

The CLan Collective Advocacy Group

*Presentation to the Cross Party Group
on Accident Prevention and Safety
Awareness*

Wednesday 5th February 2020



My name is **John Johnstone** and I am a member of the CLan.

We speak with **one voice** so that we are **louder** and can be heard **more clearly**.

We had a long talk about the problems we face in our day to day lives and I suggested **Road Safety**.

My friend David was knocked down by a car and nearly killed. David was careful crossing the road and was with his support worker when he was hit by the car. But he nearly died.

This was on one of the busiest roads in Wishaw in North Lanarkshire and is right next to shops and McDonalds. Lots of people need to cross the road at that place but **there is no proper crossing** to help them.

Everyone in the CLan agreed that road safety and the problems we have crossing roads is important and **we need to make a change**.

At first we got in touch with **North Lanarkshire Council** and asked them to send someone to our CLan meeting to hear us but no one replied. We tried again but **no one replied.**

We are sure that the problems we have in North Lanarkshire happen elsewhere too.

Thank you for asking us here to tell you all about this.

We have to **cross lots of roads every day** and if there are any, we use proper crossings.

We will go out with **support workers** and will cross the road in **groups** so we look bigger to drivers.

But sometimes at proper crossings, cars and vans **don't stop at their red light.** This is **very scary** as we can be hit and badly hurt like my friend.

This is much harder when cars and vans and buses are **driving too fast** along some roads. They sometimes **don't slow down** when they see us.

There is one very busy road at **Wishaw sports centre.** We like going to the sports centre with our support workers and our pals. But there is no crossing at that road and cars drive very fast on it.

On New Year's Day, a young **boy aged 15** was hit by a car on that same road and **he was killed.**

We are adults but he was a **child**. This should not happen.

We see drivers **talking on their mobile phones** while they are driving. This means that they **cannot stop** in time or can sometimes not see us. This is important as we can **need more time to cross** the road.

In a lot of streets, there is **not enough lighting** so that we can see where we are going. There is not enough lighting **for drivers to see us**, even when we carry torches at night. Some of us don't have very good **eyesight**. Some of us don't have very good **balance**. Some of us don't have very good **hearing**.

As well as all of this, some **drivers shout at us**. They shout names out of their windows because they think we are drunk because **we walk a different way**. They shout at us if we take **a bit longer crossing** the road.

All we want is to be able to live our lives safely **the same as other people**.

We are not different - we can die crossing roads too.