



Northumberland County Council

To the Occupier

Your ref:

Our ref: CE/220009-01

Email: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Date: Thursday 28th September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

A196 North Seaton Road, Ashington – Walking and Cycling Scheme

Background - The UK government announced £200 million worth of funding to deliver new walking and cycling schemes across England as part of a £2 billion commitment to active travel. Across the UK, local authorities were invited to submit bids from the 'Active Travel Fund (ATF) Round 3', to support the delivery of schemes and support healthier and happier communities. Northumberland County Council were successful in bidding for funds that would form a continuous walking and cycling link along North Seaton Road in Ashington.

Scheme Proposals - The proposed route will seek to provide a link from the new Northumberland Line railway station and the shopping area to the north, servicing schools and homes along North Seaton Road leading to Newbiggin Road to the south. A mix of shared use footway / cycleway and fully segregated two-way cycle lane will run along the North Seaton Road. Residential access and existing parking will remain in place. A series of controlled and uncontrolled crossings will be introduced at specific locations to ensure continuity and for safety reasons. Further details can be found on the enclosed plans.

What is the Active Travel Fund 3 - The UK government announced £200 million worth of funding to deliver new walking and cycling schemes across England as part of a £2 billion commitment to active travel. Across the UK, local authorities were invited to submit bids for the Fund, to support the delivery of schemes which aligned with the latest guidance and could support healthier and happier communities. Funding allocations were announced by the Department for Transport in May 2022.

Our Bid - Of the nine schemes that were awarded funding across the North East, two are located in Northumberland; one in Blyth, and this one in Ashington. The main objective of the scheme is to improve active travel connectivity by creating segregated walking and cycling links across the towns which facilitate safer and healthier travel.

It is anticipated that, by delivering improved infrastructure this would:

- Contribute towards the Councils commitment to improve facilities for sustainable travel as part of its overall Climate Action Plan.
- Take advantage of existing walking and cycling that has been established in this area and crucially seek to improve safety for existing and potential users. For example, the scheme will be designed in accordance with the latest design standards for walking and cycling infrastructure.
- Limit the impact on motorists by making use of existing footway and verge where possible.
- Increase the opportunity for walking and cycling suitable for all users, removing potential barriers to cycling as a result.
- Link into future opportunities to further develop the route.

Alignment with The Big Northumberland Gear Change - As well as offering a range of economic, social and environmental benefits to local residents and businesses, the proposals also align with the Big Northumberland Gear Change campaign, which is aimed at encouraging people to adopt more sustainable habits in terms of transport by walking, cycling and using public transport more often. For more information, please visit: <https://www.northumberlandgearchange.co.uk/>

Why your views matter - This consultation follows an initial 'Drop in' event that was held in June at Ashington Leisure Centre as well as an online consultation. Feedback from those sessions has been incorporated into the designs presented and this is an opportunity for you to have your say on the scheme that is being brought forward. We'll use your responses to further shape and refine the detailed designs of the proposals. Please note this consultation isn't seeking views on the justification for the route.

We want to understand how local residents and businesses currently use the routes at present, any issues that exist, and whether or not the proposals would encourage you to walk or cycle more often. The feedback provided will give us an understanding on how to shape the schemes to ensure that they cater for the needs of those living and working within the areas.

If you have further queries beyond the consultation, or need to request a hard copy of the information, please contact our dedicated mailbox: highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk



About you

The questions in this section will help us to understand more about the audience we have reached as part of our consultation. Your answers will only be used for the purpose of informing the analysis of this survey and will be treated confidentially, and in line with Northumberland County Councils GDPR privacy policies.

1. What is your name?
2. What is the name of your organisation? (If applicable)
3. What is your email address?
4. What is your postcode?
5. Which best described you? (Local resident / local worker / local resident and worker / representative of local business / representative of local organisation / visitor / Other)
6. How did you hear about this consultation? (consultation letter / social media / newspaper article / email / NCC website / newsletter)

A196 North Seaton Road, Ashington ATF3 Proposals

Details of the preliminary designs can be found using the following link -
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Roads/Traffic.aspx>

Please answer the questions below and provide feedback on the proposals.

1. Do you currently use the route for active travel? (Yes / No)
 - Please specify what mode you currently use along the route (i.e., walk, cycle, wheeling or scooting)
2. Please tell us what problems you experience along the route at present.
3. Do you support the ATF proposals along North Seaton Road, Ashington?

- Completely support
- Partially support
- Neither for nor against
- Partially oppose
- Completely oppose

4. Do you wish to comment on the proposals along North Seaton Road, Ashington? (Yes / No)
[Please type your response here].

5. Would the proposals encourage you to walk or cycle more often?

Further information and what happens next?

Following the completion of this consultation process, we will assess the feedback received for this proposal and review the designs accordingly. Following that, the proposals will be developed further ahead of delivery.

The project timeline is summarised below:

- Drop-in Sessions and online consultation - completed in June 2023.
- Final consultation exercise to be complete in September 2023.
- Detailed design refinement to commence in October 2023 until November 2023.
- Scheme underway in early Spring 2024.
- Scheme opening in Summer 2024

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Highways Improvement Officer