

Rt Hon Nick Brown MP
1 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1YE

Phone: 0191 211 5000
Fax: 0191 211 4908
Email: pat.ritchie@newcastle.gov.uk
www.newcastle.gov.uk

27 November 2014

Our ref: PR/MJ
Your ref: NHB/DH/1114

Dear Nick,

Proposals for the redevelopment of Acorn Road, Jesmond

I refer to your letter dated 7th November 2014 regarding Acorn Road, which we discussed when we met on 14th November. I said I would provide you with a more up-to-date position, particularly the significant progress we have made in minimising the loss of on-street parking spaces as part of the scheme. I will also outline the consultation that we have completed and next steps.

The Acorn Road proposals are primarily a public realm improvement scheme. We are investing in the street scape, which will result in improved economic wellbeing for the street, as well as better accessibility and cycling provision. A government grant has been provided by the Cycle City Ambition Fund.

The scheme has been developed by council officers and two illustrations were developed.

- Illustration 1 – introduction of a one way street with cycle contra flow provision, central and junction raised tables with the potential loss of up to ten on-street parking spaces
- Illustration 2 – maintain two way street with raised table at junctions and side road and two build outs for cycle parking with the potential loss of up to eight on-street parking spaces.

Of the 624 responses received within the consultation period, 48% supported illustration 1, 31% supported illustration 2, 13% preferred 'no change' and 8% stated no clear preference. Following this the Cycle City Programme Coordination Group recommended that the Council progress illustration 1 and this proposal is now being taken through the detailed design phase.

Since we met significant progress has been made to develop the scheme in response to the concerns raised during consultation. It appears that the main concern was the

If you need this information in another format or language, please contact the person who sent it.

proposed loss of up to 10 on-street parking spaces, although questions were also raised about road safety, consultation and evaluation. Our engineers have been working to maximise the benefits of the scheme and minimise its impacts. As such we have sought to minimise the reduction in on-street parking as far as possible. It now appears that the scheme will result in the loss of up to three on-street parking spaces. It may be possible to reduce this further as we develop the design.

Consultation process

In response to your questions about the consultation process, we have a statutory duty to consult on the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders. This will be undertaken upon completion of the detailed design.

The consultation that took place between 1st and 21st September was informal. We were keen to ensure that we are able to reflect the needs of the community in the next phase of design. Views were collected via a paper survey form, three street events, Let's Talk Newcastle Forum and by direct email. In addition, a leaflet was sent to every household in North Jesmond ward.

Ahead of the consultation, discussions were held with ward members in North and South Jesmond. The Assistant Director of Development, in conjunction with members, decided that only residents for North Jesmond would be consulted on the proposals.

Next steps

As already mentioned, a working group has been established to develop specific design elements of the scheme. Since the proposal to develop illustration one was taken forward a number of letters, emails and petitions both in favour and against the proposal have been received. Council officers are currently meeting retailers and other stakeholders to discuss their concerns.

Once we have a completed design, a statutory consultation process will begin to alter traffic regulation orders as required to develop the proposals. This provides an additional opportunity for all stake holders to raise any concerns with the proposal.

Upon satisfactorily completing this process, a detailed delivery and construction programme will be developed. This would be communicated to affected properties and it is envisaged that the scheme will be complete by September 2015.

I hope that this reassures you that the proposals represent a significant investment in the street scape of Acorn Road, which will make it a more desirable location for shoppers. As we develop the design we have been able to respond to the concerns raised during consultation to ensure the scheme enhances the area.

Yours sincerely

Pat Ritchie
Chief Executive

If you need this information in another format or language, please contact the person who sent it.