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Council submissions for the Grampian St corner with Cavendish Rd.

My name is Tony Drake of 79 Grampian Street which is on the corner with Cavendish Road, & it is fair to say that I probably live in one of the most effected houses, & I was involved in many of the residential discussions both prior to & following the alterations to this corner.

I will start with a review of my original submissions made circa 1988 /89, when residents were requested to submit ideas to improve the safety factor of this corner, following the Councils misguided decision not to close Cavendish Road at the Sturrocks Road corner. Unfortunately, at this time I did not have access to a computer, nor did I keep copies, as I was of the belief that the Council would return these. No doubt these documents will no longer be on file at the Council as we were dealing with the previous Waimairi County Council & its Officers

Original submissions:

1. Create a slow measure as an entrance into the section of Cavendish Road at the Grampian Street corner going towards Sturrocks Road, to reduce the speed of traffic in this area. Before Cavendish Road was altered, this was a high speed section of road, although the limit was 50 kph, & Grampian Street was used as a raceway between Bishopdale & Redwood
The "entrance" to be one vehicle width over a raised speed hump with grassed verges extended on each side.
2. To accompany (1) above, create a "curved" road from Grampian Street into Cavendish Road South. The reason for this suggestion was to give traffic exiting Grampian Street into Cavendish Road South, an uninterrupted view of traffic. The Give Way sign of the day was totally useless & traffic took their lives in their hands when attempting to turn right, as they could not see traffic travelling north on Cavendish Road until the vehicles were almost upon them.
3. The reasons behind these suggestions were to try & reduce the speed of traffic on Cavendish Road, & allow safe egress from Grampian Street. However, these were ignored by the Council's Engineers & we have today a corner waiting for a major smash or fatality. The Council of the day promised up to 6 speed humps on Cavendish Road from Veitches Road to Sturrocks Road, but all that were installed were 2 humps, & these are not in the area causing the most concern. The current round about at Sturrocks Road only encourages traffic to speed up to the Grampian corner, & then either "Slalom" through the chicane going South, or to corner at the greatest speed into Grampian Street, & in most instances cutting the white line. Total confusion reigns at this corner on whom gives way to whom.

Currently today, we have high powered cars racing in this area, trying to get through the slalom chicane at the best speed possible, or trying to see how they can slide into Grampian Street. Whenever it rains, they come in droves to sit at the Give Way sign on Cavendish Road, then power off sliding all over the road up Cavendish Road to the round about. Approaching the round about from this direction, one can speed through it without slowing, enhancing its uselessness.

Part of the changes to this corner, were to move the kerb out into Cavendish Road prior to the entrance to the "Slalom" & this brings all the traffic closer to my side of the road, & the added danger whenever people try to get into or out of their cars when parked here. The move of the centre line, also encourages traffic to cut the corner into Grampian Street.

With these very poor attempts to slow traffic, it has only encouraged trucks to use this area as a bypass. One can see "B" train trucks going over the islands, roundabouts, & verges trying to get through. Large dump trucks rumble through these residential streets rather than use the arterial roads so designed for their use. Many complaints have been made to the Police & on *555 without any success.

Everytime I mow my berms I am in danger of being hit by vehicles cornering with wheels in the gutter.

Where to next?

1. Complete the installation of the remaining road humps, including extra humps outside either 77 or 79 Grampian Street, to slow the traffic approaching the corner.
2. Realign the corner as in my original concept with the curve from Grampian Street into Cavendish Road South, & creating a narrow entrance into Cavendish Road North. I understand that there is a plan to run buses through here, but I have not been consulted for my views on this & have not received any mail on the subject. I am in favour of buses through here, as it would be of immense assistance to those without vehicles, & who have some way to walk to a present bus stop.
3. Re build the Sturrocks Road round about to improve the design & reduce speed.
4. Completely redesign the Cavendish / Grampian corner into a round about with deliberate "slow" measures into & out of the round about.
5. Place the proposed bus stops as close as possible to the corner to encourage vehicles to reduce speed. Unfortunately, one would need a bus here all the time to achieve the results.
6. Increase the slow measures to encourage trucks to reduce speed or go elsewhere.
7. Make the portion of Cavendish Road from Grampian Street to Sturrocks Road a no truck access area.

I am more than happy to attend any submissions & discuss any or all of these details. I have lived in this area for 23 + years, & have seen the situation from before the corner was changed through to what we have today. True, back in circa 1989 one did not have the high powered cars of today, nor did we have the huge trucks about, but these have evolved in time & as a result of the current layout which only encourages them to use this corner.

In the residents submissions to the Council & at many resident meetings prior to the present changes, the Council representatives were warned that the proposed alterations (which we are suffering with today) would not alleviate the problem.

Thankyou for the opportunity to express these views