

BANES Council Meeting, 16 May 2024

I live in Sydney Road and have some comments in support of the recently installed Liveable Neighbourhood Trial at New Sydney Place and Sydney Road.

Our house fronts Sydney Road and I have an excellent view of the traffic flow up and down the Road. Prior to the Trial we endured constant through traffic, and constant traffic noise, starting around 6.30am and easing off around 6.30pm. Few drivers appeared to observe the speed limit of 20mph, probably none during the rush hours, and very few drove below 30mph. BANES has now provided a much safer environment, free from speeding traffic, for both residents of the area and the many visitors to Sydney Gardens.

The Trial has closed Sydney Road as a through road, and through traffic must use Beckford Road as the route to and from the Warminster Road and the A36. As residents of Sydney Road, we also must take this route to and from the A36, which we have done many times. Outside the rush hours and at weekends we have found that journeys to and from home take little or no time more than before the Trial. There are still the usual delays in the rush hours, but these are not excessive.

Prior to the Trial, ambulances, sirens wailing, would come down Sydney Road on a regular basis. I contacted the South Western Ambulance Service as I was concerned that a traffic filter would impede emergency services. I was told that the closure of Sydney Road would not cause significant delays as ambulances would simply use Beckford Road.

Our neighbourhood has been transformed since the Trial began. There are more pedestrians and cyclists on the Road, instead of traffic noise we now hear birdsong, and we live in a quiet environment, which I believe is a reasonable expectation in a residential area.

I fully support this Liveable Neighbourhood, and at the end of the Trial would recommend that the level of any inconvenience to through traffic be weighed carefully against both the major safety considerations and the re-creation of what is now, and should continue to be, a quiet residential neighbourhood.

Richard Andrews