

Mr Thompson is unable to attend the meeting but has asked that the following be submitted to the SOC – Digital Inclusion item.

Email from Gordon Thompson, Canning & Clyde Roads Residents' Association

There seems to be a perception, in certain quarters, that the issue is simply (and wholly) one of training and information. Get everyone trained up to work a computer and, hey presto, the problem vanishes. That, alas, is no more realistic than saying (for instance) that, if you taught everyone to drive, there would be no mobility-issues and no need for public transport.

Why do I say that? Many of the elderly people I know (or have helped), in particular, cannot afford to buy a computer, and do not have the means or the mobility to go backwards and forwards to the library or to an internet café. Others (like my own mother) are housebound and have severe sensory-difficulties (she is severely arthritic and also registered blind, so she cannot even see, let alone use, a computer screen/keyboard).

And, as someone said to me (words I cannot better), simply getting more people on the "right" side of the "digital divide" does not close it.

I hope that assists you.