**From:** vickigilbert [mailto: vickigilbert@phonecoop.coop]   
**Sent:** 19 August 2018 19:41  
**Subject:** letter or article re Cullercoats Harbour Day and campaign against air pollution

Dear Editor,

Last Saturday our Pedestrian Rights campaign group gave out leaflets and talked to people attending the event along the sea front at Cullercoats Bay Harbour Festival. Last year I approached the businesses along the sea front on behalf of North Tyneside public transport Users Group, and they all agreed it would be a good idea to pedestrianise the sea front road for the Harbour Day duration.

I spoke to a woman who was sitting adjacent to the crossing and she had seen 4 near misses by cars nearly running over people as the drivers were presumably diverted by the event.  In fact I was nearly run over when a car did not stop on this crossing a few weeks ago as well.

Our campaign that Saturday was CARFREE = CAREFREE, which encapsulates the idea of the lack of cars offering people a relaxed  and safe  time to wander without the fear of being run over, ( just Like Tynemouth festival ), especially as the vast majority were families with young children.

Our campaign was about making the event car free was also about pedestrianising the event so that the idling cars which were spewing out fumes of air pollution made worse by having to stop at the crossing. We were chatting to people about the 45,000 early deaths from air pollution in England each year, and all agreed that it would be desirable to have no cars at this event on the sea front. Air pollution affects young children more than adults as their lungs and brains are still developing. Scientists say that NO2 and particulates from cars contribute to Alzheimer’s, dementia, lung cancer, heart disease and asthma.

So surely a small start to make a more pleasant event next year and prevent the families and people attending, to not have to breathe in these noxious fumes, would be to close the road? We are calling on the NorthTyneside Council to do this for health and safety reasons and are asking people to lobby John Stirling, Cabinet Member for Environment, for a CAR FREE = CARE FREE day .

For more information see North Tyneside Public Transport website [www.twptug.org.uk](http://www.twptug.org.uk/)

Vicki Gilbert on behalf of the group