DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of two Deputations have been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

(a) Deputation concerning Old Shoreham Road/Neville Road/Sackville Road Crossroads – Mr John Towers (Spokesperson).

(b) Deputation concerning Dangers of Crossing Old Shoreham Road at the Junctions of The Upper Drive and The Drive - Ms Paula Slinn (Spokesperson).

43(a) Deputation concerning Old Shoreham Road/Neville Road/Sackville Road Crossroads - Mr John Towers (Spokesperson)

"As residents of Painters Corner, we are deeply concerned about the nearby Old Shoreham Road/Neville Road/Sackville Road crossroads. There are no pedestrian crossings on the north or southbound carriageways at the junctions on Neville and Sackville Roads. We have written to the Council many times about the dangers and the need for safe and effective pedestrian crossings, but no action has been taken.

Our petition
We petitioned **212 residents** living in five roads in Painters Corner, and all but two signed. This shows **99% support** for pedestrian crossings as described above. **We attach their signatures as part of this document.**

Comments from residents included:

- Three children involved in accidents
- Eye-witness accounts of vehicle crashes
- Multiple examples of near misses of pedestrians by vehicles
- A blind person unable to cross at this junction
- Older children unable to cross unsupervised
- Elderly residents and their relatives frightened of crossing
- Traffic speeding and jumping red lights
- Confusing traffic light sequences making crossing hazardous
- Inadequate space on the central islands, especially for parents with buggies and small children
- No safety barriers on the central islands with speeding traffic dangerously close to pedestrians
- Pedestrians stranded in the central islands due to traffic light sequence giving priority to vehicles
- Concerns about increased traffic and pedestrian safety with Sackville Place development
- Written complaints to the Council by residents have to date achieved nothing."

Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment, will respond.

Brighton and Hove City Council

Supporting Information

Deputation concerning road safety improvements for Old Shoreham Road/Neville Road/Sackville Road Crossroads, Hove

The local community are deeply concerned about the Old Shoreham Road/Neville Road/Sackville Road crossroads. This is because there are no safe pedestrian crossings at this junction. We want the Council to introduce measures to improve pedestrian safety. This deputation is being made as, to date, written complaints to the Council by residents have achieved no improvements.

A door to door petition of 212 residents in five roads in Painters Corner showed that 99% felt strongly that action must be done to improve pedestrian safety at these crossings.

The dangers

There are many reasons why this crossroads is dangerous for pedestrians. There are no pedestrian crossings on the north or southbound carriageways at the junctions on Neville and Sackville roads.

It is a complicated junction. The traffic light sequence and filter lanes are confusing to drivers, and vehicles often speed and jump red lights. Pedestrians of all ages and abilities put themselves at risk by having to negotiate these hazards.

There is inadequate space on the central islands for pedestrians, including parents with buggies and small children. Pedestrians are often stranded in the central islands due to traffic light sequences giving priority to vehicles. There are no safety barriers on the central islands, with speeding traffic passing perilously close to pedestrians.

Data from Mark Prior, Assistant Director Sustainable Transport, confirms that '*during the three year period to 30 November 2009 there were 10 reported injury collisions at these crossroads. Two were classed as 'serious injury collisions' and eight were classed as 'slight injury collisions'. From these collisions, there were four pedestrian casualties, two of which were serious.*' These figures undoubtedly mask a larger number of unreported and near accidents.

The impact on the community

Many people cross here every day. This includes hundreds of children going to schools in Hove Park, Blatchington Mill, Aldrington, Cottesmore St Marys, and Cardinal Newman, as well as many employees who work in the immediate vicinity, and those using Hove Park.

Because of the present dangers many people are fearful of crossing or do not cross here at all. Elderly people and their relatives reported that they are frightened to cross, many older children are not permitted to cross unsupervised, and for anyone with a disability this junction presents a major obstacle.

Action needed
Whilst we understand that the Council is waiting for the developers of the Sackville Place Retail Park to fund road safety improvements at this junction, we cannot wait indefinitely for a private finance solution. We have seen no guaranteed time frame for this development nor a prioritised schedule of work as regards road safety improvements included in it. We therefore ask the Council to consider immediate and urgent action.

We need an immediate safety audit to be undertaken on week days at peak times (e.g. school times) to identify the problems. Protective railings need to be installed on the central islands and traffic calming measures introduced. Above all we need a green man crossing system to be introduced.

John Towers (spokesperson)

28 January 2010

43(b) Deputation concerning Dangers of Crossing Old Shoreham Road at the Junctions of The Upper Drive and The Drive - Ms Paula Slinn (Spokesperson).

"We wish to raise the issue of the dangers of crossing the Old Shoreham Rd at the junctions with The Upper Drive and The Drive. Some 3000 school children are at school around these junctions and there is no provision to enable them to safely cross the road at these junctions. We ask that the Cabinet Member for Environment agrees to review the situation and consider taking action to safeguard the welfare of the children and others who wish to cross the road."

Deputation to Council

In support of Petition being presented by Cllr Melanie Davis to improve safety at Upper Drive/Old Shoreham Road Junction and The Drive/Old Shoreham Road junction

My name is Paula Slinn. I am a resident in Hove, having lived in two streets leading off the Old Shoreham Road (Bigwood Avenue and Chanctonbury Road) which are at opposite ends of the stretch of the Old Shoreham Road between BHASVIC – Dyke Road and the Upper Drive for over 11 years. I have two children – a 13 year old who attends Cardinal Newman and a 10 year old who attends Somerhill Junior School. I have concerns about the safety of the crossing at the Upper Drive/Old Shoreham Road and the lack of crossing at the Drive/Old Shoreham Road.

I am also a Planning and Highways Solicitor and have often thought that there should be greater road safety measures implemented along this road.

It is clear that both junctions are very busy, and the Upper Drive junction is used predominantly by school children.

At the junction with the Drive, there are no pedestrian traffic signals. There is no time delay between the change of lights to allow school children or other pedestrians to cross safely.

At the junction with the Upper Drive, there is a crossing, however, there have been many incidents recently of cars speeding through this crossing to avoid the lights changing and actually driving through red lights, crashing into railings or narrowly avoiding pedestrians. My neighbour and her daughter were nearly killed at this crossing before Christmas, and my window cleaner was nearly run over by a speeding car last week. I myself was involved in a car collision in December caused by a speeding car that was overtaking a stationary line of traffic just before the crossing. She unfortunately lost control of her car and careered on to the pavement on the other side of the road just before the crossing, hitting a tree and just missing the bus shelter. This was at 8.45 am. Had it happened 5 minutes earlier, it may have affected school children.

The design of the Old Shoreham Road is, I consider, partly to blame. The carriageways are wide and they encourage overtaking. There are also bus

stops immediately before the crossing on either side of the road and when buses stop, cars overtake at the crossing. In fact, the whole stretch of the Old Shoreham Road just before the Upper Drive and up to The Drive is wide and motorists appear to treat it like a dual carriageway with the accompanying speeds.

There are no signs indicating that there are schools along this part of the Old Shoreham Road (the only signs being halfway up the Upper Drive). I find this quite shocking bearing in mind that there are 3 schools located at this junction (Cardinal Newman, Brighton & Hove High Junior School, and Cottesmore Primary School) with approximately 3000 children attending. There is also no speed camera, no traffic signal camera and no device which advises motorists to slow down. All of these are present on other roads in the City.

It is alarming that school children have to cross a busy road that is effectively being used as a dual carriageway.

I have spoken to many parents in the area, including parents at Somerhill Junior School for which I am a parent governor, and they too raise their concerns about this stretch of the Old Shoreham Road and the safety of their children attending the secondary schools. Many reported incidents of their children being very upset having been stuck in the middle of the roads whilst cars speed by, or having to throw themselves out of the way whilst crossing.

There are measures that can be taken. I have taken advice from a highways engineer who advises that the simplest measure would be to erect school signs just before the junction of the Upper Drive approaching south, east and west. Secondly, to prevent overtaking, and to slow the traffic down and prevent the Old Shoreham Road being treated like a dual carriageway, the carriageways could be physically narrowed, or if that is too expensive, hatching could be placed in the middle between the carriageways to prevent overtaking. Thirdly, a slow down device could be erected. Lastly, if this stretch of the Old Shoreham Road was reduced to a 20 mph zone, the traffic would slow down. As this road has a school crossing, that would be a good reason to make this part of the road 20 mph. If signs are too expensive, road markings could indicate this.

As parents, we like our children to attend their local schools and to be able to walk to school rather than be driven. However, we want them to be able to walk to school safely.

We need the crossing and the junction to be made safer by slowing down the traffic and making motorists aware that the crossing is a school crossing.

Therefore, I would ask the Council to support this Petition.

Signed: Paula Slinn
Date: 21 January 2010

Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment, will respond.