

Moorside Allotments Association

Cycle Lane Survey: Preliminary Results Feb 7th 2012

This preliminary summary of results is taken from 32 completed questionnaires out of 87 sent out. The questionnaires were answered in a very thoughtful and detailed manner.

Comment Section

The majority of the replies were supportive of the idea of creating safe passage for cyclists along Fenham Hall Drive. However there was considerable concern that the two options mentioned in the Cycling Officer's email would discriminate against the very real needs of allotment holders to park in Fenham Hall Drive close to the allotments in favour of cyclists. Although the replies were supportive of the idea of helping cyclists, there was some scepticism about the specific numbers of school children from Dame Allans and Sacred Heart expected to use the mandatory cycle lane proposed and a wish that this be quantified. This was against a background feeling of allotment holders living near Dame Allan's School that issues of congestion, obstruction and speeding in large vehicles by parents near to the school had not been satisfactorily resolved. There was general note that many other road users park in front of the allotments: dog-walkers; taxi-drivers; vans and lorries, buses from Dame Allans School, Newcastle fans on match days. It was felt that the second option of disabled bays/ limited parking could lead to difficulties both of cost and of policing. It was noted that the current advisory cycle lane was arbitrary and did not seem to be subject to joined up thinking in terms of a clear passage either into town or to Gosforth.

Attendances at the allotments: mode of transport. Overall average x 32 questionnaires

Visits by car:	75.9%
Visits by walking:	22.5%
Cycling:.....	1.9%
Public transport	0.15%

These preliminary results show that members who live within walking distance often drive to the allotments.

Why is it important to park in front of the allotments

Members overwhelmingly thought it was important to park in front of the allotments and described infirmity, disabilities and the need to take to and from the allotments heavy tools and produce.

How much inconvenience would the two proposed options cause

1. Option one: mandatory cycle lanes and no parking at all. Inconvenience:-

No inconvenience.....	1
A little	4
Moderate	1
A lot	20
No longer able to garden ...	5

2. Option two: Disabled bays and limited parking. Inconvenience:-

No inconvenience.....	3
A little	5
Moderate	1
A lot	18
No longer able to garden	5

Members overwhelmingly felt both options would inconvenience them a lot, and there was little difference between the two options. Five members stated that both options would prevent them from being able to use their allotment.

3. Strategy

There was a lot of very constructive thought about how the needs of allotment holders and cyclists could be reconciled. Overwhelmingly the members thought that there should be a dedicated cycling path either as part of the existing pavement or as a separate track next to the pavement. Members noted that this arrangement held in other areas of the Town Moor and adjacent roads. It was felt that if this was on the south side of Fenham Hall Drive then allotment holders could park as usual on the north side and there would be no danger of obstruction. The members would like this to be costed as a third option please. Finally the members would appreciate an Extraordinary General Meeting at which the Cycling Officer and Councillors were present to discuss their views in more detail.

When more of the questionnaires have been received a more detailed consideration of the results will be produced.

Peter Whewell
Chairman
7th February 2012.