

Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Monday 15 July 2013

I speak as a citizen of Bath, and I applaud the Council's policy on welcoming speakers with disability. At the last meeting of the full Council I was struck by the sensitivity with which the needs of a disabled speaker were fully met – but there are disabilities and inequalities which are not so evidently visible which limit peoples' lives. These people often have no voice.

I am very distressed by the strong possibility that our public lavatories in Larkhall Square may be closed next April. At present we have a stay of execution. We who use these loos do so from necessity. We would all love 21st century loos, but at present we must be content with **these**: well cleaned, maintained and acceptable to all - except the most squeamish. They are not ideal but many of our older citizens, people with bladder and bowel problems, people with special health needs, pregnant women, mothers with young children (remember the throes of toilet training) would be very disadvantaged by the closure. Not to speak of those who sweep our roads, collect our rubbish and recycling, deliver to our shops. (Our loos are very popular with taxi drivers). Our loos would be sacrificed by this relative cheese paring of the budget.

Young people and nifty car owners have little need of our lavatories. They can get to Alice Park (half a mile away) quickly. For some people this would take too long I'm not the only person to have a quite common condition which prevents me walking quickly. Unless you suffer with bodily weaknesses (and it's embarrassing for some to admit to this) you may not be able to imagine the dreadful results of an accident.

We have explored the feasibility of other facilities but this is not possible – as you may know. We need our public conveniences and we need our Council to provide them.

Shelagh James

