

STATEMENT TO COUNCIL - Re: Proposed Lansdown Road Pedestrian Crossing.

REASONS FOR MY SUPPORT FOR A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON LANSDOWN ROAD, BATH:

There is no full crossing anywhere at all along the whole length of Lansdown Road. In effect this cuts off the eastern side from shops, services and facilities (including three food shops, two churches, a school, a postbox, a vet, dry cleaner's, domestic appliance shop, takeaway, hairdresser's, and our local polling station) on the western side, mainly in Julian Road, without taking some risk in crossing a main road.

I am completely against internet shopping; my belief is that we should support our local businesses. Even if some of them are parts of chains and franchises, they still give valuable employment to local people, as well as serving the community. We should do all we can to keep that, as once it's gone, it's gone. However, as I get older, my quick sprint across Lansdown Road feels ever more precarious. My elderly next-door neighbour has watched the disappearance of all the useful shops on the eastern side during her 80 years of living here. She still shops in Julian Road, but is increasingly nervous and less confident about it. Morrison's (on the London Road) is too far for her to walk.

During my 20 years' living in Alpine Gardens (to the east of Lansdown Road), I have never seen a wheelchair user attempt to cross Lansdown Road. When my late partner (who lived all his life on the eastern side of Lansdown) became wheelchair dependent, his trips to Julian Road stopped altogether.

This begs the question: how can wheelchair users get to our designated polling station in Julian Road to vote? It's dodgy enough for the able-bodied, as it's surprisingly difficult to judge the speed of approaching traffic on such a slope.

When I moved into Alpine Gardens 20 years ago, my daughter was 9 years old. I based my choice of primary school for her on NOT having to cross Lansdown Road. That shouldn't be a reason, but to me, safety had to come first.

Finally, on behalf of my elderly neighbour and myself, we are grateful for the halfway island, which certainly makes crossing easier for non-wheelchair users. We'd both be happier still with a full pedestrian crossing, which would give us (and wheelchair users) much more freedom to participate in our local community of shops, postbox, vet's, dry cleaner's, voting, etc...

Many thanks for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Karen Avent.