



The Argus
Argus House
Crowhurst Road
Brighton
BN1 8AR

15 December, 2013

Dear Editor,

I was appalled at your coverage of the Council's decision to extend 20mph across Brighton & Hove (Argus, 12 December, 2013). It completely airbrushed out any support from local residents and community groups.

Before the meeting there were around 20 people demonstrating in support of 20mph (which The Argus photographed but didn't publish) and most went into the meeting itself. Yet, not a word was mentioned of this.

In comparison, the handful of opponents to 20mph, who were outnumbered 4 or 5 to one, were given extensive coverage with quotes from three of them.

Surely it wouldn't have been hard for your reporter to have spoken to some of the many supporters to achieve some balance?

After all, this was a good day for many residents who wanted and got 20mph in their street.

Even when The Argus found a small majority in favour of keeping Portland Road at 30mph (something we supported), surely, in the interests of balance, at least one of the 4 voxpops should have been in favour of 20mph?

The report also talks of a spirited campaign from unions, taxi firms and tourism bosses against 20mph. Yet this consisted largely of paying for lots of advertisements in The Argus, some of which were misleading and inaccurate.

Overall, the feeling of this article was one written for Unchain the Brighton Motorist. It surely questions The Argus's ability to report in an impartial way, when the paper is receiving so much advertising revenue from this group and its members.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Todd

Planning & Transport Campaigner