

From: [thomas.newell](#)
To: [A1 Birtley to Coal House](#)
Subject: Submission from Gateshead Green Party
Date: 09 July 2020 10:46:12
Attachments: [Gateshead Green Party_OPEN FLOOR HEARING1_22nd JUNE 2020.pdf](#)

Dear All

I just wanted to submit the written communication that was delivered at the Open Hearing on the 22nd of June 2020. Sincerest apologies that this is submitted slightly later, trust and hope that it will be received ok.

Thank you.

Many thanks and kind regards

Tom Newell

GATESHEAD GREEN PARTY

ORAL STATEMENT from OPEN FLOOR HEARING1 22nd JUNE 2020

Hello, my name is Thomas Newell and I am here today to represent and speak on the behalf of Gateshead Green Party.

As our written directive states, we wholly object to the scheme of widening the A1 from Coal House junction to Birtley.

We feel this scheme is a step in the wrong direction and indeed a whole step back in regards to the direction in which Gateshead should be heading. The UK and in turn the whole of the world is in the state of a climate emergency. Gateshead council declared that it wanted to be carbon neutral by 2030, by allowing this scheme to commence, it is very hard to see how that objective can be achieved. We should be putting all of our funds and energies into progressive new steps to try and achieve this goal as well as supporting creative methods of transport for large sectors of the public and encouraging an alternative method of transport than the fossil fuel vehicle. The widening of the A1 road will only encourage more cars, more traffic, more pollution and more noise.

Any major civil engineering scheme such as this is going to cost lots of money but this money can surely be re-directed into alternative green areas and the green recovery which is now needed more than ever. Green alternatives will give much longer term benefit as such as greater skilled employment, industry growth, helping the environment and raising well being of the public.

We are greatly concerned that a great deal of wildlife and natural green areas are going to be destroyed and permanently affected not only in the short term but in the long term as a scheme of this size is implemented, chiefly Long Acre Wood, in and around Allerdene Burn and The Angel of the North.

Not only will this affect the wildlife but also have a great effect on the residents of the area. Increased noise, disruptions, extra traffic, pollution as well as areas of natural beauty no longer being able to be enjoyed recreationally. Being able to enjoy our green spaces is absolutely vital, our health and well being must be supported and not affected.

Gateshead is a very suburban and rural area and this whole scheme is going to create a great disturbance to all its inhabitants (individuals, families, wild life).

We, the Gateshead Green Party, please request that the order for this scheme to proceed be rescinded. We hope that Gateshead as a whole can find a Green alternative path to help reach our Carbon Neutral deadline and invest in a greener healthier future.

Addition (not communicated at the hearing):

As the current world continues to change and evolve to a new working environment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic it is becoming clear that more and more of the working community will be able to work from home. This in turn will lead to less commuters on the road travelling to and from work. It is highly likely that the congestion once seen at certain areas is likely to drop considerably and the need for widening roads is less and less important.