

## **Tim Spratt comments to BANES Scrutiny Committee 23.02.2026**

I ask the Committee to support the call-in. I live in Upper Lansdown Mews. It's within the LN and is affected by the closure of Winifreds Lane. I'm also a member of the Lansdown Crescent Residents Association, which I should stress is formally neutral on the closure of the lane.

I'd like to begin with a quote on WL from one of our ward councillors Mark Elliott who said in January 24: **"If, following the trial, it is indeed the case that the traffic is simply diverted onto other unsuitable routes, then it will not be made permanent, and adjustment or removal will be the only viable options for consideration."**

Our other ward councillor Lucy Hodge said the same, that traffic simply choosing to use Sion Hill West and Sion Hill Place to join back onto Sion Road **quotes "would clearly not be an acceptable outcome."**

Let's be clear. Traffic on Sion Road has **doubled**. That's including **outside** of school hours. On Morford Street traffic went up by 400 vehicles per day, also affecting another junior school.

Those are precisely the outcomes that both our ward councillors said would be unacceptable. I ask you to scrutinise promises that were made to us in the ward. Should they be broken?

More than **half a million additional** vehicles have now been sent past two junior schools, per year through closing WL. **Making closure permanent is a deliberate choice to send much more traffic past schools. Please scrutinise what is safe for school children and their health.**

But what was **omitted from the council decision reports?**

**Collisions.** A four-ton lorry wrote off a resident's car on the blind bends of Sion Road. That was reported, yet it didn't appear anywhere in the reports.

**Speed data.** The number two issue shown in the surveys: Not in the reports.

**Active Travel England's LTN 1/20** compliance review of Winifred's Lane found **four critical safety failures** and stated the design would "likely reduce safety." Not in the reports.

Even the Lansdown Crescent Residents Association has said: **"Winifred's Lane has a gradient of 16% at its lower end and is certainly not safe for children to use as a cycle route."**

**No one's saying do nothing. Ultimately this comes down to the simplest of choices. Simply swap the bollards on WL for speed bumps. Or, support its closure, and choose danger, community division, risking Lucy and Mark likely losing the ward in 27, and ignore the vast majority of residents who are clearly shouting that this specific issue harms them.**