

To the Editor of The Derby Telegraph,

Derby City Council have gone out to consultation about their proposals to make changes around Stafford St where they have to reduce the levels of air pollution to below the legal limit.

The proposal will restrict access to motorised vehicles using Stafford St by decreasing the amount of space and using a more advanced traffic management system ie traffic lights.

This approach will not reduce motorised vehicle numbers but push them onto other already congested streets in particular Friargate/ Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter New Road and Uttoxeter Old Road. This will increase congestion and pollution on those roads. It may even lead to those roads then breaking the legal limits.

There is also no mention in the proposal of positive infrastructure interventions to support increased active travel (ie cycling and walking). In fact it is worse than that. The proposal includes the removal of two pieces of infrastructure that support cycling.

The picture below shows some infrastructure at the Friargate/ Brick St junction which allow cyclists to turn right more easily into Brick St from Friargate. It may be small, but it is the principle of removing infrastructure and not replacing it with something that more easily allows cyclists to turn right. How many cars does this infrastructure really hold up?



In the picture below you can see a taxi in the combined bus/ taxi/ cycle lane. This allows cyclist to go straight ahead at the Bridge St junction with Friargate and continue into town. The proposal would make this outside lane for all vehicles, so both lanes of traffic would turn left into Bridge St. Cyclists would have to mix with all other vehicles in that outside lane if they wanted to go straight on, which is an extremely intimidating thing for many people to do; this will put many people off cycling here. There is no alternative proposed. This is simply not acceptable.



If more people chose to walk or cycle, that would have a positive effect on air quality, so existing infrastructure which supports this should be retained or enhanced and new facilities included as part of Derby's clean air strategy.

We do not believe that the supporting measures in the consultation are adequate as they do not mention improving active travel infrastructure.

Derby Cycling Group suggests improving the cycling infrastructure along Stafford St when they reduce the number of lanes. We also suggest that improved cycling infrastructure is provided at the junctions of Stafford St with Mercian Way/ Uttoxeter Road and with Friargate. None of these are mentioned in the proposal nor in the consultation.

We would like to see the complementary measures such as more electric car charging points, a scrappage scheme and mobility credits, but we are also suggesting that E-Bikes and conventional cycles are included in the fleet management proposals as well as the creation of an E-Bike charging network.

In our opinion the proposals require a wider perspective to enable people to choose not to use a car if they wish, because it's fewer cars, not just newer cars, which will really lead to reduced pollution of all kinds.

Thank you.

#### Derby Cycling Group

Derby Cycling Group is a member based organisation representing over 400 cyclists in Derby and the surrounding area which promotes cycling as a healthy, sustainable and cost effective means of everyday transport.