



I am objecting to the proposed cycle lane at the Penistone Road/North Road junction because it is unnecessary, and potentially hazardous. There are quite a few issues with this junction, many of which were created by Kirklees Council when it attempted to improve the junction in 2022. These issues are the ones that need addressing, not helping cyclists turn right from North Road to Penistone Road, even when the roads are busier as a result of the development. Cyclists will simply approach the junction in the centre of the lane, which is what they do now and what they are allowed to do in the Highway Code, and cross Penistone Road when it is safe to do so, in the same way that cars do.

There have been safety concerns about this junction for a while, but these were heightened in 2022 when Kirklees Council made a number of changes. A wall was built on the left of the junction, which reduced visibility on Penistone Road. The shape of the junction was changed, making it difficult for all vehicles to turn left, but especially large vehicles, which have to go on the opposite side of both North Road and Penistone Road to turn left. The pavement was widened (unnecessarily) to the left of North Road, which reduced the width of the road, where a central holding lane for right turning from Penistone Road to North Road was created. This created very narrow lanes on both sides of Penistone, making it difficult for all road users, but in particular cyclists, because there is not enough room.

Many residents raised concerns about these changes, which were largely dismissed by Kirklees Council. However, a number of these will be reversed under the veil of the cycle lane, in particular the wall will be removed to improve visibility and the shape of the junction will be altered to make it easier to turn left. These are not an integral part of the cycle lane and there is no evidence to support the cycle lane, so what is the purpose of the cycle lane. Is it simply a ruse to enable the bad design created by Kirklees to be reversed without admitting it was flawed or paying for the changes? There are other options that could be considered that would make it safer for all road users. For example, the speed limit on Penistone Road in both Shepley and Shelley has been reduced to 30 mph. Why has this not been considered instead of the cycle lane, which will be of no benefit at all, as there are not many cyclists any way, and those that do exist are more likely to stay on the main road. A 30 mph limit is particularly beneficial to pedestrians (and there are a lot on and crossing this road) and cyclists, as the risk of fatal injury increases exponentially over 30mph.