



NORTH TYNESIDE
COMMUNITY
INDEPENDENTS

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To:

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Chronicle Live

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Proposed Cycle Scheme for Preston Road

Preston Road has been part of a proposed cycle scheme for North Tyneside for the past 3 years. There has been a 'consultation', by North Tyneside Council, regarding this proposal. As per usual, a lot of this has taken place online with people having to make comments on the proposed cycle lane which has already been drawn up by the council.

Several Preston Road residents raised concerns about the positioning of the lane and how it impeded their access to their homes. However, they also made some good suggestions on how their problems could be overcome.

Street Life, which campaigns for safer streets, cycle infrastructure as well as traffic free school streets, also had some concerns about the scheme during the consultation in 2021. After conversations with Councillors and Officers, they were assured that the scheme would start in 2022.

After further consultation and amendments to the plans it was confirmed that the construction of the cycle lane would start in spring 2023. It was then put back to summer 2024.

However, after a meeting arranged by local Tory Councillors, where a few residents voiced their concerns, the scheme was abandoned. Even though this road is recognised as needing safety measures and ranked fourth in priority as part of the Monkseaton to North Shields route.



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The council claim they have abandoned the scheme after listening to residents but how many residents did, they listen to? The Street Life group are questioning why this has happened and are wanting answers. They are wanting more residents to become involved and contact their Councillors, the North Tyneside Mayor as well as the regional Mayor.

Cycle routes that are part of the Boroughs plan for safe travel for children to their school should not become a political football. Everyone should be working together so we can expand sustainable travel, improve road safety and encourage our young people to take up cycling as an alternative to cars. It's better for their health and the health of the planet.

Sincerely,

Cathy Davis

North Tyneside Community Independent



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