

3-minute statement by Angela Goldson

In support of [Councillor Joanna Wright's motion](#) to reduce "HGV traffic on narrow, unsuitable roads" on 16th March 2023

In advance of Cllr Wright's motion to reduce "HGV traffic on narrow, unsuitable roads", I'm here to share my experience as a resident of Grosvenor Villas on Claremont Road.

We're exasperated, so please listen. Our road has become an HGV 'rat-run'.

Increasingly, and on a daily basis, we observe:

- Massive vehicles which - when unable to turn the bottom corner into St Saviour's Road - reverse all the way back up the hill to find another route
- Some persist to make the left turn. They mount the pavements and repeatedly hit the metal bollards
- Or, realising the left turn is impossible, they turn right - the wrong way down the one-way street - and drive onto the London Road into on-coming traffic

We have provided over twenty photos and video clips as evidence:

https://share.icloud.com/photos/0f3WVNR-Rye6_Xrx6HBMS0KyQ

Here's an example...

Beaufort Lodge, the Grade 2 listed corner property has had its 8ft wall knocked down twice by HGVs.

- Thankfully, no-one has been injured - yet.
- However, the planning permission repair process was lengthy, and expensive.
- BANES' council have installed bollards, but they're no match for an HGV and have been knocked down 5 times.
- Both corner walls at the junction are now unprotected, as only 2 out of 5 bollards remain

In the meantime - and against our wishes - BANES' officials have unilaterally decided without adequate consultation to forcefully implement a CHICANE-based RPZ on our road. The result will be chaotic traffic flow.

In good faith, we asked to have the RPZ only on the **east** side of Grosvenor Villas - which is how we successfully park at present. This was seen as viable by the council, but later rejected because they would prefer to use **our** cars as a traffic calming measure. With HGVs reversing and weaving around our cars, we will each face thousands of pounds of repairs.

On 7th March, we met on site with council officials and partially mocked-up the proposed chicane model. Everyone - officials included - witnessed driver confusion, an immediate increase in car fumes, and increased difficulty moving in and out of driveways.

We believe that no coherent, integrated business or safety case has been produced or independently reviewed. BANES' officers are implementing a flawed and dangerous solution which has not been systematically thought through.

However, we believe our road can return to being a liveable neighbourhood, if the council:

- A) Stop large HGVs using Claremont Road
- B) LISTEN to us by implementing the RPZ on the residents' side of the road.