

## An Open Letter to Jesmond Councillors

Dear Sir,

### **Request to retain a fair and democratic consultation process with residents for Acorn Road**

We write as North Jesmond residents to condemn the arranging of a public meeting on Acorn Rd by the local councillors on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. Plans for public discussion are now out for open consultation in relation to new designs for improving this popular shopping street and hub of Jesmond and, we are all in favour to consider these inclusively as a community.

We fail to see how calling a 'public' meeting at this point will contribute anything but dissension for political gain. It is also likely to be divisive. A considerable open debate has already taken place over the plans – at a public meeting held in November last year, at a stall during the Community Festival in May, at a week of presentations in Jesmond library, and also on line during the present 'Let's Talk' consultation. There are also three focused opportunities during the week on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> for residents to discuss the plans with council staff on the street itself.

It is clear from these public discussions that there are strongly opposing views held by members of the local community, from those who wish to see no changes in Acorn Rd to those who wish to see complete pedestrianisation. There are also questions on prospective traffic flow which cannot be answered at the present time. It is therefore essential to hold a free and fair collation of ALL resident views.

We fear that the meeting will be used by a vocal minority who are in opposition to taking democratic decisions based on the opinion of all Jesmond residents, and will disrupt the process which is already underway. It is also likely that many residents will already have returned their consultation forms. We respectfully ask the councillors to cancel this meeting and await the results of the written and on-line consultation.

Yours sincerely,

*Shehla Naqvi North – North Jesmond resident & Green Party Member*

*Also:*

*Ian Francis Hudson*

*Paul Brewster*

*Patricia Durham*

*Nina Duggan*

*Christopher Skipsey*

*Lorraine Quinn*

*Janice Kirkbride*

*Katherine Reilly*

*Alan Ramsey*  
*Siu Lin*  
*Pooja Dewan*  
*Mima Cattan*  
*Steve Emsley*  
*Martin Stanley*  
*Peter Kellett*  
*Isobel Thorne*  
*Dr Dewan*  
*Ann Dennison*  
*Desmond Hill*  
*Alan Brice*