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Bath - Lansdown - the Cavendish Road/Winifreds Lane ETRO

John Morgan <jmorgan743@btinternet.com>

24 June 2024 at 12:31

To: Wera Hobhouse MP <office@werahobhouse.co.uk>

Cc: Lucy Hodge <Lucy_Hodge@bathnes.gov.uk>, Mark Elliott <mark_elliott@bathnes.gov.uk>, manda_rigby@bathnes.org.uk

Dear Mrs Hobhouse

As Bath's MP we know you are aware of the increasing strength of local feeling related to the Council's implementation of a Liveable Neighbourhood in particular, in Lansdown, the proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) which would close Winifreds Lane.

Your reaction in today's FT article demonstrates your concern.

Recent Election communications to us from you have made it clear that you want residents to share their concerns with you on this subject. Many of us were looking forward to talking to you at a meeting you'd kindly arranged for residents of Lansdown and Weston but we quite understand that this had to be delayed because of the Election.

It goes without saying that residents do not oppose the overall concept of Liveable Neighbourhoods anymore than they would disparage motherhood and apple pie! Opposition in Lansdown about the Winifreds ETRO is about implementing the wrong ideas: the devil, as always, is in the detail.

Closing Winifreds Lane does the exact opposite of what a successful LTN should do. This could only displace traffic (residents, school parents and others) past schools and onto nearby streets with far more residents and pedestrians.

It would force residents to access their homes via one of the two most dangerous routes in Bath (Sion Hill/Sion Hill Place with five blind corners, and Julian Road and Morford Street to [Lansdown Road](#), 14 accidents in 5 years).

No experiment is needed to know this.

On the recent engagement we have had with local councillors (Cllrs Lucy Hodge, Mark Elliott and Manda Rigby) they have said three things:

- The LibDems have a mandate to introduce LNs
- Something has to be done to reduce traffic: inconvenience will make traffic evaporate
- We don't know where the traffic will go and this is why we are conducting an experiment.

On the first, we say yes, but they should be *suitable* LNs. On the second we say *maybe*, to a minor extent, but at the expense of increased pollution, carbon emissions and accidents which will far outweigh any traffic reduction.

But on the third we just don't believe it: their protestations are disingenuous because they included in their 2020/21 applications the risks of displaced traffic e.g onto Julian Road/Morford Street and to Lansdown Road. At the Co-Design Workshop in July 22 there was no intervention other than a speed hump suggested on Winifreds and this was carried into the B&NES documentation published in September 22.

We acknowledge the very valuable work you have done in Parliament with your climate positive interventions. It would be a shame if your parliamentary work were to be negated locally and so publicly with the effect of the Winifreds closure on pollution and increased CO2 emissions.

You have the opportunity to help by heal our presently divided community by helping to achieve the right solution to this problem.

All sides agree that what needs to be done is speed calming (which isn't even in the current ETRO proposal).

Speed reduction on Cavendish Road and Winifreds Lane is what was campaigned for, upon which all the residents associations are aligned, which will enable WECA funding and, most importantly we believe, will work for the neighbourhood.

Surely a win/win solution which we hope you can, even at this late stage, help realise by asking the Council to think again.

Yours sincerely

Concerned Residents of Lansdown
(A representative few are included in Attachment 2)

PS

We have appended a reply (Attachment 1) which you sent recently (28 May 24) to a Bathwick resident about the ETRO at Sydney Place. We attach this to save you repeating the Council's generalisations.

While only a few names are appended (Attachment 2) the recent petition on Winifreds runs to two thousand and is indicative of the strength of local feeling: we attach the link: Nearly 2k on the petition: <https://www.change.org/p/stop-winifred-s-lane-closure-protect-safety-of-school-children-and-prevent-traffic-chaos?redirect=false>

Attachment 1

Response to a Bathwick resident from Wera Hobhouse, 29 May 24

"Thank you for getting in touch regarding the Sydney Road LTN. I am carefully listening to all your concerns.

This of course is a council decision and I am not a Council Member, and as an MP I am not involved in the decision making when it comes to local issues like LTNs, but I do believe that consultation and proper engagement with communities are very important.

The council has provided me with further assurance regarding the implementation and objectives of Liveable Neighbourhoods (LNs):

"As with all Liveable Neighbourhoods, the aim of these trails is to take traffic off residential roads and return them to being safe, pleasant areas, encouraging walking and cycling. The main road is the designated route for traffic.

Access to all residencies and businesses is open at all times, though the route taken to get there may change.

The only change is that people in cars should not use residential roads as a cut through.

It's of course possible that drivers will over the period of the trail choose to try other residential roads in order to avoid the main road. This kind of displacement is not what is intended.

Again, in this trial this will be monitored, and mitigations introduced in the light of actual data. It's worth remembering that because of the work by the LibDems and the council, there is a weight limit on Cleveland bridge which prevents 18ton plus HGVs from using it and this has already taken c 30% of traffic of this road at certain times of the day."

In light of concerns raised by residents the council now proposing further consultations and is looking at design improvements of some schemes. I will continue to work with concerned residents.

To raise your concerns further, if you haven't already, I would recommend you get in touch with your local councillors as they are best placed to represent you locally. I would also encourage you to contact BANES Liveable Neighbourhood team at LN@bathnes.gov.uk to raise your objections further.

With best wishes,

Wera Hobhouse

Liberal Democrat MP for Bath"

Attachment 2

Andrew Roberts
Rich Brown
Neil Billett
John Morgan
Tim Spratt
Julian Gooding
Sasha Watkins

Nick Watkins
Neil McCabe
Linda Gamlin
Jenny Atherton
Judy Pritchard
Margaret Knowles
Ros Newman
Jeremy Holmes
Kate Robey
Dorian Baker
Alastair Page