

R. Parker statement

I am speaking on behalf 80 households of the Sion Hill and Summerhill Rd RA, and we strongly object to the closure of Winifred's Lane. The RA represents a broad range of residents including young families, walkers, cyclists and bus users.

I attended an early public presentation about the traffic options and RA committee members attended subsequent meetings. Neither the closure of Winifred's Lane nor the unfounded linkage to the Gay Street ETRO was ever presented for public comment.

The final scope of the ETRO was a complete surprise.

The RA then conducted a door to door survey. We did not encounter anyone who approved of the closure of Winifred's Lane - in fact many were very vocal in their opposition.

Our own figures corroborate the Council's statistic that "72% in the affected area are opposed to closure of Winifred's Lane".

Regarding safety; The blind bends and narrow pavement on the loop below Sion Hill Place are clearly unsuitable for the increased two way traffic, which was previously almost wholly one-way. An increase in the number of accidents in this area is inevitable and already evidenced but omitted from the report.

The kerb in this area has almost completely worn away and the pavement is crumbling so it is now at the same level as the road. Drivers will be unable to distinguish the road boundary, this is a clear hazard for pedestrians.

At the top of Cavendish Road, cars now pass at speed round the corner into and out of Sion Hill West. Prior to the ETRO this was a give-way junction, requiring traffic to be more cautious. Now pedestrians, such as myself, need to be extremely vigilant when trying to cross at the top of Cavendish. And it must be perilous for cyclists attempting to enter Winifred's Lane from Cavendish.

The single member decision states it has been made irrespective of any mitigation. Not only does this show a blatant disregard for safety, the suggested mitigations will not fix these new dangers created at the top of Cavendish Road and Sion Hill Place.

At peak times, the affected section of Sion Rd near the gates of the Kingswood Prep School is now a bedlam of vehicles attempting valid journeys North or South.

My household and three neighbours share the exit with the school and as result of the havoc we are restricted in the times we can make journeys and in arranging deliveries or trades.

I urge the scrutiny committee to suspend their decision until they have observed this created chaos for themselves.

In summary;

- Safety for all road users and pedestrians in this area has been compromised.
- The closure of Winifred's Lane has manifestly failed all three objectives of the LTN.
- No reasonable council would route traffic from one un-classified road, just to be displaced onto another, less suitable, un-classified road, past a school and more residential properties.

There is no rational reason that justifies the closure of Winifred's Lane and it should be unlinked from other ETROs and re-opened.