

## Formal Request from Residents to Make Round Hill a Low Traffic Neighbourhood

Deputation to BHCC ETS Committee, 15 March 2022

Spokesperson: Cllr Pete West

I'm a ward councillor for Round Hill and have been asked to be the spokesperson for this deputation on behalf of the residents who wish to request formal consideration of the neighbourhood in the roll-out of the Council's Low-Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) Scheme. This action is supported by the residents' association, the Round Hill Society.

Round Hill is a densely-populated residential area of about 900 households in the north of the St Peter's and North Laine ward of Brighton & Hove. Rolling-out the Council's Low-Traffic Neighbourhood scheme across the Round Hill would address a number of community objectives:

- (1) To reduce the ease of 'external traffic' using residential streets as rat runs. In response to the petition brought to the ETS Committee in November 2021, councillors called for an officer's report on how to stop rat-running along Prince's Crescent and Wakefield Road. This route is used by drivers to avoid the new traffic system at the junction of Ditchling and Upper Lewes Roads. Modal filters to stop the rat run through Round Hill could form part of a broader LTN scheme.
- (2) To improve active travel infrastructure. Some walkways in Round Hill have become hotspots for pavement parking and are dangerous to pedestrians, some of whom have limited mobility. Other pavements are very narrow for pedestrians, and filled with street furniture. Rat-running vehicles continue to pose a danger to cyclists. An LTN could be used to address these issues and improve the active travel infrastructure in Round Hill.
- (3) To improve the 'public realm' by adding public green space. Round Hill lacks any green public space. In comparison with averages for Brighton & Hove, Round Hill has a higher proportion of one-person and single-pensioner households; as well as a high proportion of people living in flats in converted houses, many without garden access. Creating pocket parks in Round Hill as part of an LTN scheme would improve the public realm and bring physical, social, and psychological benefits to the community. Adding green public space to the neighbourhood would also make a positive contribution to the greening of the local environment and create habitats for wildlife.
- (4) To improve air quality. Round Hill is bordered to the east by Lewes Road and to the north by Hollingdean Road. These roads have been identified as amongst the worst in the city for high levels of nitrogen dioxide associated with adverse impacts on health and wellbeing.

Some streets in Round Hill already have minimal traffic, and people in other streets want the same quality of life, improved social interactions, support of local retail, and ease of active travel enabled by an LTN. Round Hill Green Spaces, a community action group set-up in 2018 and which operates under the auspices of the residents' association, is well placed to support council officers in the roll-out of an LTN in the area. Our residents' association, the Round Hill Society, has been

established for 22 years and has strong track record of successfully coordinating and delivering a diverse range of community projects.

Supported by

Cllr Pete West

Cllr Sue Shanks

Rob Stephenson - Secretary Round Hill Society

Dominic Furlong - Round Hill Green Spaces

Jane Power -- Round Hill Green Spaces

Kate Rice - Round Hill Green Spaces