

Question for BANES Full Council Meeting 14th November 2013

Background:

I am a parent of two boys who attend St Andrew's Primary School on Northampton Street. We live in Alpine Gardens and to walk to our local school we have to cross Lansdown Road at the junction with Julian Road and Guinea Lane.

Many other families attending St Andrews, in particular, from Snow Hill, also cross at this junction, which is very busy at rush hour. There is a steady stream of speeding cars, all very impatient to get onto Guinea Lane to queue onto The Paragon/London Road. Therefore, it is very difficult to cross Lansdown Road and extremely dangerous.

In order to cross the road, we usually have to wait until another family comes along so that we can stop the traffic and cross the road en masse. I can feel my anxiety levels rising greatly when we cross the road and I am very concerned about what we are teaching our children – that it is okay to cross the road in oncoming traffic – when clearly it is not.

Even parents with children in year 6 have to walk their children to school because of the dangers of crossing Lansdown Road, at a time when they want to encourage their children to be more independent in preparation for the move to secondary education.

There are many families who use this route to St Andrews and I know many more would walk to school more often if it were safe to do so. We should be encouraging people wanting to walk to school because of the obvious health benefits. This is a huge safety and environmental issue and I understand that this has been a particular problem since Walcot Infants was closed over 4 years ago and yet no still no provision has been made to cross Lansdown Road safely.

I am informed that a pedestrian / traffic study carried out by the council's Design and Projects team highlighted the Julian Road/Guinea Lane junction on Lansdown Road as having sufficient footfall to justify the installation of a zebra crossing, but that budget constraints mean it might not be carried out until 2015.

Can the panel confirm that it will be prioritised and allocated funding in the forthcoming budget and, if not, how they can justify their position?

I will attend the meeting and will bring a petition signed by parents, carers and staff of St Andrew's Church of England Primary School.

Leonie Robertson, Alpine Gardens, Bath, BA1 5PE