

## Public Speaking – B&NES Cabinet Meeting 5 March 2019 – speaking for Pulteney Estate Residents' Association (PERA)

### Ceris Humphreys - PERA Lead on Air Quality and CAZ

*Introductory Notes (not part of presentation):*

*1. Three minutes does not allow time to express our thanks to the officers for the professional and thorough way in which they dealt with our questions during the consultation process. Having been invited to speak about PERA's position in two meetings with residents in neighbouring areas that were primarily led by the officers, I have seen at first hand their dedication and commitment.*

*2. PERA is a Residents' Association representing around 600 members in the Pulteney Estate area and is one of the largest member Associations of FoBRA. The Pulteney Estate area extends from the Laura Place side of the river to the top of Sydney Gardens, covering a significant part of Bathwick.*

#### Presentation

PERA is delighted that the new CAZ boundary includes a part of the Pulteney Estate, and we strongly urge you to agree to the recommendation to include also the outer parts of the Pulteney Estate (in the purple area with Sydney Gardens). We support the statement to be made today by our neighbour Chrissie Harrington from this area.

I want to talk about Class C and Class D.

BANES must achieve sufficient air quality improvements in the shortest possible time.

In arriving at a recommendation for Class C, has enough attention has been given to achieving sufficient improvements in the shortest time? The re-assessment of Class C against Class D appears to have only looked at compliance in 2021.

Has the Equality Impact Assessment given adequate weight to the health impact on vulnerable groups of deferring compliance by adopting Class C instead of Class D? The EIA says 12% of the BANES population have chronic conditions that can be made worse by air pollution.

The EIA gives precedence to affordability impacts. Has enough weight been given to the fact that economic disadvantage to vulnerable groups can be addressed by targeted support measures which could be funded if a Class D CAZ were adopted, but will be unaffordable with Class C? Can the detriment to those with long-term life-limiting or life-threatening respiratory illness be weighed up against compensatable affordability disadvantage and reasonably be found to carry less weight? Choosing Class C instead of Class D surely means that their health deficit will be unfairly locked in long-term.

The EIA says a Class C CAZ will be of some benefit to those suffering from respiratory illnesses, but not as much benefit as a Class D CAZ. This surely means Class C fails the ClientEarth test as it:

1. Doesn't meet the aim to achieve compliance as soon as possible (ClientEarth Test part 1); and
2. Isn't choosing a route to compliance which reduces human exposure as quickly as possible (ClientEarth Test part 2).

Under class C there are modelled non-compliances in 2021, supposedly to be removed by "traffic management" in Queen Square. Will this measure really "Ensure that compliance with the limit values is not just possible but likely"? (ClientEarth Test part 3)

We feel that Class D CAZ with an exemption period for local people merits more serious consideration. It would mitigate the affordability effect on BANES residents whilst generating revenue from non-residents to fund the mitigation measures. It is rejected because it would not allow compliance quickly enough – and yet now it is proposed all cars will be exempt under a Class C CAZ!

It's difficult to get drivers out of their cars. But the Cabinet will be answerable to the next generation some of whom recently demonstrated outside the Guildhall to show their frustration at an older generation which blindly refuses to address the issues of pollution and climate change in spite of ever more urgent warnings of the impact on us, our children, and the world around us.

In the words of one of the youth climate activists' leaders Greta Thunberg, Age 16, UN Climate Change Conference 2019:

*"You say you love your children above all else – and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes. Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope."* [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFkQSGyeCWg>]

It's easy to declare a Climate Emergency – but it requires courage to take the difficult political decisions that will start to address the curse of air pollution. Please think about our children's future today as you make your decision.