

**Campaign to save our grass verges**

1 October 2013

Mr J Peel  
Democratic Services Officer  
Brighton & Hove City Council

Dear John

**BRIGHTON & HOVE (VARIOUS ROADS) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING AND WAITING ON VERGES AND FOOTWAYS) ORDER 20\*\* (TRO-15-2013)**

I should be grateful if this request could be included with the agenda for the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee's meeting on 8 October 2013.

We regret that, on the basis of the consultant's advice, it has been recommended that Varndean Road be deleted from the proposed Surrenden area pilot scheme.

We seek inclusion of Varndean Road (together with the other areas given in the officer's report) and list below the grounds for our request:

1. your consultant's report appears flawed in stating that the road would be effectively single track for 250m (we estimate the distance at c.93m - ie the road length outside Grosvenor Court). They've ignored the fact drivers are able to (and do in fact) give way at many places along the entire length of Varndean Rd.
2. We've observed drivers being quite sensible in terms of speed and being willing to pull in to let approaching vehicles pass (using numerous driveway crossovers and road junctions).
3. the proposal is for a *pilot* scheme which is subject to review; the council will learn more from the pilot if Varndean Rd is included. We don't believe the risk of collision is high because visibility along the road is good and speeds are moderated commensurate with conditions.
4. By including Varndean Road the pilot scheme might find some vehicles are non-resident and find alternatives. The consultants alluded to possible commuter use.
5. Precedents exist for longer distances of single width traffic, and this is not a busy road.
6. Our public verges here make such a positive contribution to the character and appearance of this area that they should be regarded as 'out of bounds' for vehicular use.
7. Provided the road surface outside Grosvenor Court is utilised the displacement should be limited to, perhaps, a handful of vehicles – the officer has stated "up to 20 vehicles use the verges" here; the road surface here of about 93metres suggests capacity for about 15 cars.

Yours faithfully

N E White  
Committee member  
Preston & Patcham Society

