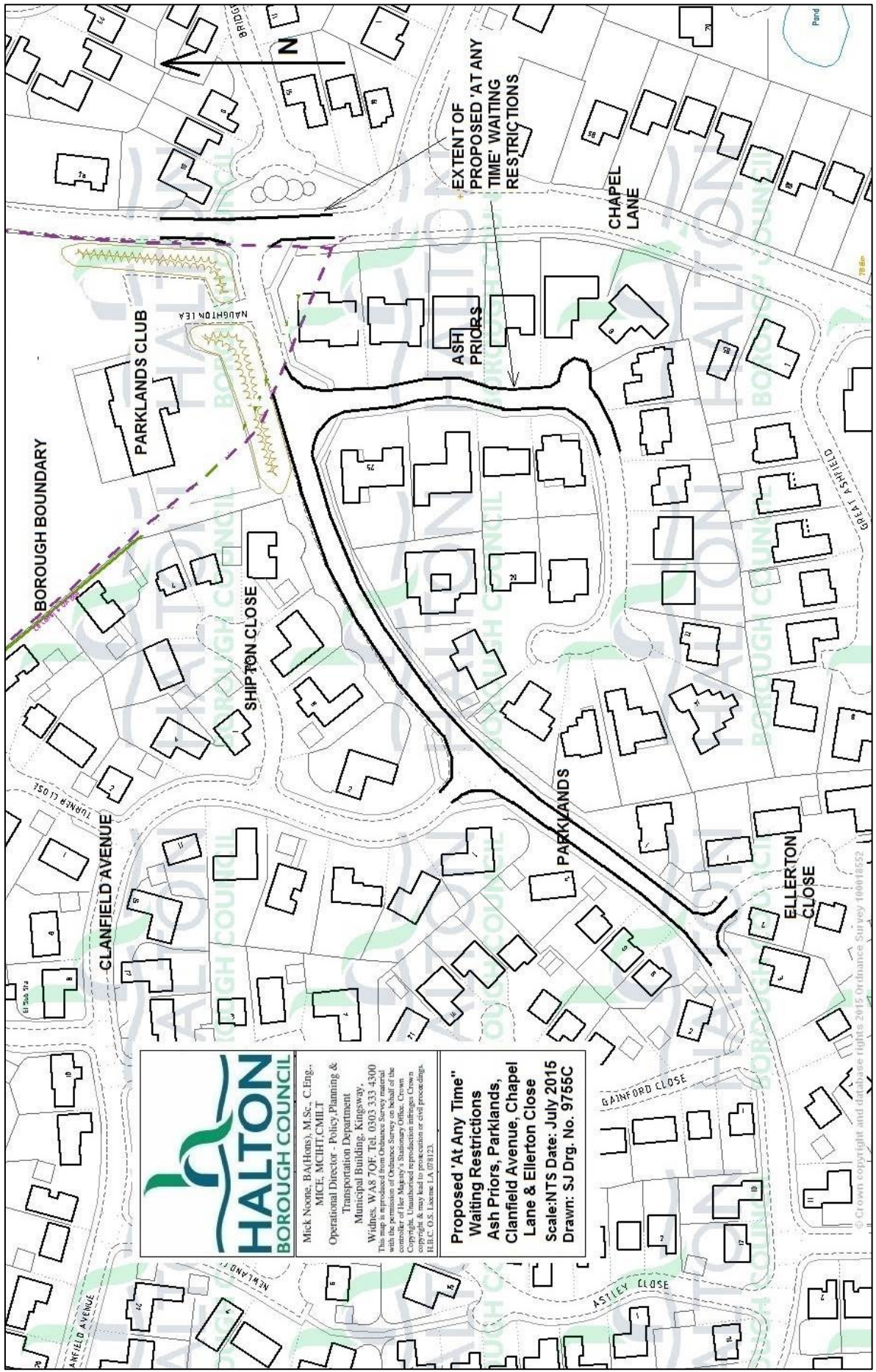


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**Extent of Consultation on
Proposed Waiting
Restrictions, Ash Priors &
Parklands, Widnes**

**Scale: NTS Date: July 2015
Drawn: SJ Drg. No. 9755 B**

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HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Proposed 'At Any Time' Waiting Restrictions
Ash Priors, Parklands, Clanfield Avenue, Chapel Lane & Ellerton Close
Scale: NTS Date: July 2015
Drawn: SJ Drg. No. 9755C

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