

Petition to Improve Safety at the Claverton Down / Oakley Road Junction in Bath

I am here this evening to present a petition calling on the Council to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists on the approaches to and at the junction of Claverton Down and Oakley roads in Bath.

The petition is part of a campaign that we in the area have been running since August 2016 and we have gathered 372 signatures. These are both paper signatures, gathered locally from residents and from users of the Community Hall that stands on the junction, and electronic signatures. The on-line part of the petition has enabled us to appeal to members of the public who may not live locally, but who drive or cycle through the junction and can see the dangers on a daily basis.

We in the local community have seen numerous road traffic accidents at the junction over the years. The Highways and Traffic Department has long recognised that there is a problem and have attempted some minor changes, but to no avail. A 20mph speed limit has also been imposed, but this has had little impact. Earlier this year a traffic enforcement officer recorded 50 instances in 50 minutes where motorists had exceeded the speed limit of 20mph by more than double that amount. Also cars frequently mount the pavement outside the Community Hall so as to take the bend at speed. The pavements leading into and around the junction are well used by local residents, students from the University and school children, but they are very narrow in places and pedestrians both feel and are very vulnerable. Also there are no crossing points over these very busy roads to get to and from the Community Hall, bus stops and National Trust fields.

Our tolerance of this state of affairs ended in August last year when, after a collision, a car was bounced across the pavement into my neighbour's wall causing extensive damage. This brought home to us just how vulnerable we are on the pavements, particularly children, the elderly and people such as my wife who is a wheelchair user and would have no chance of getting out of the way. Since then there have been at least 13 more accidents, i.e. on average at least one a month. Two of these again involved cars being bounced onto the pavement. You

may have seen some photos of these in the Chronicle.

The Highways and Traffic Department has been made aware of our campaign and have assured me that their officers will be conducting a study into the junction during the current financial year with a view to bringing a scheme forward for consideration as part of the 2018/19 Capital Programme. Whilst welcoming this assurance, we are concerned that Highways may just concentrate on improving conditions for motorists. In presenting this petition, we are asking the Council to support the need for change and also to ensure that this very dangerous junction is finally made safe for everyone: that is for pedestrians and cyclists as well as for motorists. Our view is that any redesign must include speed control measures and safe crossings for example crossings on speed tables on each of the approach roads.

Gene Kerr
Claverton Down Road
Bath