

Good evening Councillors, I am Alan Morley. I have lived at the bottom of North Road above its junction with Warminster Road since 1999. My comments are made after consulting the people at the bottom of North Road. When the co-design workshop was held no one from the bottom of North Road attended as it was not considered that changes around Sydney Place, would affect us. If there had been an indication that the closure of Sydney Road was a possibility, then we would have got involved. We think that the trial road layouts are solving a problem that did not exist. However, I ask you to take note of the words of Wera Hobhouse, our Liberal Democrat MP , "In my opinion the Council has not engaged and communicated properly **what** the intentions, evidence base and success criteria of individual schemes are; the Sydney Road closure stands out amongst them", and "The more I listen to individual households the more I doubt that closing off Sydney Road has any real benefits".

In general people are in favour of liveable neighbourhoods as most of us walk and some cycle everywhere within the city. However, we cannot dis-invent the motor car and so any measures to reduce its impact should be of benefit to the majority and minimise disruption to daily lives. We live only a few feet from Sydney Rd and would assume we are part of the same neighbourhood. However, Sydney Road and Place make up one road, not a neighbourhood.

As a result of the closure, we now have more traffic queueing in front of our houses, particularly during school runs in the morning and evening. When another stress was added, like the open days at Bath University, the queues and consequent fumes lasted for an hour or so outside our houses. We asked for queue monitoring on North Road and Warminster Road, but to our knowledge that is not being done. Even so, we have still to see the full effect because according to Highways England's figures the Limpley Stoke road works have reduced traffic volumes on the A36 by 20% since January and these will reduce further when the A36 is fully closed from August to the spring of 2025. This traffic has only been displaced and will return when the road is reopened. This means that for the period of the trial, traffic volumes and flow rates are significantly curtailed by temporary circumstances. How will it be possible for

the Council to objectively rely on their monitoring data to justify the Sydney Road ETRO trial?

Scheme supporters argue that Sydney Road/New Sydney Place is a Rat Run. We believe it is a relief valve for traffic going towards Pulteney Road where traffic can turn onto Darlington Street, at a traffic light controlled junction. In our opinion this is borne out by the increase in traffic on Beckford Road and Sydney Place leading up to the junction with Bathwick Street. There is also an increase in traffic on Cleveland Walk, St Anne's Way and Bathwick Hill. These are all streets in the neighbourhood of Bathwick. The residents are dealing with heavier traffic and fumes because of one street's insistence that they should hear birdsong. This is not a liveable or low traffic neighbourhood. It is a neighbourhood that was largely not consulted – some houses never received any correspondence but learnt about it through neighbours.

Additionally, some residents have noticed a significant increase in the number of emergency vehicles using their sirens, to make a way through standing traffic. Other residents perceive that the average speed of traffic going up North Road has increased probably because of the change in sightlines which is making it more difficult and less safe for pedestrians to cross North Road. We see traffic turning in Sydney Road, Kennet House had its gate post demolished by a lorry turning, E scooters going through the bollards on the wrong side of the road and into oncoming traffic. I could go on about the adverse affects of closing Sydney Road but all these have been included in comments on the consultation responses.

Councillors, the residents at the bottom of North Road are united in their opposition to the scheme, and consider that the money would be better spent on more deserving neighbourhoods than Sydney Road/New Sydney Place that was already a pleasant place to live. However, whatever the outcome, the residents would ask that further consultation takes place on the layout and surface water drainage of the North Road/Warminster Road junction.

Thank you for your time.