

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

(i) **Deputation concerning road safety in Highdown Road.**

Mr W Shaw (Spokesperson)

"I am here to represent the concerns of residents in Highdown Road. In the last decade the demographic of our area has changed radically. The success of local schools means that we have one of the highest concentrations of children in the city in our immediate area.

The installation of the pedestrian controlled lights at the junction of Dyke Road and the Old Shoreham Road was a necessary measure to protect the safety of students at BHASVIC College; however it has had the unfortunate effect of turning our street into a rat run during peak hours when traffic backs up on Dyke Road.

These peak hours coincide with the time when the streets are most likely to be full of children going to or returning from school. We're proud of being a neighbourhood in which the majority of children can walk to school. However our streets are unusually wide for Brighton, allowing irresponsible drivers to reach speeds well above the existing speed limit. It is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously hurt - or worse. You've already received a petition presented by Councillor Melanie Davis which demonstrates the depth of local concern. Please take urgent steps to lower the speed of traffic in our roads by lowering the local speed limit."

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THEOBALD

Provided at the meeting of the Full Council on 9 October 2008.

"I do take this very seriously indeed as I do all of these. I do find that wherever I seem to go somebody somewhere calls me over such an issue and recently at the cricket ground a very good friend of mine tackled me on this very subject, so already a resident of Highdown Road has spoken to me about this and has mentioned this to me.

I do understand and I had asked officers to check the casualty data for Highdown Road, which includes information both before and after the completion of the crossing in June, which you mention, and I was very

pleased we were able to undertake that last year. This investigation has shown that there is currently no change in that data.

Council officers have also, and I asked them to do this, covertly measured traffic speeds in Highdown Road this week during the afternoon peak hour. The average speed recorded was 26mph with the highest recorded speed being 31mph. Unfortunately, from your point of view, this confirms there is no reason to take immediate action. However, I will and I have asked officers to continue to monitor the situation because, as you say, this is a situation which has got worse since the pedestrian crossing went in so it will be continuously monitored because this Administration takes very, very seriously safety measures, particularly where children are involved so please rest assured that we will continue to monitor this situation.”