

DEPUTATION FIVE
YOUNG PEOPLE FROM HAVEN CHASE, COOKRIDGE

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Can you try to make that your speech is no longer than five minutes and could you first of all start by telling us who you are and also the people who are with you. Thank you.

MISS E CRAGGS: Good afternoon Lord Mayor and fellow Councillors. My name is Ella Craggs and I am eleven years of age. Today I have brought along my brother Archie, who is nine, also my little sister Jodie, who is six, and Shay Prior our school mate who lives on the same street as us. We all like to play out a lot with our friends on our street, Haven Chase, Cookridge.

On our street there are a lot of children who we also love to play out with, but at the moment we are not feeling safe when we play out. That happens because of the lack of respect that most of the drivers have coming down our road and do not think about innocent children that play outside to have some fun or even people walking their dogs.

The careless drivers are speeding at 30 to 40 miles per hour – that is way too fast on a narrow street like ours.

I am a junior road safety officer at Holy Name School and last year we enforced a 20 mile per hour speed zone on the road around the school. This gave me the idea to try and improve the safety of my friends, neighbours and myself when out on the street. My friends and I asked neighbours if they would like to sign our petition; most of them agreed that cars came down our street too fast and would like to decrease the number of speeding cars.

Recently Councillor Bentley has been visiting residents on Haven Chase asking for any concerns they have. Speeding was brought up and when she contacted my parents we told her about the petition I had done. Councillor Bentley has told me the Council have agreed to put tracking on the street to record the amount of traffic and the speed of cars. I have given her my petition in support of making everyone aware they should be slowing down when driving up or down Haven Chase.

If something does not change one day soon, our road will change into a racing track. Who would want to see their son or daughter suffering from an injury that a careless driver has done to them?

23% of all accidents happen less than one mile away from home because drivers know the streets and start thinking about what needs to be done when they get home.

We have our responsibilities to stay safe as pedestrians; so do the drivers, to drive safely on the roads. The drivers need to slow down. We love to play out but at the moment we need to do that safely. Our mums and dads are always telling us "You will see the cars before they see you – be careful"

Also we are not sure why the drivers come down so fast because there are parked cars down our street. All we are asking for is safety. We do our best to stay safe but at the moment we are not feeling it.

It is simple what we are asking for, to have 20 miles per hour signs up to remind drivers to slow down. All we are asking for is small, but worth it. You can change it – it is what is best. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis, please.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to Executive Board for consideration, which is a really boring way of saying we are going to have a look at it.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) CARRIED.

Ella, thank you for coming along and telling us all about your concerns. You will be informed of the consideration which your comments will receive and someone, therefore, will get in contact with you. Thank you very much again for coming and good afternoon. Back to school! (*Applause*)