

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF NEW COLLEGE ROAD AT WENLOCK ROAD

I would like to take this opportunity to assure Committee that support for making New College Road into a cul-de sac is not just limited to the 12 households which have submitted letters of support for the proposal. From my involvement with and feedback from all the 24 households which make up New College Road I can confidently say that they all support the closure and that none object to it being carried out at the Wenlock Road end. This is without doubt the best way to ensure that all 100% of the rat-running traffic is directed back onto the Distributor Network where it is properly catered for and expected to be.

Over many preceding years our narrow Local Road has been subjected to ever increasing use as a rat-run and has reached the point where at least two-thirds of the traffic presently using it is non local.

The planned 50% increase of people attending the college together with the development of commercial enterprises such as the Hair and Beauty Treatment Salon and Origins Restaurant can only significantly increase the volume of out of area traffic using it to truly unacceptable levels unless something is done.

It is not, however, only the excessively high number of vehicles on the road that is a problem, it is also the behaviour of a significant number of the drivers that causes alarm and fear for safety amongst us residents. The last comprehensive survey that counted the vehicle numbers also revealed that the average speed on the road was over 31 miles per hour and that the maximum speed recorded was an alarming 51.5 miles per hour.

Obviously everyone appreciates that such a closure would mean that some extra travel and inconvenience would be caused for residents, especially those at the Wenlock Road end, but everyone that actually lives on the road agrees that this is a small acceptable price to pay for the significant improvement a closure would bring in environmental and safety terms.

I would therefore sincerely request on behalf of all the residents that this Committee approves the Officer's recommendation which embodies the ideals of the Council's Core Strategy Policy No.6.

Thank you.