

Catherine Vaughan – Acting Chief Executive  
Brighton & Hove City Council  
King's House

14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Dear Catherine

### **Allowing motorcycles in bus lanes**

I am writing to request that this letter be placed on the agenda for the Transport Committee meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November under Council Procedure Rule 23.3. I understand that there is going to be a report on this issue on the agenda for the meeting and I would like this letter to be taken into consideration at the same time.

The Motorcycle Action Group has been campaigning for bus lanes in Brighton & Hove to be opened up for motorcycle use for over two years now and presented a deputation to a Full Council meeting in October 2011. Although they have been encouraged by the willingness of the Council to consider their proposals they have contacted me to say that they are frustrated by the slow speed of progress and do not believe that the report being put before the Committee goes nearly far enough.

I too welcome the acceptance by the Council of the potential benefits of allowing motorcycles in bus lanes. However, I believe that the proposed trial – on the A23 between Carden Avenue and Preston Drove and on the A259 between Longridge Avenue and Ovingdean roundabout – is so small in scale as to be virtually meaningless. Some of the greatest benefits in terms of reducing congestion, air pollution and road traffic accidents are likely to be experienced in the city centre areas such as Preston Circus, London Road, St Peters Church, Victoria Gardens, the Old Steine, North Street and Western Road. Yet none of these sections of road are included in the trial. It is even possible that the short length of the trial sections will simply lead to confusion amongst road users and could end up being counter-productive – a situation that nobody wants. I would question the validity of any conclusions reached on such a restricted trial scheme.

I would also add that the proposed 18 month period of carrying out the trial and then analysing results does seem to be unnecessarily protracted. I appreciate that this is not the only transport scheme that officers are currently working on but I do think that this project could be completed much more quickly.

In summary, I would like to propose that a more extensive trial is introduced to enable a better understanding to be gained of the benefits of allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes in Brighton & Hove. This should be a relatively straightforward issue – many similar studies have already been undertaken and many cities already have such schemes in place. However, in Brighton & Hove there seems to be a distinct lack of political will to allow this to proceed, despite the obvious benefits to road safety, reduced congestion and, I believe, reductions in air pollution.

With all good wishes

Tony Janio

Councillor Hangleton and Knoll

