

Consultation on improvements to the walking environment

The Neighbourhood Planning Forum took a stall at the Eco-Festival at St John's, Neville's Cross on 19th June 2016. Visitors to the festival were encouraged to mark up an outline map of the neighbourhood to show places where the walking environment could be improved, and to write comments on the back of the map to give any further detail or context.

Twelve maps were completed over the course of the afternoon, but more than one person contributed in many cases. The following points are collated from the maps and the written comments. They will be used to help develop a map of pedestrian improvements needed across our neighbourhood.

Pavements which are lacking

- Along Margery Lane between the end of Clay Lane and the turning to Briardene.
- The section on the west side of the A167 level with the car rental as far as the Neville's Cross junction is poor: you either have to walk on the grass part of the way, or go over to the original alignment of the Darlington Road by Cross View Terrace, where the pavements are obstructed by parked cars.
- The bottom end of Lowes Barn Bank on the north side.

Pavements which are too narrow

- Along Quarryheads Lane from Durham School to the roundabout at the bottom of Potters Bank.
- No space for cycles up Neville's Cross Bank (unclear if this was a comment that cycle lanes were needed, or a complaint that bicycles were using the pavements)
- By the side of St Nicholas Church in the market place: if there is an event happening it will sometimes encroach on the space so that it is hard for people to avoid walking in the carriageway.
- The pavement on the east side of the A167 between Redhills Lane and the Sniperley roundabout is too narrow to be shared with cycles.
- Pavements on both sides of South Road between Elvet Hill Road and the New Inn junction.
- Pavement up Shincliffe Peth (from where footpath 32 meets the A177 to the roundabout where A177 meets Hallgarth Street) especially if people cycle on it too.
- The blind corner at the junction of Lowes Barn Bank and Neville's Cross Bank, made more awkward because people cycle down the pavement on Neville's Cross Bank.

Poor surfaces

- Paving slabs in North Road are uneven and collect water

- Potholes on Grays Terrace off Redhills Lane
- Stretch of Clay Lane which leads to the Durham Archery Tennis Club
- Redhills Lane needs to be gritted in the winter
- Steps behind St Nicholas' Church from the market place down to Fleshergate need renewing
- Puddles and poor surfaces on the north side of Milburngate Bridge by Milburngate House.
- Very muddy on the footpath past the sewage works at the south end of Hollingside Lane (footpath 31).
- The footpath which links St Aidan's College with Potters Bank is often too muddy. From Dickens Wynd it would be a good route to school at St Margaret's to avoid walking along the busy A167, but because it's muddy it is not an option.
- Footpath from corner of playing field at New Inn junction down to river is steep and can be muddy.
- Pavement on west side of A167 between St. Nicholas Drive and the Sniperley roundabout: possibly because of tree roots.
- Footpath on west side of River Browney north of Relly Mill Farm can be very muddy (Brandon & Byshottles footpath 83: outside Neighbourhood Planning Forum area).

Access which is difficult for those with buggies or wheelchairs

- Steps at the end of Grove Street where the footpath leads down to Prebends Bridge (they are curved, which is bad with a buggy). [Two separate comments to this effect.]
- Hard in general to get down to the Wear from the vicinity of Durham School with pushchairs and bikes or scooters. Could there be better and wider access other than steps?
- Steps from the end of Archery Rise onto Clay Lane.
- General comment from a professional carer, that Durham needs more dropped kerbs for wheelchairs, that dropped kerbs are often too high off the road surface, and that tactile paving is hard to push wheelchairs over.
- Access from Quarry House Lane onto footpath down to River Browney hard with a buggy (footpath 9).

Difficult road crossings

- Crossing Flass Street and the end of Waddington Street when walking along Sutton Street: drivers do not indicate and the junction is very wide. [two comments]
- Crossing the end of Sutton Street at the North Road junction.

- Crossing North Road from the end of Sutton Street to get to the railway station.
- Crossing Quarryheads Lane / Margery Lane by Durham School or at the end of Clay Lane [two comments]
- Crossing Quarryheads Lane to/from the road that leads to Prebends Bridge. [three comments]
- Crossing Potters Bank at the bottom by the roundabout: pedestrian refuge too small and cars too fast approaching the roundabout.
- Crossing Hallgarth Street from the end of Church Street
- Crossing the A690 on the east side of the A167 at Neville's Cross: going from north to south the green man is not visible.
- Crossing from the west side of Framwellgate Peth (A691) to the middle, using the pedestrian crossing at the Milburngate roundabout is risky, because cars turning left out of St Godric's Road (A690) do not realise there is another stop line so soon.
- Crossing from the Claypath doctors' surgery to reach the footbridge over the A690.
- Crossing the A691 Southfield Way at the Sniperley roundabout: this crossing has to be done by schoolchildren going to Durham Johnston.
- Crossing Tollhouse Road on the west side of the A167.
- The pedestrian refuge just south of the car rental on the A167 at Neville's Cross has poor visibility. [Two people mentioned this, and one spoke of a child killed there in the past.]

Other comments

- It would be good to open up more of the banks of the River Wear to walking
- The river banks are particularly appreciated.
- Concern as to whether the footpath on the west side of Old Shire Hall would be retained after conversion to a hotel.
- Problems of people cycling on Silver Street and on the pavement in North Road.
- The footpath to Blaid's Wood is poorly signed from Hollingside Lane.
- The drainage is poor on Redhills Lane – it tends to get blocked with leaves – which leads to poor walking conditions.
- Should close Margery Lane and Quarryheads Lane to cars as far as the roundabout at the bottom of Potters Bank: the cycle and pedestrian traffic is sufficient for these roads.
- Need to reopen the riverside path by Pelaw Woods.

- Should open to walking and cycling a path from the station car park on the edge of Aykley Heads direct to the cycle path that leads towards Newton Hall by the DLI car park. At present you have to go a longer way round via the road.
- The Northern Relief Road is not needed: should do more for sustainable transport in the city instead.
- Lumiere installations should be spread over a wider area of the city: it was good when some of them were in the University.
- People often park cars on the pavements on the east side of the A167 between Neville's Cross and the car hire, and between Potters Bank and Dickens Wynd.
- The A167 feels dangerous around the schools – can't understand why it is a 40mph limit in a residential area with lots of children. Cars are slow when congested but very fast at other times. Slower cars would reduce noise and pollution.
- On the east side of the A167 walking from Neville's Cross towards Durham Johnston it would be nice to have more barriers / railings most of the way along to the school (for safety – don't see many people crossing there but it would make going to Sainsbury's with young children less stressful).