

Council, thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. I want to say a few words about the recent upgrades to Bloomfield Road.

For a number of years, residents of Bloomfield Road, which is in the Lyncombe part of the Widcombe and Lyncombe ward and is one of the historical southern routes in and out of Bath, have been working collaboratively with ward councillors and BANES officers on how to improve safety for pedestrians crossing the road. This has been a big worry for residents, especially considering the number of schoolchildren at local schools and we have seen a number of collisions and near misses.

Initially a community action group was formed which led to the creation of the Bloomfield Road Residents Association who campaigned on this issue. An important factor was the local speed watch group who provided the data to show something needed to be done.

The result of these campaigns was the recent installation of two new zebra crossings at the junctions with St Lukes Road and Englishcombe Lane. This is a big improvement and improves the safety for local residents.

Julie Ingerfield, who leads the Speed watch group on our road and can often be seen at the St Lukes crossing said the percentage of drivers who breach the speed limit has fallen from a range of 15-20% before the zebra crossings were installed to 5-10% afterwards. This has meant they now have reduced the occasions they monitor this part of the road and are able to focus on other areas.

A Beechen Cliff pupil who crosses the road each school day by the Englishcombe Lane crossing said “the new zebra crossing has made me feel safer as the cars slow down in anticipation of the crossing. This means crossing the road is safer and easier for me each day”.

A parent with children at Moorlands School said “I feel much more confident now allowing my child to walk to school on his own”.

So, in summary, Bloomfield Road is now a safer place to live, cycle and walk for both residents and school pupils. I would like to thank the council for these upgrades as this has made it safer for pedestrians in our area and I encourage you to continue improving the infrastructure in the rest of the authority. As someone who lived in the Netherlands for 10 years I can tell you there is still a long way to go if we want to increase the active travel opportunities for our residents.