

From: **Paul Gurowich** _____
Date: Mon, 7 Oct 2019 at 17:16
Subject: Valley Gardens Phase 3
To: _____

Dear Ms Pissaridou

I hope it is not too late to add my voice to those supporting the Council's Valley Gardens Phase 3 plans, particularly against criticism that seems mainly focused on the proposed T junction at the Palace Pier. As a long term resident and motorist, my first impression of the planned change was negative. But having considered the matter a little more fully, the associated drawbacks, though clearly significant for some, seem to me to be an unavoidable cost of going in the right direction for the longer term.

The current junction layout gives a high degree of precedence to the convenience of vehicular traffic over the needs and preferences of pedestrians, as any roundabout will do. Brighton needs to be attractive to people moving about on foot, which most visitors do even if they arrive by car. With the roundabout, the area in front of pier, which is central to visitors' experience of the city, could hardly be more unattractive. This is easily overlooked if one has got used to the current situation over years, but it becomes obvious if one tries to show someone round. As visitor expectations rise, with pedestrianisation and other improvements being undertaken in comparable centres elsewhere and environmental concerns becoming more widespread, Brighton needs to raise its game on the route between its two biggest attractions.

Of course the plans need to do more than just offer an improved experience for visitors. They need to achieve sustainability, and make the city a pleasanter place to live and work in. For Brightonians generally, I think they can be expected to do that, apart from the downside of increased journey times. As a motorist I do not like being held up any more than anyone else, but my experience of travelling on and around the roundabout as it stands is not particularly pleasant, and I find that even if I clear it quickly I am often faced soon enough with a set of lights. In my assessment, the current arrangements purchase a relatively small amount of convenience for most drivers at quite a high price for everyone else, and that retaining a roundabout would perpetuate that and thereby undermine the clear advantages offered by the the Valley Gardens changes as a whole.

I should say that I am also a cyclist and that I certainly welcome the proposed dedicated cycle way. Brighton as whole will benefit from becoming more cycle friendly, what is proposed is a further step in that direction.

Thank you for your attention.

Paul Gurowich

(Loder Road resident since 1990)