



**Chatwood Lodge  
Stainton Village  
Barnard Castle  
DL12 8RD**

**By email/letter**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Helen Lynch  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

Dear Madam,

**PROHIBITION OF DRIVING AND NO ENTRY (C41 MARWOOD)  
EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2023**

I am writing on behalf of Marwood Parish Council to strongly object to your proposals as outlined in the above documentation.

Our objections are based on the following:

- No consultation has ever taken place with Marwood Parish Council regarding these proposals and they only came to our notice when a local resident was made aware of them on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and subsequently alerted the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council then produced 250 Leaflets which were distributed to local residents and the outlining Parish Councils over the weekend.
- A meeting then took place at Marwood Social Centre at 7.00pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 with approximately 100 residents and interested parties in attendance.
- Despite a request by Councillor R Bell, no body from Durham County Council Highways was in attendance, much to the disgust of those who were there, even though at such short notice some 100 people had put themselves out to attend.
- The atmosphere was understandably troubled and a huge amount of mistrust against Durham County Council was evident.
- There were four local Durham County Councillors at the meeting in which they stated that they were also unaware of these proposals and only discovered them at the same time as the local residents when they received the leaflets as described above.

The objections against the proposal are:-

1. We have not received copies of your consultation documentation and the Order which requires clarification regarding the wording as it appears there may be a mistake with it.
2. It appears that this proposal is being rushed through without consultation as mentioned above in the perceived impression that not much thought has been given to any alternative solutions to improve the safety of the junction.
3. By closing this road, Durham County Council are simply moving the problem to the next road junction which could be even more dangerous.
4. The No Entry of Prohibition of Driving Order will cause huge inconvenience to the local traffic, cause lack of business to the Caravan Park, cause severe disruption for delivery vehicles and public transport, including school buses.
5. Any routes available for detour purposes are very narrow with a single carriageway bridge and twisting hilly sections. Further, there are also two more cross roads and one T junction to navigate all with limited turning and views of oncoming traffic.
6. The detour routes will increase the mileage of the existing journeys, leading to more fuel being used and more greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere going against Durham County Councils environment policy.
7. The detour routes will also increase travelling time which could cause anxiety to the vehicle occupants which may lead to decisions and driving being rushed and possible subsequent accidents.
8. The Risk Assessment for current road structure versus diversion route appears not to be undertaken.
9. No study has taken place as to how much increased volume of traffic will use the diversion route and other roads (e.g., Green Lane, Folly Top)
10. What consideration has been taken regarding access of emergency services to properties on closure route and diversion route.
11. Access to the Defibrillator located at Marwood Social Centre will be impeded putting people's lives into danger.

At the meeting reported above, several alternatives to make the existing Kinninvie Cross Roads safer were discussed.

1. Retain the existing **Traffic Light System** but make it a permanent installation.
2. Replace the Give Way Signage with Two **Stop** Signs which could flash when being approached by a vehicle.
3. Install a single carriageway **chicane** close to the junction with priority to Southbound traffic.
4. Staggered junction at North of Kinninvie making a staggered crossroads

In conclusion we strongly object to your Experimental Order 2023 Reference 36565 and request that this be revoked immediately. Further we request that a meeting be arranged urgently with local residents, members of local and Parish Councillors, relevant members of Durham County Council Highways and Local Police.

Yours sincerely,

M Fenwick (Mrs)  
Parish Clerk  
**For and on behalf of Marwood Parish Council**