


3. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

(a) **Association of Blind Citizens, Springfield Road Traffic Lights**



Gloria Weeks and Kevin Murray, representing the Association of Blind Citizens, attended and reaffirmed to the Board that sight impaired people wanted a safe crossing in close proximity to the bus stops. Lights, with the provision of directional paving, were safer than a pedestrian crossing. While it was a basic human right to use public transport, many sight impaired people were not using it to access the Blind Foundation for safety reasons and taxis were too expensive for most. Kevin pointed out that the demographic make-up of the area had changed since the removal of the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Beulah Church.

Thelma Dickson of Pitt Place, who was height impaired, spoke of the danger from speeding traffic when crossing Edgeware Road. She favoured the installation of lights, but not necessarily at the intersection.

Cr Ingrid Stonhill was then invited to comment. She noted that in March 2002 the Board had requested a signalised crossing, but the matter had been deferred. The proposal for lights had come as a surprise and she felt that the Board had been presented with a set of confusing facts. A decision was sought on information that had been presented two years ago. In addition she believed that a promise had been made to the owners of heritage houses on Springfield Road that if the Council took away their off-street parking, they would be guaranteed on-street parking. She said that it should be possible to provide a safe crossing point without creating a domino effect.

The Chairperson thanked the speakers and asked the Board to debate the report bearing in mind the information presented (Refer to clause 17 of this report).