

## **Good evening Chair, Councillors, Officers and members of the supporting Public**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

As many of you know, I am a cyclist. I stand here this evening not to oppose cycling infrastructure — I support active travel — but to ask that it is delivered safely and with proper consultation.

I am presenting a petition signed by 113 residents of Milton Avenue and Chaucer Road on Bear Flat requesting that the cycle hangar positioned at the junction of Chaucer Road and Milton Avenue be relocated. The petition is supported by the Bear Flat Association, who were not aware of the proposed location prior to installation.

The principle of cycle hangars is sound. The siting of this one is not.

Placed directly at a crossroads junction, it has already contributed to one accident involving a cyclist, a collision with a delivery van, and more than 100 reported near misses. The hangar itself shows signs of impact. This is a constrained residential junction with reduced sightlines, used daily by drivers, pedestrians, cyclists — and crucially, children walking to Beechen Cliff School. The safety risk is real and ongoing.

Officers have confirmed that relocation is being progressed and that safer alternative sites further along Chaucer Road have been identified. That is welcome, and I would urge that relocation proceeds without delay.

However, it is entirely reasonable to reflect on how we reached this position.

Residents were not directly consulted on the specific siting. The Bear Flat Association was unaware of the proposed location. The first they knew was when it arrived in location. Through a Freedom of Information request, I established that no formal safety case had been undertaken prior to installation, and Avon and Somerset Highways Safety Team were not consulted — I asked directly.

Smarter consultation and a proper safety assessment at the outset would almost certainly have avoided the cost, the risk and the community concern that you now dealing with.

This is about delivering infrastructure competently and safely.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents of Milton Avenue and Chaucer Road for their persistence, Peter Stacey for coordinating the petition, and the Bear Flat Association for their support. We stand ready to work constructively with the Council to secure a safer .

Thank you.