

A few weeks ago a dog in my care became suddenly very unwell and began hemorrhaging. I needed to get him to Rosemary Lodge Veterinary Hospital as a matter of emergency. My journey was delayed by 20 minutes because I had to sit in heavy traffic caused by the closure of Sydney Road.

Whilst sitting in my car, waiting, the following thoughts went through my head:

Firstly that I was really very angry

Ziggy was lying bleeding in the back of my car for longer than necessary so that 26 Sydney Road residents could be freed from "the tyranny of the motor car".

That almost almost 4000 signatures from other residents against this LTN were of no consequence to this Council.

That 779 formal complaints against the scheme during the trial period were of no consequence to this Council.

That the reasoned arguments and observations of engineers, doctors, lawyers many 100's of residents and even our Liberal Democrat MP were of no consequence to this Council.

That extensive press coverage regarding the injustice of the scheme/ its totally inadequate consultation process/and fundamentally flawed trial period has been of no consequence to this Council.

That most recently ... First Bus said "Any LTNs push traffic out onto main roads and increase traffic, this delays bus services and is making cars the most attractive option" - this was also of no consequence to this Council.

That I would no longer feel safe walking home after dark on Sydney Road - again no consequence.

I would remind you that as a council you are supposed to serve, enhance and protect the local environment and its residents - these particular LTNs are increasing pollution and hindering people from going about their lawful business of work, education and recreation. You do not disappear traffic by closing roads, you just divert it on to other roads. To disappear traffic you have to offer a viable alternative. Where have you done that? There are no criteria that could judge this scheme successful unless of course you are one of the 26 supporters on Sydney Place.

My work means I meet people from many different walks of life and I can tell you that right now, trust in this council and its integrity have been massively damaged. You might want to reflect on

the principle that it never ends well when institutions are allowed to mark their own homework - as both the Post Office and the Church of England have discovered to enormous cost. This entire regime flies in the face of democracy.

So now I leave you with this final thought,

Whilst you are listening to the 6th speaker after me this evening, you will have spent the same amount of time as Ziggy and I did, in traffic, waiting, bleeding..... to free 26 residents from the tyranny of the motor car, but I guess that too will be of little consequence.

Good evening