



Hope House Hoardings Danger - Statement to the Council 14th Sept 17

Councillors:

As Chairman of the Lansdown Crescent Association I present to you a matter of high risk to the safety of our resident members, and others. Since April 2016 the Association has voiced its serious concerns about the effect of the hoardings in front of Hope House, in Lansdown Road. These were installed early last year, supposedly to ensure 'site security', but seem to perform no obvious function other than to provide advertising space for the development. There is an existing wall behind them, on which, to date, no demolition or construction work has taken place. The effect of the hoardings is seriously to impede visibility down the hill for drivers of vehicles emerging from Lansdown Place East into Lansdown Road. It is possible to lose sight of at least two vehicles in the concavity of the hoardings below the door into Hope House. Vehicles in this concavity are unable to see emerging cars.

As well as numerous near-misses, which we are now logging, we have on record details of two collisions that have taken place at this junction since the hoardings were installed. These details were passed on to Peter Bailey, Council Area Traffic Engineer. One involved a motorcyclist, coming up Lansdown Road, being knocked off by an emerging car; and the other a collision between a car and a van in similar circumstances. Fortunately no serious injuries resulted but we consider that effective action must be taken before a more serious collision occurs.

To date there have been two attempts to correct this problem. Neither has made any difference to the described lack of visibility. The cure requires complete removal of the hoardings from the corner of Lansdown Place East down to the entrance door to Hope House. Without action, the hoardings will remain for at least a further year, in which time it seems inevitable that a catastrophe will happen.

We urge the Council to take action in the very near future to resolve this before a preventable life-changing event occurs.

Robin Kerr, Draft 2 dated 12 Sept 17