

Business Survey Interim Update – 9 July 2023

Many Businesses have had a lot to endure these past few years. The impact of Brexit, closely followed by the Covid pandemic, the energy crisis and finally high inflation has caused major issues for their cost base, their employees and their customer's ability to spend.

You would think the last thing any Council would want to do would be to create more issues and pile more pressure on these beleaguered businesses. However, that's exactly what Newcastle City council have done to the Jesmond business community with the introduction of their Low traffic Neighbourhood scheme (LTN) which has cut Jesmond in two.

The Council didn't even bother to consult them before they planned to introduce their LTN, and apart from some isolated cases, they mostly didn't bother to inform them it was coming either, leaving them with no time to plan and consider the likely impact. Instead, they have just sat back and waited to see what chaos is caused, recently claiming they don't have the data to consider what impact it might be having.

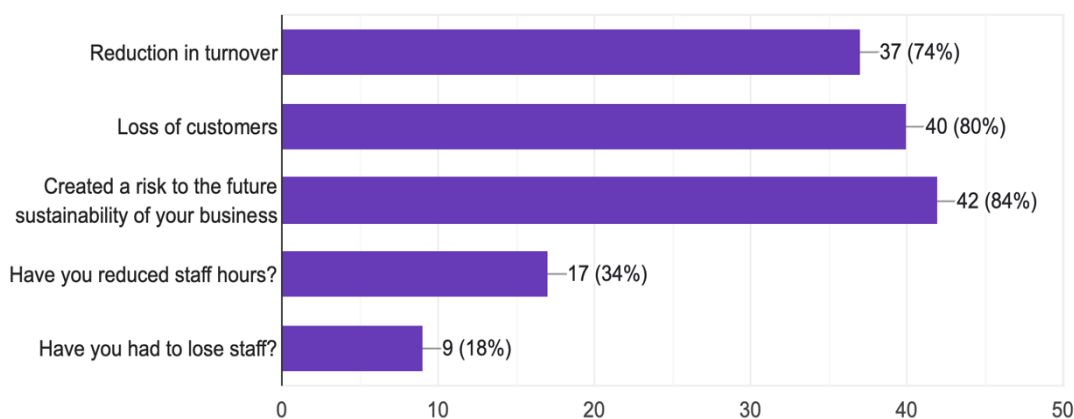
OneJesmond, the campaign group made up of concerned local residents think this is very disturbing given many of these are amongst the community's longest established and best loved businesses. As a consequence, amongst other aspects of their challenge to the Council, including the recent petition to reopen our roads, and which now has over 4000 signatures, they have initiated their own confidential Business survey. Since opening the survey a short while ago they've already had 50 responses.

The interim results to date present a loud wake up call for Newcastle City Council about the devastating impact it is already having on our Business community.

In answer to the question "has the LTN had an impact on your business", all except one responded yes it had impacted negatively. Drilling down to the reasons, as shown below, explains why!

Has this resulted in the following

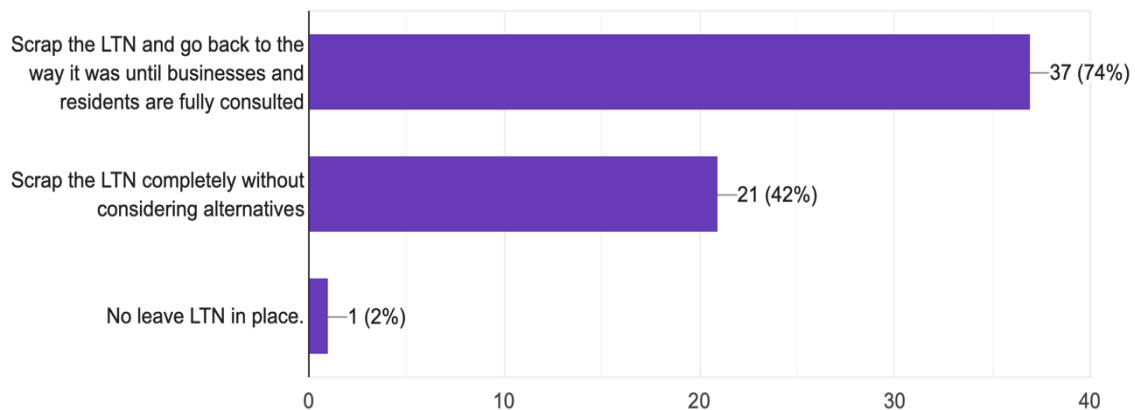
50 responses



In asking them what the Council should do 74% thought they should scrap the scheme and do what they should have done in the first place, consult with everyone, Residents and Businesses, to arrive at a scheme that works and has the support of the whole community who live and work there. Of the responders, almost half wanted it scrapped entirely!

Do you think the Council should rethink their LTN Strategy and in doing so

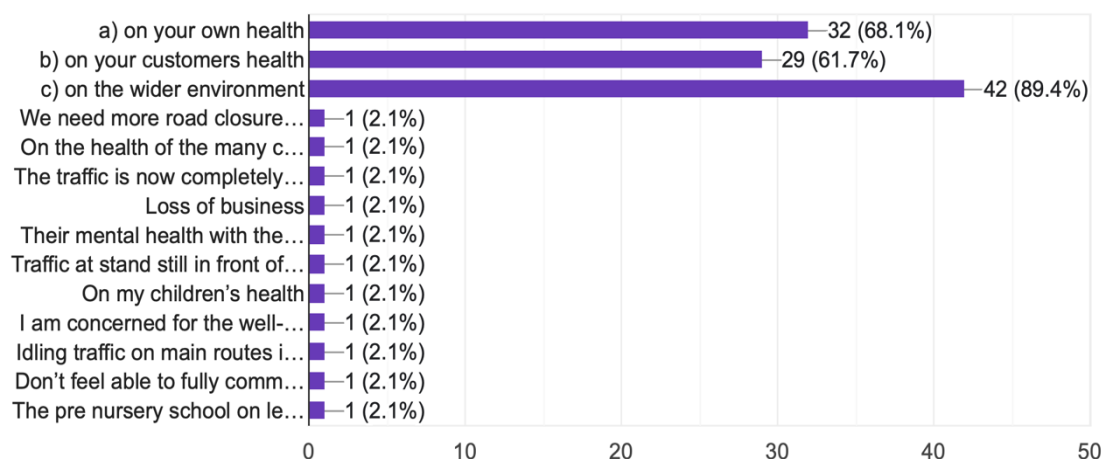
50 responses



The gridlocked roads, increased driving times and static traffic have all caused real concerns that the Council's plans to reduce pollution have in fact achieved the flip opposite, with almost 90% being concerned about the impact on the wider environment.

Are you concerned about the additional pollution created by the LTN

47 responses



Finally, as a summary of our Business Community's support, or otherwise, for the LTN their conclusion was a comprehensive and resounding "NO", with 98% saying they do not support it in its current form.

Do you support the LTN in its current form

49 responses

