

7 October 2014

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: Old Town transport scheme

I am here to speak in favour of the proposal to close East Street to traffic between the hours of 11am and 7pm - speaking on behalf of a number of East street businesses and others in the locality which are fully supportive of this final proposal. As stated in the report at peak times East Street is used by over 20,000 people walking on 3ft wide pavements spilling into road with cars and trucks causing significant safety issues. Further restrictions are caused by parked vehicles. There is no room for wheelchairs or prams which seems ironic when East Street acts as a pedestrian link between the seafront and northern area of the city centre.

There is a definite need for a more fluid and safer pedestrian route from the station, the North Laine through the south lanes through onto the seafront, a friendly and clear route, offering a space inviting positive lingering within the area – which will improve expenditure within retail and hospitality but not hinder other business or residential occupants. Calm safe and stress free city centre experiences make people return. Brighton must continue to be a family friendly safe city for residents and visitors.

The majority of local businesses that I have spoken to directly affected by this current proposal are enthusiastic about the opportunities that could come from it including applying for further outdoor dining licences, engaging more as a community and claiming responsibility for their surrounding area. The Pedestrianisation of the remaining part of East Street would provide a safer, less polluted atmosphere for locals and visitors to what is a prime location in the heart of Brighton. The already spacious pedestrianised area of East Street is testament to this. Outside diners will undoubtedly experience a more inviting and pleasant experience. The impact would bring a much needed boost to Locals, traders and tourists alike thereby adding to the appeal of the city as a whole.

This proposal will create a better environment for cyclist as well as pedestrians, but also offer a space where the unique and independent face of Brighton can be seen in all its colour. This proposal will improve the environment around pool valley and perhaps inspire the council and the tenants of the pool valley area to make it a more attractive arrival to the city... offering coach visitors a more engaging city view.

I have been involved in the consultation period for this proposal for over 3 years and have found it very accessible, I attended the public enquiry and agree with some of the requests regarding Little East Street, I believe the recommended changes are clear and promise to resolve all concerns. I do also feel that the Old Town Transport plan on a whole will bring improvements to Little East Street, increasing visibility and accessing more general footfall.

As somebody who has been actively involved in East Street developments for nearly 10 years, including attending a Local Action Team meetings for the area I believe the

proposal we are discussing today has the potential to change the atmosphere the area which is desperately needed. We need brighter more open streets where visibility and transparency will assist crime prevention, where business owners alongside residents will take responsibility for their surrounding area and its potential growth and improvement.

Supported by:

Olivia Reid: Terre a Terre (Lead Spokesperson)

Philip Taylor: Terre a Terre

Fiona Mills: VBites Ltd

Karl Jones: Moshimo Opticon

Jonathan Dickson: Scoop and Crumb

Minesh Agnihotri: Indian Summer

Shoshana Plail: 'Child Friendly Brighton'

Christian Cucco

(ii) Deputation: Church Road South Portslade, traffic & road safety improvements: Community consensus and initiatives

Recent event since audit

- 23-09-14, cyclist hit by vehicle at the junction of St Peters and Church Rd
- Police are asking for witnesses, it is under investigation. Bike is still in situ.

Community response to proposal from Road Safety Team

- The best location for a crossing is at the junction of St Peters Rd and Church Rd, as this is the natural flow to/from the school and creates the most risk
- A crossing away from St Peters Rd exposes pedestrians to an unacceptable increase in risk due to exposure to Church Rd, and will be underused.
- In support of changing traffic flow at the North St and Church Rd.
- Immediate posting of a crossing patrol at St Peter's Rd.

Who We Are

- Established 1 yr ago, 100+ active members and 1,000+ supporters
- Concerned parents & community created petition, 800+ signatures 36 hr
- School involvement and community support and cohesion.
- Work directly with established organizations, businesses, groups and council

Meetings and Presentations

- Community consultations with Martin Health, 24th June and 24th July
- Petition, October 13. Deputation December 13.
- Meetings with LAT, school, businesses, organisations, parents, residents

Press

- "Safer Roads, Safer Communities", TV documentary on BBC/ITV
- BBC Sussex Radio, 2 interviews for morning programme
- Argus newspaper and online coverage, 5 articles
- Brighton and hove news and Latest online, 3 articles
- National and local press release from Brake.org

Support for our Campaign

- Brake, charity to support communities' road safety
- Royal Haskoning DHV, international engineering consultancy firm
- Shoreham Port, governing body of port that creates most of the lorry traffic
- Friends of Vale Park, Friends of St Peters
- Our wider community of N Portslade

St Peters Primary School initiatives

- Child Pedestrian Training, hosted by Keith Baldock, the Meerkat and PSO
- Beep Beep Day, hosted by Brake.org and Zak the Zebra.
- Students wrote to Pete West asking for a safe road crossing, as well as raised money for Brake and competed safe roads poster contest, with the winner honoured by Mayor Denise Cobb
- Involved in Safer Routes to School, improving School Travel Plan with input from parents, Royal Haskoning DHV and Safe Roads Team

Bi partisan Initiatives and Support

- Support from Cllr. A. Robins, Cllr. L. Hamilton, Cllr. G. Cox, Cllr. G. Mitchell, MP M. Weatherly and MP Candidate P. Kyle
- "Residents transport survey" leaflet by Ken Rist, Liberal Democrat
- "Crossing for Christmas" campaign by Peter Kyle, Labour
- Door to door campaigning about "local road concerns" by Conservatives
- Application to the crossing patrol position by Chris Hawtree, Green

Rae Powers (Lead Spokesperson)
Simon Clydesdale
Michele Lawrie
Aideen Smith-Watson
Nick Brett
Tabitha Wady
Helen Fry
Pat Sauer
Lou Murley
David Pickering
Nicky Thackeray
Fiona Greenfield