

## **ANNEX A**

**Mr Bill McCarthy  
Chief Executive  
City of York Council  
The Guildhall  
York YO1 9QN**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

### **Re. Point Closure of Westminster Road, Clifton**

Dear Mr McCarthy,

I am writing on behalf of residents of Westminster Road and The Avenue to formally present the enclosed petition to the council.

This calls on the council to instigate the closure of Westminster Road to address the serious issue of 'rat-run' through-traffic using Westminster Road and The Avenue as a short-cut to avoid the Water End/Clifton Green junction.

This follows the changes made to the traffic-flow along Water End, from Acomb to Clifton Green, and the substantial delays and disruption this project has caused. The specific impact on Westminster Road and The Avenue has been the use of these quiet residential streets as a 'rat-run', increasing the traffic levels, noise and environmental pollution and threats to safety.

The petition has been signed by the overwhelming majority properties on Westminster Road, and indicates the support of more than 85% of the residents and we therefore call on the council to install the bollards required to complete the 'point closure' without delay.

Yours sincerely,

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<i>cc</i>	<i>David Scott</i>	<i>Councillor - Clifton Ward</i>
	<i>Ken King</i>	<i>Councillor - Clifton Ward</i>
	<i>Helen Douglas</i>	<i>Councillor - Clifton Ward</i>
	<i>Jon Pickles</i>	<i>Senior Transport &amp; Safety Engineer, York Council</i>
	<i>Mike Durkin</i>	<i>Transport &amp; Safety Project Manager, York Council</i>
	<i>Ray Chaplain</i>	<i>Transport &amp; Safety Manager, York Council</i>
	<i>Damon Copperthwaite</i>	<i>Assistant Director for City Strategy, York Council</i>
	<i>Bill Woolley</i>	<i>Director for City Strategy, York Council</i>
	<i>Dave Carter</i>	<i>Head of Network Management, York Council</i>
	<i>Graham Titchener</i>	<i>Programme Manager Cycling City York</i>
	<i>Ruth Egan</i>	<i>Head of Transport &amp; Planning, York Council</i>
	<i>Richard Smyth</i>	<i>Head Master, St Peter's School, York</i>

## TRAFFIC IN THE AVENUE AND WESTMINSTER ROAD.

Dear Neighbours

I know that many of us are very concerned about the substantial increase in traffic in The Avenue following the alterations to the junction by the Green at Water End. The Council have apparently measured the flow and are surprised that the increase has been so marked and so severe. Apparently upto 420 vehicles per hour have been recorded using Westminster Road and The Avenue as a "rat-run" at peak times mid. week.

There seems to be a growing feeling that something needs to be done to curb the problems that the alterations at the junction have created and I understand that these issues were discussed at a public meeting with the Council a month or so ago, and are to be discussed at the next Ward meeting next week.

At the St. Peters/Resident's meeting a fortnight ago, I raised the issue of the potential risk of a serious accident occurring in The Avenue when it is congested with traffic, especially when school children<sup>one</sup> being dropped off or collected at peak times, and I am very concerned about this. The Headmaster said that he would support any measures that would improve the safety of the schools pupils.

When the road works/pipe burst problem was being dealt with, I had a long conversation with the City's Highways Engineer, John Pickles; I suggested that we needed to have "No Entry Except For Access" signs, and width restrictions installed to curb a likely increase in rat-running. Mr. Pickles was of the opinion that only the closure of Westminster Road to through traffic would have any effect, and I have now come to the same conclusion.

If Westminster Road were to be closed there would simply be no rat-run, and The Avenue would be safer, quieter, and altogether more pleasant. Although there would be some inconvenience to all residents, and to St. Peter's ( especially for their coach drivers! ) I think this is a small price to pay, and so it seems do the residents in Westminster Road who have already got together and all but 5 houses from 72 have signed a petition calling for the rat-running to be stopped.

Accordingly I attach a Petition which I would invite you to sign! Please return it to me at

Thank you.

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009