

STATEMENT TO THE CABINET

3RD NOVEMBER 2010

PULTENEY BRIDGE

I want to speak to you this evening as a resident of the Pulteney Bridge area.

It is a good area to live, as it is conveniently placed for amenities, shops, the post office, banks, the library, a doctors' surgery and a supermarket. Because of this many people have chosen to "downsize" to the area after retirement.

However, as the years pass by, retired people become unable to manage the walk into the centre. On a retirement income they now need a convenient bus to help them to get to, and more especially back from the bank, the shops and the Post Office. But with not so much as a word the Council has taken the convenient buses away.

This is the Council that says on its internet that, "[It will listen to and consult with those affected by its policies](#)"

Residents made it very clear at the very well attended September public meeting what they wanted. Many people thought that Cllr. Haerberling had undertaken to start again and do the job properly..

But what they have decided on is a six month trial without the buses. This can only be interpreted as the Council wishing to see how the old and infirm residents of the Pulteney Area can manage without a bus service over the difficult winter months.

Every issue in Abbey Ward is also a city issue, and local Councillors have a special duty to look after their residents and see that their needs are not overlooked.

So what is the great gain for the city that is to be won at the expense of the older less mobile residents?

An "open space" over the Bridge. A space no more than 65yds long that will always have emergency vehicles, bikes, horses and taxis (unless you are planning to further penalise us) going across it.

Yes, the bridge is historic, safe and attractive from the river, but very ordinary otherwise. It is not suited to be developed as an open space. Is this is more important than the welfare of the older residents

The Bridge was built in the 1760s to provide access TO the city from the Pulteney estate. Do not go down in history as the Cabinet who 250 years later reversed it.

Agnes Melling