



Dear Consultee,

Proposed trial bus gate removal at Dubford – What does it mean for me?

You're hearing from us because...

Your opinion matters. We want to know what you think about our proposed six-month trial removal of the Aberdeen City Council-operated bus gate at Dubford Road, which currently prevents cars from linking north and south.

The background

The bus gate was introduced as part of the planning process for the Dubford Development Framework in 2012 after residents highlighted concerns about commuters from the north of the city using the road for the 'rat run' to and from the city.

Where are we now?

The Diamond Bridge and AWPR have positively transformed commuting patterns and the improved road network has significantly increased connectivity within and around the city. These improvements mean **commuters from the north no longer face the historic Ellon Road bottlenecks** that may have resulted in 'rat run' shortcuts via the development and Dubford Road.

Meanwhile, Scotia is working hard to attract **key commercial and retail occupiers to enhance your community**. However, the bus gate makes this difficult. Co-op, for example, will only take a unit if the gate is removed because it prevents car access (i.e. vital customers and employees) from the south. Other potential tenants are highly likely to take the same stance.

In other words...

The original reason for the installation of the Dubford bus gate (to combat potential 'rat run' traffic whilst retaining public transport links) no longer exists and the bus gate is stopping us from fully developing the sustainable, vibrant and thriving community we aspired within our development vision to deliver to you, your friends and your family.

How would the community benefit from the removal of the bus gate?

- **More direct and ultra-convenient access to the city and wider Bridge of Don** via Dubford Road – a trip to Greenbrae Primary School from the new Dubford development, for example, would have its journey length cut by almost half.
- **More facilities on your doorstep** – the removal of the bus gate would make units in the retail centre highly attractive to key occupants, such as Co-op.

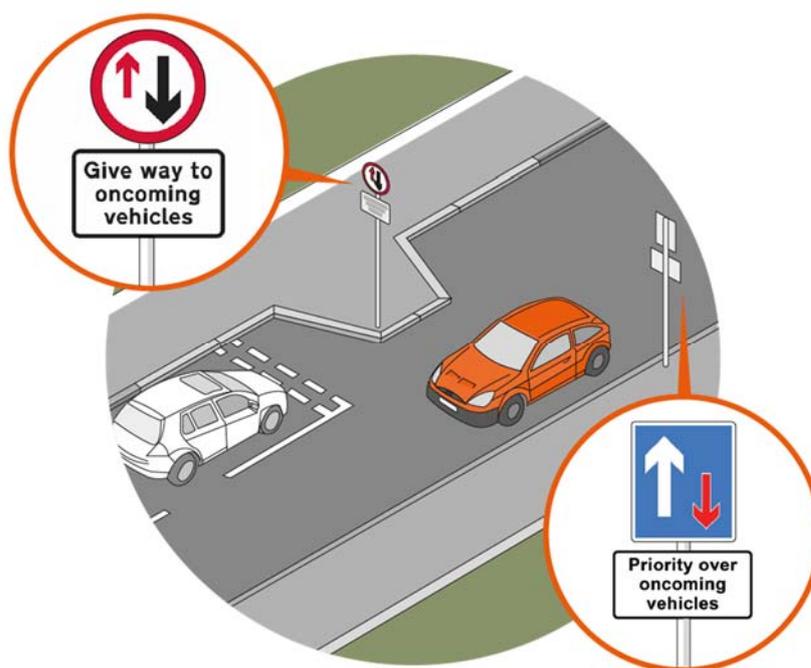


Figure 1. Illustrative image of bus gate removal trial period set-up and use.

Are there any negatives for the community?

Not many. There is potential, however, for Dubford Road and streets within the southern edges of the development to experience increased vehicle movements, whilst offset reductions may be expected on the northern edges closer to Shielhill Road. As such, the volume, frequency and size of vehicles on the experimental route would be recorded and assessed during the trial.

What's next?

You have the opportunity to share your views with us. Make sure your voice is heard and complete the enclosed form by **18th November 2019**.

When will we know if the trial is happening?

We'll collate the stakeholders' (i.e. Councillors, emergency services, residents, etc) responses and present our findings to Aberdeen City Council for review alongside other studies e.g. traffic surveys. If the council and stakeholders are supportive of the trial proposals the undernoted timetable would follow.

How would the trial work?

Exact timings would be determined by consultation outcomes but an example timetable can be seen below:

- Month 1, 2 and 3 – traffic study, consultation period and council review.
- Month 4, 5 and 6 – Aberdeen City Council Committee determination of six-month bus gate removal via Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO).
- Months 7 – 12 – implementation of TRO and six-month trial removal.

Finally, please note:

This consultation relates only to an initial six-month trial removal of the bus gate and associated pre- and post- traffic volume analysis. Any decisions about making this a permanent fixture would be subject to further consultation.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to your feedback and continuing to develop a sustainable, vibrant and thriving community for you at Dubford.