

## **BANES Council Cabinet meeting 14.11.24**

### **Tim Spratt submission**

I'm here on behalf of over 300 hundred residents who live on or close to Winifreds Lane and over 3500 people who've signed a petition against the ETRO the council has imposed on the Lane.

I'm here on behalf of people who have an innate understanding of the locality that they live in, day in day out. People who are now scared, frightened and deeply upset.

These are residents who may also not have a voice, from the lower socio-economic areas of Julian Road and Morford Street who walk their children to St Andrews School, go to the shops and nearby doctors' surgeries, and who now face bumper to bumper traffic and increased pollution where they live.

In the High Court – at a cost of some £50 thousand pounds to the council – the ETRO was shown to be illegal. It remains illegal today. The Council's own safety report is deficient in failing to identify that the ETRO does not comply with either DfT guidance on cycling infrastructure LTN 1/20 or the Active Travel England check tool.

In addition, the Council has declined to give a legal basis as to why it closed without warning the entrance to Winifred's Lane on November 7<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent problems it caused local householders.

In short, the second Lower Lansdown ETRO is unsafe, it's unlawful, local residents don't want it, and it wasn't the outcome of the co-design process. Despite what some of you have said publicly, local residents were **never** consulted about the Winifreds Lane ETRO.

Instead, what your ETRO **has** achieved is more congestion on residential roads within the Liveable Neighbourhood, delays to bus timetables, longer car trips, raised pollution in front of schools and is a danger to the very people it's supposed to benefit - pedestrians and cyclists.

Is this really how LibDem councillors want to behave? To be perceived? To not seek compromise with those that you apparently represent?

Paddy Ashdown one of the LibDem's great leaders said:

*"I believe passionately in the middle ground, in civilised negotiation, in compromise. Politics is about people, not ideology."*

You said to us in your 2023 manifesto that, and I quote:

*"Local people know their areas best"*

You said you'd:

*"Put residents first and actively listen to them"*

You promised you wouldn't, be a *"top-down council"*

Well, the challenge from hundreds of locals in Lower Lansdown, Julian Road, Morford Street and Sion Hill is why have you broken your promises to us?

Please talk with us. Seek compromise and find an LTN for our area that is safe, works as its meant to, and which helps rather than hurts us.

ENDS