

Street Trading – Policy Review

Southgate Bath

Good Morning,

I would like to thank the committee for today's opportunity to discuss the current street trading review.

My name is Guy Henderson.
I am the Manager of Southgate Shopping Centre, home to over 60 tenants that employ over a 1000 people..
I also hold a seat on the Board of the BID, that itself has over 650 business members across the city.
And finally, I am a local resident & customer of Bath...I live, work and contribute to the city.

Whilst today is about one policy, I think it will be a miss of us all not to take a step back and consider the broader picture... or responsibility we all share.

"World Heritage City"

If we were to take that status literally ...and not pay lip service... then we could refer to the Vatican City as the ideal model or example.

- Clean presentable streets.
- Safe streets with no ASB...
- Uncluttered walkways, free from obstruction supporting customer flow to all parts of the city.
- Public areas, with benches and planting.
- Thriving retail tenants – a healthy mix of both physical Independent and national brands- essential to the future of any retail offer.
- Exciting promotional pitches that educate or enlighten our knowledge.

A city that we can all be proud of and one that truly shines at every level – allowing all to enjoy!

Of course, in reality we are far from this example, ... and to be honest – what we have, is a far cry from ideal...

Incidentally, these examples surround Southgate – a development that took 14 years of planning – as to ensure it did not become the eyesore the previous centre had become.... Oh dear !!

Yet, we have some outstanding alternatives that are all well run, licensed, presentable, compliant and enhancing...
Celebrating the best of old and new from the local area.. all adding character and atmosphere....to our wonderful city.

Green park
Walcott street
Bath @ twilight
Queens Square Artisan market (example 4)

to name a few....

These could be adapted as viable alternatives to the current on street trading format... supporting all street traders livelihoods.

In turn these markets could operate weekly and tour the BANES area – helping to inject life and much needed footfall into our outlying towns & villages.

The income from these platforms could be then directed to help with public realm enhancements or offer support to services within BANES (CCTV for example)

To continue with the current on street trading format would jeopardise an already struggling high street.

Independent retail, tourism, public's safety are all under significant strain –

I ask the committee - that a broader, more considered view is taken – one that addresses today's retail crisis – for which there are many...

As to ensure Bath stays the destination of choice and supports the retention of our World Heritage status.

The irony we have is:

If we do nothing –

And allow the city to reveal its secrets...
we actually succeed.!! (example 5)

Thank you for your time – any questions?

Example 4 (good)



Example 5 (clear)

