



## COUNCIL MEETING

21 November 2024

Question from Ms P Hall to Full Council,  
on behalf of residents in NE9 6PD

### The Borough Council of Gateshead (Durham Road, Low Fell) (Bus Lane and Waiting Restrictions) Traffic Regulation Order

#### Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Amendment 1

As you will be aware on March 29th, 2024, safety hatchings were removed from the road outside our properties and a bus lane appeared overnight, without any advanced warning or notification.

When we challenged the Council over this situation it was agreed that the work had been carried out unlawfully and the bus lane was withdrawn (covered up) after a couple of weeks.

We were then confronted with a coned situation which has been in place since April 19th, 2024. (now into the 8/9th month with great inconvenience)

On 25th June 2024...

A new Amended order was then sent out for consultation stating: -

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“A Bus lane-Local Buses, Cyclists and hackney Carriages-Durham Road South Bound

.....for 60 metres. The additional length of bus lane will provide more direct and quicker access into Gateshead town centre and routes into the city centre”

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Objections were submitted on 8th July 2024, but we have had no notification if our objections were even considered or the results of the consultation.

#### Regarding the Amendment

First of all, we are on the South bound carriage way coming out of the centres so this cannot be a true reflection of the situation. The order for consultation is erroneous as the justification given for the works was to provide “more direct and quicker access to Gateshead. This road is south bound to Birtley and beyond, therefore is of no benefit to the bus service in to town.

1. The Hatchings were put in place by Gateshead Council for safety reasons due to fatalities on the road and that reason is still valid today.

2. The creating of a bus Lane on this short section of road makes it extremely difficult for access and exit of our properties.
3. We are not aware of any congestion on this section of road as the police traffic cameras will show even with the A1 road works at Eighton Lodge. However, many drivers disregard the Highway Laws and begin to speed up going into a 40-speed limit and have little patience with residents trying to access or exit our properties which now requires a reversing across two lanes of road.
4. The old road situation serves extremely well and has done for more than 30 years, and we would like to know what the council is going to do now to correct this position.
5. We would like to ask the Council if they can admit that this was a mistake and rectify the situation by restoring the road markings to their former state. The Amendment 1(f) states, "for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs" Our situation as it exists in the presence does not do this.
6. The junction at Calderwood Crescent is a very busy pedestrian crossing point to access the Stone Trough bus stop to commute to Gateshead and Newcastle and the visibility and speed is detrimental to the safety of everyone.

We have had several email communications with Councillors and council employees and had few or no responses. Can we ask what the council's policy is on answering constituents' queries and questions. Councillors have been invited to come and see the situation first hand and are invited again to do so, or even carry out a traffic monitoring exercise.

Thank you for your time and listening to our questions and this concludes my comments.