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01/04/2019

To whom it may concern,

We work in Community Paediatrics in Sefton and we are concerned about the proposed plans to build a 4-lane carriageway through one of Sefton's much loved green spaces – Rimrose Valley. We feel this will adversely affect the health of the children in our community.

Rimrose Valley is a much-loved and essential green space in what is otherwise a heavily urbanised area. It is surrounded by nurseries, children's centres, primary and secondary schools and is therefore used by families with young children on a daily basis.

Access to green space has a range of health benefits for children. One of these is preventing and tackling obesity.

A third of nine year olds are overweight or obese, and the figures are on the rise. **The effects of obesity are being felt not only by the individuals, resulting in poor health and a lower quality of life, but also financially by the State, with obesity related illnesses costing the NHS an estimated £5.1 billion a year¹**

Obesity affects a child's mental health and causes a wide range of physical problems.

Tackling obesity is a complex, multi-faceted problem that requires a whole society-encompassing approach. Protecting green space that is open and available to use for families is an essential part of this.

The Measuring Up report by the Academy of Medical Royal colleges 2013 which has provided a 10 step action plan to tackle obesity clearly states in its 10 key recommendations that

10. **The built environment:** Public Health England should provide guidance to Directors of Public Health in working with Local Authorities to encourage active travel and protect or increase green spaces to make the healthy option the easy option. In all four nations, local authority planning decisions should be subject to a mandatory health impact assessment, which would evaluate their potential impact upon the populations' health.

Despite this, Highways England, the agency responsible for delivering the scheme on behalf of the UK Government, **confirmed that the public's health and the subsequent knock-on cost to the NHS of treating illnesses the road would generate is not factored into its cost-benefit analysis.**

We feel strongly that, for the long term physical and mental health of our children in Sefton, protecting green space is paramount.



N. DANIELS

Dr CHAHAL



Signed

Dr N Daniels, Dr J Chahal, Dr J Gregg

References

1. [http://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Measuring Up 0213.pdf](http://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Measuring_Up_0213.pdf).