

26 November 2013

Brighton & Hove City Council

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Deputations received:

(i) Deputation: Pedestrian crossings in South Portslade

Spokesperson: Rae Powers

Speakers: Simon Clydesdale, Ricky Perrin, Coriander Creagan, Louise Waters

“We are here on behalf of vulnerable individuals of South Portslade, Friends of St. Peter's School, Friends of Vale Park, concerned community and supportive council members. We are appealing for pedestrian crossing installations and improvements to be made along Church Road and St Andrews Road.

Situation:

South Portslade is a small and densely populated area with homes, schools, shops, parks, community centres, bus stops, train stations, industry and new development. Dissecting the middle of our community is Church Rd, which is the main lorry route connecting Shoreham Harbour with the A27. St. Andrews Road also slashes access as a cut through for speeding cars as well as a main bus route. The amount and type of traffic creates an unacceptably high amount of risk, especially for our most vulnerable citizens: children, disabled and the elderly. There have been numerous incidents and near misses with children and vehicles. Over the last 30 years parents and administrators at St. Peter's school have asked for improved crossings and a ‘lollipop lady’. As the safety structure does not keep pace with the change in the community and a tragedy brews.

St. Peter's has become a primary school, thus doubling its intake over the next 3 years. There are also three new residential developments in action and more in planning, thus an increase in footfall and use of services is to be expected.

Our 800+ signature petition was just the beginning of our action plan. We have gained an abundance of community and media support including The Argus (number 6 most read out 100's of online articles), Latest, Brighton and Hove Independent and two live morning radio interviews on BBC Sussex (we were the at the top of the news every half hour). Our campaign is growing momentum, uniting our community and ready to impel action!

Complication and Contradiction:

In 2012, as a response to the Safer Routes to School Project, a few alterations were made including small un-barricaded pedestrian refuge islands along Church Road, north and south of St Peter's Road as well as 20mph...but action stopped here, leaving our community still at risk and our children's lives undervalued.

At this same location on 13th November 2013, the PV squared value (pedestrians x vehicles) was assessed by Councillor Alan Robins and Leslie Hamilton, Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee. After the data was collection, Les calculated a value of 1.9×10^8 (8th power), greatly surpassing the criteria for a zebra, thus indicating a pelican crossing on Church Road.

Questions:

Why do we have to ask for a crossing to keep our children safe? Shouldn't it be 'a given' that vulnerable people can access their community facilities without undue harm? Why are pedestrian crossings not included in granting planning for school expansion? Why is there a discrepancy between schools on the same road?

Answers and Action:

Listen to our concern, you can make a difference! Pelican crossing on Church Rd, zebra crossing on St Andrew's Rd, metal barriers, signs and enforced speed limit.