

VISHAKA ROBINSON

SHORT STAY COACH PARKING IN VICTORIA PARK

Hello, Myself and other residents of Queens Parade are concerned that the east section of Royal Avenue is being turned into a short stay coach car park. We have three key concerns.

Firstly pollution and traffic flow. The formalization of parking and driving coaches along Royal Avenue will bring a large number of coaches along this route. The stretch will have three coach parking spaces; all with a 20-minute stay, no return within an hour rule. So they will drop and drive, leave the city center to park before returning a few hours later or they will circle the streets waiting to pick up passengers.

It is planned that coaches will exit via Queens Parade Place onto Gay Street. This area has already been outlined as one of two pollution 'hot spots' in the Bath Clean Air Plan.

So encouraging coaches to use route this will further increase pollution levels, particularly because the turn onto Gay street is incredibly tight - frequently lorries have traffic at a standstill when they try and turn.

There are also concerns over coaches needing to enter Victoria Park via Marlborough Avenue. This street is so narrow and congested that an informal one way system operates on most of it making it totally inappropriate for large vehicles.

Secondly resident parking: 26 parking spaces have been removed from Queens Parade Place and the eastern end of Royal Avenue to make way for coaches. They have been reallocated to the less accessible center of the park; below Royal Crescent. At night much of this area is almost pitch black with one streetlight for the entire section of road, this means it is a dangerous and unsuitable parking provision for all residents.

Thirdly the consultation process: A 2017 consultation to reallocate the long stay coach parking spaces lost in the Bath Quays North development led to Victoria Park being outlined as an option - there were numerous objections.

Following that was a public consultation, running for 21 days, ending March 16th 2020. As required the public were alerted via posters, along Royal Avenue.

Many of us on Queens Parade walk Royal Avenue daily. So it's surprising that not one of the 22 residents I have spoken to nor a single one of CARA's 143 members (who all live locally) became aware of this traffic proposal (REF19-018) until after the consultation date. At which point a great many people started to notice signs – but it was too late to object.

For these reasons can I request evidence that the consultation was properly carried out:

What exact date did posters go up, how many, where were they placed?

Also:

What assessment has been made as to how these changes will impact traffic flow in the streets surrounding Royal Avenue?

Where will coaches be expected park prior to returning to get passengers?

Where any long-stay coach parking options explored as an option?

Victoria Park is a public park not a short stay coach park and we wish it to remain so. These coaches must go somewhere and short stay parking is not a good option. It will lead to coaches parking dangerously on streets like lower Bristol road or driving endlessly around our city center waiting to pick up passengers. It's not fair on them or us.

Thank you so much for your time.