

Correspondence sent directly to Groundwork to be included in the consultation

Dear Sir or madam

With reference to your letter dated November 2018 about Victoria Rd Consultation.

Make all streets around the victoria rd residential parking only with permit parking only as although permit parking is already in place in parts of the streets along bedford street and Herbert Street ect commuters for thr train and the Post Office are still parking in these streets where permit parking is not marked instead of using the car parks provided. Although parking wardens are supposed to check on areas these are few and far between.

A major problem is rubbish bags being left out side the bin on the junction of Clifton Rd and Victoria Rd. these bins are emptied every morning but black bags are being left.

A regular dumping area is the bottom of the steps of the back lane of Victoria Rd and Herbert Street. Also the steps which are full of fag ends and rubbish which the Council are now cleaning fournightly after complaints.

The council have removed the cobles from the town centre near the town hall because of the weight of vechiles using the road when are they going to look at the back lane of Herbert Street to Victoria Rd as it is in a complete stae due to the heavy vechiles using it every day as Sainsbury can have 2 deliveries a day let alone deliceries to the pubs and shops all using the back lane. in Clifton Rd by Sainsbury,s is the Local shop which uses the Loadind bay which is marked out on the rd WHY CANT SAINSBURY ?

When coming out of Victoria Rd Station the first thing that confronts you is the street mess by the pub on thre left with bottles left against the wall broken glass on the pavement.

Victoria Rd looks tired as although building improvements are being made to some buildings ie the Coachman others like the former Speedwell although open now has a hotel has had a metal barrier across the front door entrance for over a year.

Some of the buildings that are buisnesses although they have done the shops to a good standard the rest of the buildings could do with refreshing with paint.

Between 5pm and 7pm the junction of Victoria Rd and Clifton Rd is a nightmare as cars and vans are parking on double yellow lines to either go to Sainsbury,s or the hole in the wall.

A major concern is the corner shop on the junction os Victoria Rd and Bedford Street which is close to a Zebra crossing. Outside the shop are zig zaggs painted on the rd and double yellow lines in Bedford Street on both sides of the rd yet cars park illegally causing problems for cars and predestians in crossing the roads.

Mondays and Thursdays are bad due to the Cattle Market traffic of Articulated vechiles and large tractors going to and from the Clifton Rd and Parkside.

The Council have placed flower beds in the town why not do the same in Victoria rd but put on lamposts from the Station to the very top of Victoris Rd,. or some plaques cut out in the

design of trains ie the rocket the Mallard ect with gold paing edging to make the stand out.

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Yours thankfully

However, I do have comments to make in your consultation exercise as follows:

- 1) I think both the northern and southern back lanes should be resurfaced. They are both in a poor state of repair.
- 2) Royal Mail should be requested to provide enough parking spaces for customers using the office/collection room. At present, the congestion caused is very bad.
- 3) Double yellow lines are everywhere, in the back lanes, on the side roads and on Victoria Road but vehicles park with impunity. Wardens are not seen.

This begs the question-are the yellow lines really needed in all locations ?

- 4) Litter is everywhere. Litter picking should be done on, at the minimum, a daily basis. This is a prime entrance to our town.

Perhaps Street Champions should be enrolled here.

I trust my remarks will be taken into consideration.

Best regards, RESIDENT

As someone who walks from my home in Bedford Street, then up or down Victoria Road several times a day I have a few observations.

1. More greenery on Victoria Road would be nice – perhaps the local in bloom organisation or a local allotment or horticultural society could work with the local shop keepers to establish some window boxes /planters and ensure they are cared for.
2. The shop on the corner of Bedford Street and Victoria Road – whilst providing a useful service - is a bit of an eye sore – and given it is one of the first things people see when turning into Victoria Road – it gives a poor first impression. It would be good if whoever owns the freehold of this building was offered support to improve the look - power washing off the grey paint to reveal the old brick would be a huge

improvement. Painting the boards on the windows would also help (perhaps a local art college or artist could help out with this – painting the boards to look like a window with a vase of flowers on the sill for example). Given its unkempt state it is fast becoming a target for graffiti and this is a recent phenomenon – so it would be good if it was nipped in the bud quickly.

3. All of the back lanes in the area suffer from fly tipping, rubbish being left and dog poo being left. This is extremely frustrating for local residents and makes it difficult for us to put out our own rubbish.
4. The pavement in Bedford street is in a noticeably poorer condition than other streets in the area – all of the paving need re-laying so that it is level. At the moment there are multiple trip hazards and many uneven, broken and cracked paving stones – to re-lay the pavement and rectify these problems would make a huge difference. The piecemeal repairs that have been undertaken in the past are inadequate and for the most part these were not fit for purpose – quickly looking worse than the pavings they replaced.
5. To change the residents' parking scheme so that the parking permit is linked to a particular house rather than a particular car registration – would make the scheme more user friendly, more attractive to more people, would also be a better revenue generator for the council.
6. The posts of the signs for the residents' parking scheme inhibit pedestrian access on the pavement, making it difficult for anyone who lacks mobility, has luggage or is pushing a pram, using a mobility scooter etc.

Thank you

Kind regards

RESIDENT

Thank you for your response.

I was wondering how much you wanted ideas to fit in with any future changes to the Cattle Market site and the re-vamped station complex? It seems to me that any ideas cannot really be taken in isolation.

For example pick-up and drop-off of passengers is a current problem at peak times as cars regularly park on double yellow lines near the station entrance because space in the station is limited. Then there are regular bus services and taxis that sometimes over-spill their designated area, as well as patient parking sometimes extending up towards the station or

opposite the surgery, plus the odd drop off of band equipment or passengers at the pub by the station, together with traffic going to and from Park Lane.

How will the future traffic plans look? Particularly if either new homes and/or parking facilities replace the market.

I have heard some people suggest pedestrianisation around the station entrance, but that could only happen if there are road changes - difficult if the current road structure exists.

Plus there have been a few changes to parking for people using the Post Office delivery office to collect mail - there are not even any signs to tell people to use the adjacent car park (not that there are any designated places in it at the moment as far as I could see this afternoon) and people still park on the double yellow lines on the approach anyway.

The whole area seems uncoordinated, uncontrolled and messy, particularly thanks to delivery drivers for the takeaways who even park on the zebra crossing sometimes.

Add to that parking in the back lanes - it really needs a strategic approach to traffic management and the type and number of takeaway shops, etc to make the area at all welcoming to visitors to or residents in the town.

Until this is done, it seems an unnecessary waste of money to do much about the back roads.

Regards

RESIDENT

Saturday 19th. January 2019

Ms. J. Underwood
Groundwork NE & Cumbria
123, Victoria Road,
DARLINGTON

Dear Ms. Underwood,

Thankyou for your letter concerning my appointment as an ambassador for Victoria Road and I await with anticipation the next consultation meeting. One of the real problems in modern day Britain is the volume of traffic on the roads and the authorities' ineptitude in dealing with it. On Victoria Road for example, the council's unswerving obsession with "cosmetic engineering" has resulted in those ridiculous outcrops on the four corners at the junction with Park Place and Clifton Road. The proliferation of double yellow lines and regular visits from "enforcement officers", mean that motorists are in a permanent state of anxiety about short term waiting. The recent decision to extend the bus stop restricts space further and the car park in Park place is too remote and down hill to serve "passing trade". Furthermore, the side streets and rear lanes such as Backhouse Street East, are absolutely choked with vehicles although we can't be sure who owns them. It seems unlikely that there will be any change in council policy on highways and so I can think of only one possible solution: a small short term parking area for motorists to access free of charge for the duration of their visit to Victoria Road, in the same way that the doctor's surgery has its own car park.

I have not seen any of the proposals for the redevelopment of Victoria Road, but I understand that there may be some demolition of old buildings along the southern side of the carriageway. This would surely provide some space for a "drive in", the key being that it is not made use of by people just as a regular long term car park.

Perhaps you would give my proposal some thought and maybe even pass it forward as a feasible option. I look forward to seeing you again at one of the meetings.

Yours sincerely,

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BINS LIPS IN BACK
LANE AND RUBBISH
BAGS AGAINST WALL



AS YOU CAN SEE RUBBISH
BANKNOCKED OVER ON
FRIDAY MORNING STILL THERE
AFTER REFUSE WAGON COLLECTED
RUBBISH STILL THERE TODAY
23/11/2019



IN THE PICTURE SHOW STATE OF
CONCRETE IN BACK LANE DUE TO
THE AMOUNT OF RUBBISH BEING
GIVEN UP PLEASE NOTE ALL BLUE
BINS ARE UNLOCKED AND NOT
FIXED BY CHAINS TO WALLS
PICTURE TAKEN MONDAY 23/11/2019



AS SEEN IN PICTURE
SAINSBURY HAVE REINFORCED
A RAP FROM THE AREA OF
WAGON TO GET THEIR TRUCKETS
OFF AND AS YOU CAN SEE
PACKED SAINSBURY COBBLES ARE
LEVEL FROM LAMPPOST DOWN TO
DRAINAGE



PICTURE TAKEN 21/11/2019



