

UPDATE, OCT/NOV 2017

HEATON GREENS



Andrew Gray



The national Green Party has called on the government to fund Metro train replacement in full, with no PFI contract.

TRANSPORT AND AIR POLLUTION

ON A ROAD TO NOWHERE?

Heaton Greens have campaigned for many years for low traffic neighbourhoods, better public transport and safe routes for walking and cycling. In 2002, Andrew Gray highlighted problems caused for buses by excess parked cars, and opposed the car-based shopping development on the Fossway.

Thank you to all the residents who spoke with us last month about traffic reduction and local cycle lanes. We know there is both strong support for increased cycling provision and concern about

some of the proposals in our area. **Please ensure that your views are heard** by commenting online at streetsforpeople.org.uk before the end of November. Contact Andrew if you would like a printed copy of the plans.

Changing how we travel benefits both ourselves and the wider community. By helping people to leave the car at home, we can reduce CO2 emissions, improve air quality, help people to lead active lives, and make our streets safe again.

AIR POLLUTION IN HEATON

GIVING OUR CHILDREN BREATHING SPACE

In September 2015, we used a portable air pollution monitor to measure pollution along Chillingham Road. Even on a quiet Sunday afternoon, fine particulates repeatedly exceeded safe levels at over 25 µg/m³, peaking outside Tesco at 37 µg/m³. Last month, local residents hit the news by borrowing an air pollution monitor from Newcastle University to measure the levels of toxic pollution in our community. Such pollution is mainly from high levels of road traffic, and the problem is made worse by the increasing number of vehicles on our roads. People in cars are exposed to more pollution than cyclists and pedestrians.

Air pollution has been linked to lung cancer, heart disease, asthma, memory loss and dementia, and is estimated to cause 40,000 premature deaths per year in the UK. Its cost is estimated at £20 billion.

Local action is key to tackling this toxic problem. But air quality monitoring in Newcastle is woefully inadequate. Reports on its website show that the Council undertook no monitoring at all on Chillingham or Heaton Roads. In 2006, when in opposition, Heaton Labour Councillors campaigned to include Chillingham Road and Shields Road in new Air Quality Management Areas. They have failed to deliver on this campaign since being back in power.

Investment in walking and cycling infrastructure can make short journeys easier and safer. It is on these short journeys when cars produce the most pollution. Cheaper, reliable, and convenient public transport, using clean vehicles, would help people to leave the car at home and use our roads more efficiently.



Newcastle Green Party launched our general election campaign with a focus on solutions to deadly levels of air pollution in our city.



Traffic has increased dramatically on Chillingham Road in the last 10 years, making it much harder to cross safely.

THE BENEFITS OF REDUCING CAR TRAFFIC ON OUR ROADS AND STREETS

Safer streets were top of the list, when we spoke with you last month about the benefits of road traffic reduction. Other key reasons to reduce car traffic on our local roads include:

- reduced congestion will enable buses to run to time better. Congestion was blamed earlier this year for the cut to some local bus services, including part of the no.1 route.

- Road traffic emissions contribute to dangerous climate change.
- Less traffic on Chillingham Road and other shopping streets will make them easier to cross and nicer places to visit.
- Fewer cars means less air pollution and healthier air. It also encourages outside play and healthy exercise.

ANDREW GRAY WORKING FOR HEATON ALL YEAR ROUND

STREETS FOR PEOPLE, NOT JUST FOR CARS

PRACTICAL MEASURES TO IMPROVE OUR STREETS AND REDUCE ROAD TRAFFIC

The council is currently running a project, known as 'Streets for People' to develop a new vision for Heaton. We want people in Heaton to have a real choice of transport options for getting around the local area and into the city centre. We propose the council should:

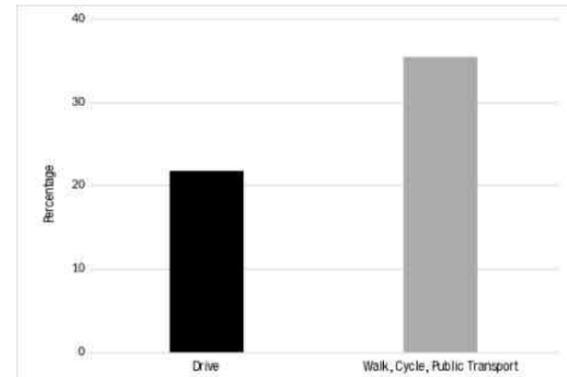
- identify and close 'rat runs' to make residential streets more pleasant and allow local people to reclaim their streets
- make roads around round primary schools safer and air cleaner for children and parents by reducing or removing car traffic. This makes walking and cycling to school a real option.
- build cycleways on busy roads to create direct routes for cycling. This would also remove conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, and motor traffic.
- link Heaton to the city centre, Shields Road shopping area, the Freeman Hospital, and local schools through a network of clearly-signed walking and cycling routes
- extend the 20MPH speed limit to our through roads as well as the side streets. This would make the slower speed limit clearer and more likely to be observed.
- support bus routes that enable people to go across town and not just into the city centre
- explore use of powers in the new Bus Services Act to better regulate local bus services. These include smart cards and integrated ticketing, as well as new franchising powers. Bus routes need to serve the needs of local people, not private profit.
- retain bus shelters on routes where increased numbers would help prevent traffic congestion.



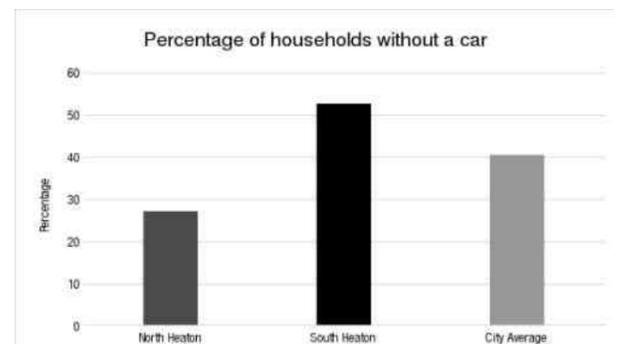
Cyclists are reminded to take care on the new cycle lanes, to watch out for those on the pavement and always give way for vulnerable pedestrians.

Official accident statistics from Northumbria Police show the extent of danger on Heaton's streets. In the 10 years 2005-2015, North and South Heaton wards have suffered from:

- 3 fatal accidents
- 64 serious accidents
- 558 slight accidents



The above graph shows how people in South Heaton travel to work each day (2011 census data). It shows the advantage of the good public transport infrastructure within the ward.



Transport policy has to support travel by everyone in our community.

CONTACT DETAILS

Andrew lives in Heaton, you can contact him at any time:

heatongreens@virginmedia.com

07579 965254

facebook.com/andrew.gray.771

For news from Newcastle Green Party, or to help deliver leaflets in your street, please see the website or contact Andrew. The website also has copies of previous leaflets from Heaton Greens to download, or contact Andrew if you have not received updates on:

- Housing
- Parks & Allotments
- Recycling & Waste

<http://newcastleupontyne.greenparty.org.uk>

 [facebook.com/NewcastleGreenParty](https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleGreenParty)

 @NCLGreenParty



UPDATES IN BRIEF

TAKE ON THE HOUSING CRISIS, TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER, 6-7:30PM, BRUNSWICK METHODIST CHURCH

ACORN campaign launch for renters across Newcastle acorntheunion.org.uk/newcastle

PUTTING NATURE ON THE MAP: CITY COUNCIL, WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 6PM

Save Newcastle Wildlife have secured a debate on their petition for biodiversity in Newcastle.

SUNDAYS 21ST OCTOBER + 25TH NOVEMBER, 1-3PM

Friends of Heaton Back Lanes litterpick, meet outside TSB on Chillingham Road

CONSULTATION DEADLINE, 30TH NOVEMBER

See streetsforpeople.org.uk/heaton-ouseburn to view and comment on proposals for walking and cycling improvements. Proposals relate to Heaton Road, Jesmond Vale area, Ravenswood area and the Shakespeare streets.