

From: [cheryl gibb](#)
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Proposed Underpass Ashington OBJECTION
Date: 08 June 2021 08:26:44
Attachments: [Image.jpeg](#)
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Dear Sir/ Madam,

1 Darnley Road,
Ashington
NE63 8BB
Tel: 07929847892

Please can you add this to my original objection along with photos. I would also like be involved within the planning discussion at any hearings or whatever you call it.

I would like to OBJECT to the proposed Underpass which has been applied from NCC to the Secretary of State for Transport. We came across the proposal having had a notice attached to a lamppost at the side of our property (see attached), no information has otherwise been given to ourselves or other residents. The information also kept disappearing and has only been put on 4 lampposts that I can see, not even on the streets which it will impact.

The underpass is due to be sited at the side of our property, which we heavily object to as well as the other entrance to be facing the rear of properties which are homes to the elderly and vulnerable. The exit again impacts residents in Oakland terrace and Rutland Street and is meters away from where the station is to be sited. It would make sense for an underpass to be there and not impacting all of our homes. As you can see on my attached photograph from my landing window of where they plan to put it there is very little room to place to underpass, the track from the metal fence is literally meters from the track and we are very worried about the impact this will have on our property, added to an increase in trains. We are already seeing an impact of the freight trains on the exterior walls. No consideration has gone into any of this nor do I expect anyone has actually come and had a look at the site either (planning seems to have been done in Manchester). No groundwork has also been undertaken here, the drilling rigs were further up, the area also floods on both sides as we have put in extra drainage. This is also shown up on land searches.

Added to this is the loss of value, I did not pay over £150,000 for our property to have a disgusting underpass sited next to it, residents in my street agree to this as I went an spoke to about 20+ houses about the plans and no one knew about them and all were quite taken aback. The information is not even on NCC website, social media etc to enable people to have a say. Out of the 3 options NCC proposed in the original consultations an underpass was least in favour so why go for it at all?

There is currently a crossing further up, which is used but it would make more sense to close this, as a barrier is seen to be unsafe and a footbridge (again we did not want) was decided against due to antisocial behaviour. Just close the crossing but keep the footpaths that run parallel to the line, it makes no different adding 5 minutes for people to walk around and would reduce the antisocial behaviour that we are seeing at the minute OR site the underpass by the station where it is out in the open.

Granted some people genuinely use the crossing, however we are seeing more and more antisocial behaviour. We as well as neighbours have installed CCTV as a result of cars being broken into, drug addicts loitering around (police do not come out), kids setting fires (4 in the last few weeks alone) and coming to watch the brigade put it out then go and set another, motorbikes crossing and riding on the paths at speed, teens hanging around and throwing stones off the lines at people or into people's gardens and fly-tipping to name a few. What do you think an underpass will cause???? This will only cause it to increase along with graffiti and violence. Plus with it being in an isolated area facing back gardens and the side of a house no one will be

aware of incidents taking place. We might hear something if in the garden but unlikely if in doors.

No amounts of CCTV will prevent this and after the incident in Cramlington a couple of weeks ago whereby a man was murdered by an underpass very similar to what is proposed here, none of us would feel safe let alone want it there. It would be much better being sited by the station whereby it will be more open and have people around more. Here it is very very isolated. As a female I would not walk through this nor would I walk through with my young children. The police are stretched already and do not attend to incidents reported, we have had to send them CCTV footage. How are the police going to respond to an increase in calls as a result of this?

There is very little involvement or thought gone into this regarding the residents and their general safety or the impact this will have on their lives, despite you supposedly allowing an 'open' consultation which this is far from, and claiming to say how you are thinking of the residents. How, when you cannot even inform them!

I look forward to hearing your response,

Kind regards,

Cheryl Gibb



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