

## **Council meeting**

February 23 2026

Liveable neighbourhoods: Lower Lansdown ETRO

Comments of Richard Brown

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

By way of background, I am a resident of The Circus and have lived there for just over 11 years. I am a member of the local residents' association and previously served as Vice-Chair on its committee. My comments – in my personal capacity - are targeted at the impact of the Scheme from the through-traffic restrictions into Gay Street and on Catharine Place.

In recent years, I have witnessed a beneficial impact on the local community in The Circus area from a number of Council traffic schemes. Two in particular - the prohibition of tourist coaches and the increase in resident-only parking spaces – have served to reduce traffic volume, traffic noise and pollution in this residential area.

I see the traffic scheme under discussion today as a further essential step in improving the lives of residents in and around Lower Lansdown. The trial scheme has had several clear successes in improving the lives of residents.

I have observed 4 main outcomes:

1. The eradication of rat-run vehicular traffic moving north on upper Gay Street.
2. A material reduction in rat-run vehicular traffic moving south on upper Gay Street.
3. A significant reduction in traffic congestion at the George Street/Gay Street intersection with better traffic flow along George Street.
4. A significant reduction in rat-run traffic through Catharine Place to Bennett Street.

The net result from the lower traffic volumes – as evidenced by Council data – creates a safer environment that has supported increased walking, cycling and e-scooter activity in and around The Circus. In particular, we have seen parents confident enough to teach their children how to cycle and also one gentleman who teaches people how to ride the penny farthing.

From the Scheme benefits that I have observed, I support the decision to make permanent the through-traffic restrictions.

Thank you.