

Proposed car park on the former Morpeth First School site, Goose Hill

Criticisms of the current plan:

The consultant employed by NCC to compile a transport assessment into potential traffic flow problems at the junction of Goose Hill and Castle Bank conducted its survey on only one day, Thursday 27th February 2020, between 7.00 am and 10.00 am and 3.00 pm and 7 pm. This data is now out of date, given the effect of the pandemic on traffic flows. It also fails to catch the complexities of traffic movements at the Goose Hill/Castle Bank junction across the course of the week.

This survey was taken when the school had closed down so not a true reflection on how that junction is affected by traffic volume.

Changes in traffic flow since February 2020

- (a) The flow of traffic around around Middle Greens has changed enormously. Levels of traffic movement may have decreased during lockdown but have been significantly increased by the number of **delivery vehicles** and the **vehicles of tradespeople**. vehicles registered to residents in the area has increased rapidly in the last few years.
- (b) **Local residents** have for many years complained of the length of waiting times to turn in either direction at the end of Goose Hill. Turning right, onto Telford Bridge can only be achieved if the Pelican crossing is activated and a driver coming down Castle Bank, kindly lets drivers from Goose Hill into the stream of traffic.
- (c) The issue of the increased number of people who will need to use the Pelican crossing at peak times does not seem to have been factored into calculations about the hold ups to traffic travelling north and south.

If the construction to the entrance of the car park goes ahead on the basis of the Transport Assessment there are likely to be multiple consequences:

- (a) Increased levels of frustration for both residents who wish to leave the area and motorists who wish to enter it to use the long-term car park.
- (b) Queuing traffic will lead to an accumulation of toxic emissions, specifically carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. This will be of great concern to the residents of William Turner Court, who are older adults and may have existing health conditions as well as the residents of the bungalows for older adults and the residents of Tenter Terrace and young children and babies.

- (c) Increased risk to both vulnerable adults with mobility problems and young children due to the proximity of construction work and vehicles.
- (d) Motorists frustrated with queuing could be found ignoring the 'no entry except for access to off street premises' sign. Parking within the area is already problematic. Illegal parking behaviour already causes a great deal of frustration and anger. The only body that can take action to prevent this occurring is the Police.

Possible unintended adverse consequences

- (a) If local residents experience delays in being able to leave the area via Goose Hill, they may choose instead to use the Lonnen which leads up from the end of Crawford Terrace towards Coopies Lane Industrial Estate. This is one way only. Its use is inevitable if cars cannot leave via the junction. Its illegal use was established by the Highways Department of NCC several years ago.
- (b) If the predicted difficulties do occur and it is necessary to take remedial action later then this will lead to a potentially large expenditure of taxpayer's money.
- (c) There are potential concerns over mental health and wellbeing of those who live in immediate proximity of the site. Industrial style landscape is proven to have negative effects on mental health, amplifying the effects of stress and anxiety. Hence many cities investing in 'Green space' where they can. The residents at William Turner court, Tenter terrace and the bungalows will not only be negatively affected by the view of construction over a long period, but also the characterless product of that construction.
- (d) A large carpark is not a desirable feature and seems out of place in a market town estate. This could devalue any properties within Middle Greens estate for any of the reasons highlighted in this representation. Furthermore if the carpark is to be as 'much needed' as is stated the overall outcome of this construction is chaos, There will be excessive noise and air pollution without any foliage or trees to offset this, which in the current climate is very poor etiquette.

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