

Statement to B&NES Economic & Development Committee - 28 Nov 2013

Jenny Shrubsall

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re:-Access & disabled parking for Keynsham Leisure Centre

I am a full time powered wheelchair user and use the Keynsham Leisure Centre Swimming pool for therapeutic reasons (pain control, maintaining movement and so on). I am completely dependent on my husband or various carers to drive me and take me out using a fully wheelchair accessible car, which has ramped access at the rear. I am also dependent on someone to support me when out, by helping manoeuvre/control my power wheelchair.

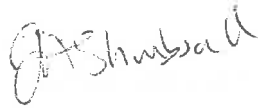
Parking and access to the Leisure Centre was always easy when we were allowed to park in designated disabled bays to the rear of the building, accessing straight onto pool side . However this facility was taken away in 2007 when access had to be through the front of the building and using a small and unreliable lift. Over the years this arrangement has caused difficulties for myself as well, I believe, for other disabled users of the Leisure Centre. With the current work being undertaken in Keynsham, the parking situation has become worse. There is only one disabled bay right by the Leisure Centre. This is not specifically for Leisure Centre users and may not be available. This disabled bay is too small for getting in and out of my car. It is also badly positioned - it requires me to cross an uneven, pot-holed road surface and negotiate an uneven, only partially dropped kerb in the face of oncoming traffic – to get to the front entrance. I believe the risk to me and other disabled users will get worse, with the multi-storey car park being re-opened and as the volume of traffic using this road, increases.

When going swimming, in my case, it is essential to take numerous items such as floats for support in the water, plenty of towels and cushions for my comfort when changing, as well as a special mug & tray for having a drink afterwards. Parking away from the Leisure centre involves my helper having to carry all these items as

well as having to help me with the wheelchair. So parking a distance away is not really suitable. Other disabled bays are positioned along Temple Street but are well beyond the Riverside Offices. This distance can prove difficult – even if such bays are available. Ordinary parking bays are seldom available or appropriate due to lack of size – I need at least 3 metres to the rear of my car to access in and out of the vehicle.

I trust that these comments on parking and access issues for the Leisure Centre will be taken notice of and addressed in the near future.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Shrubsall', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Shrubsall

2

and to have to push a wheelchair
Long distances would cause a problem.
I very much support the team

who are trying to help disabled
people like my daughter in trying
to solve this problem. There must
be parking for disabled people
& access
much closer to the pool than at
present or disabled users will
lose an important part of vital
fitness in their lives

Yours sincerely

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Joyce Stork

19th Nov 2013

Dear Sir,
I am writing in regard to the
forthcoming disruption which is due to
take place near the Heyndam Leisure
Swimming Pool and lack of disabled
parking spaces.

I have a lead injured daughter
in a wheelchair whom I take
swimming twice weekly to help her
mobility. I am in my eighties

Economic and Development Committee

28.11.13.

Susan Charles. Chair Access BANES.

Disabled parking for Keynsham Leisure Centre

I have previously reported to you the difficulties and dangers regarding the lack of specified disabled parking for users of the Keynsham Leisure Centre, which was removed in 2007. With no suitable alternative being offered.

Thank you for listening to me before, but the depts. and relevant people you have referred me to, sometimes made an initial contact, go away to think about it, then do not answer or return my phone calls.

Since our last meeting in July the multistorey car park between the Leisure Centre, and the Keynsham Regeneration new build was opened. Parking for nearly 100 cars. Now all cars leaving the car park

have to follow the one way system out onto Temple Street.

Past the one marked dis. bay nearest the Leisure Centre. around a blind corner, lots of parked cars, often at speed.

If you are lucky enough to get that parking space, as it is open to all - not just for Leisure Centre users, the driver is on the narrow pavement side, too narrow to construct a manual wheel chair, and no dropped kerb.

A passenger needing to transfer to a wheelchair would be in the middle of the road - maybe a carer too.

There is less than 4 cms between the car and the pavement on the Leisure Centre side, no dropped kerb, although that was promised 2 years ago, oh and some pot holes to negotiate,

There are major works planned in
area

③

In the New Year, putting a new
god man the length of Temple St
and the High Street.

Passing will be disrupted for
approx. three months evidently.

It is obvious that disabled
people have not been considered
during the planning of these
works, or the regeneration,

It is also obvious that BORO
do not want to encourage disabled
people into the LEISURE CENTRE.

Which is a shame, ~~that~~ once in,
there are, and friendly helpful
staff.

Please, what are you going to
do about this problem, before
there is a nasty accident, or
worse a fatality.

NEW MULTI STOREY CAR PARK KEYNSHAW.

