

Brighton & Hove City Council

Transport & Sustainability Committee

Agenda Item 11(c)

Subject: Deputations

Date of meeting: 6 July 2023

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

1) Deputation: Further traffic calming measures requested for Franklin Road

Summary

Significant traffic calming measures are requested for Franklin Road, particularly at the junction with De Montfort Road and the top-end junction with Wellington Street.

Background

This request is being made by Lower-North-East-Hanover Residents which is a group that provides a forum where residents in our local area can meet to discuss and improve our local neighbourhood. The area covered by our group is shown in the map in Annex 1.

An issue that is consistently raised in this forum is the problem caused by cars travelling fast along Franklin Road which is used as a rat-run by through traffic to avoid the traffic lights and congestion at the bottom of Elm Grove. The first problem point is the wide junction with De Montfort Road where cars sweep round travelling to and from Elm Grove. This can make crossing the wide roads at this point difficult, particularly for the elderly. Also, this is a place used by children to cross the road on the way to-and-from William Clarke Park and Fairlight and St. Martins Schools (for example, see the submission we have had from a resident of De Montfort Road shown in Annex 2). A second problem point is the extra traffic at the junction with Wellington Street at the top of Franklin Road. Visibility on this corner is poor and the traffic creates problems for disabled visitors to the Wellington House Day Centre situated on this corner (for example see supporting letter from the manager of the Day Centre in Annex 2).

On 18th January 2022, the Lower-North-East-Hanover-Residents (LNEHR) group made a deputation to the ETS Committee to be included as part of the LTN being considered for the Hanover area. A major motivation for this deputation was to tackle the problems mentioned above, which might be exacerbated by extra traffic using Elm Grove following an LTN introduction. The simple solution then proposed (as part of the LTN trial) was a trial road closure on Franklin Road, just below the junction with Wellington Road. However, this proposal was strongly opposed by certain local residents who felt this would limit their flexibility and local travel options by car.

However, at meetings of the LNEHR group, there is universal support for some form significant traffic calming measures to address the problems mentioned above.

Request

Please could the Council consider suitable and cost-effective traffic-calming measures to inhibit and control the use of Franklin Road by through traffic.

The North-East Hanover Residents group will be happy to discuss any proposals with the Council and give any assistance we can with their introduction.

Supported by:

Nicholas Wells (Lead Spokesperson)

Vanessa Cox Pendray

Marian Brooker

K. Isaksen

S. Isaksen

Camilla Gauge

Mark Jubber

Iain White

Pamela Nickels

Deniz Birkan

Clinton Cousins

James Morris

Supporting Information

Annex 1: Map of Area



Letter 1: from a resident of De Montfort R

49 DE MONTFORT ROAD LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD SUBMISSION

As a resident of the above address in the Elm Grove area of Brighton I have often found the traffic flow surrounding my house to be problematic. De Montfort Rd. is used as a cut-through to avoid the traffic and traffic lights at the corner of Lewes Rd. and Elm Grove. Cars speed around the corner of Franklin and De Montfort Rd and along the road in haste to access Elm Grove – even though there are speed bumps. As we are near the corner of the Franklin and De Montfort Rd, my 9-year old twins and I often stand near the corner and attempt to cross the road. This endeavour is made dangerous by the speed of cars and trucks whipping around the corner and into De Montfort, and exacerbated by at least half of the motorists not indicating before they turn. So we look down Franklin Rd., see a car, it isn't indicating so we start to cross, THEN suddenly it whips around and is on top of us. I find this very dangerous especially as my one child has Down Syndrome and isn't consistent with his danger awareness. This busy corner not only affects my household, but also all the parents in the area and especially those at the two nearby schools Elm Grove and Fairlight as this junction is used frequently as the route to William Clarke Park (the Patch). After school on most days many families are crossing at this point, and later on, kids running down Picton Street towards the junction. This area would dearly benefit from some traffic calming measure – like Copenhagen crossings – or for De Montfort Rd to be made one-way access so that cars could only exit from De Montfort into Franklin. This would cause the traffic to avoid this area or to join Elm Grove by continuing up Franklin Rd and into Wellington St where there are far few houses and these are side on to the street.

MARK JUBBER

49 DE Montfort Road

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oad

Letter 2: From the Manager of the Wellington House Day Centre

In support of the Lower North East Hanover Residents bid for a Liveable Neighbourhood

Wellington House Day Service for adults with learning disabilities has been in operation on this site for over 30 years and as such it plays a significant part in the local neighbourhood. We support people with a range of physical and learning disabilities and autism to access the community, develop independent skills and provide a range of activities suited to their needs and aims. Having an accessible, clean and pleasant neighbourhood would support us in being a more visible and included part of that neighbourhood which in turn would allow us and the people that attend to contribute their strengths, skills and value to the community.

As we work with a number of people with mobility issues as well as some who can struggle with road safety being situated where we are can be challenging. The hill up Elm Grove and Franklin Rd can be difficult for many people to manage, whilst assisting people in wheelchairs can be a physical risk to carers. Widening and improving the quality and level of the pavements would have a significant impact for the service users and staff. Providing seating areas would allow people who struggle to take a break whilst encouraging more community inclusion. Reducing traffic (particularly around Wellington Street and Franklin Rd) would help to make the area safer and less polluted. Being near to the 'Patch' we use this a lot but improved access into it would help massively as it can be quite difficult to negotiate in a wheelchair or with mobility issues so it prohibits many of our service users from going there.

Daniel Harvey
Day Options Manager
Wellington House

Email 3: From local resident

From: Anna [REDACTED]

Date: 5 May 2023 at 20:53:52 BST

To: Ineh.residents@gmail.com

Subject: Franklin road

Hi,

I hope I am not too late.

i am very happy for Franklin road to be closed to cars and us having a pedestrian area.

It affects De Montfort road a lot, cars cut the 'corner' drive sometimes dangerously fast.

My daughter-in-law was almost hit by one last week.

Thank you

Anna [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] De Montfort road
Brighton
[REDACTED]