

Susan Charles statement – Cabinet 20 July 2021

Baths Ring of Steel.

Thank you to all the Councillors who have joined me on the walkabouts, and for delaying the decision on the Ring of Steel.

I am hoping the decision you come to tonight will incorporate the needs of all residents and visitors to our City.

If not, it will be a Shameful Day.

If as I hope those with Bluebadges will be allowed into the blocked areas, there are also elderly and disabled residents living within the Ring who have been experiencing problems of getting out.

People who choose to reside in the centre to accommodate their needs and choose not to drive, use taxis, car services etc so don't have a blue badge.

At present a ridiculous system of filling out forms...three weeks in advance of needing a taxi.

What of people with a short-term disability, not a Bluebadge holder?

Or newly disabled and may have to wait the required six months to prove their need? All these people need to go about their usual routine, OR ...are they going to be told to go elsewhere?

The last time that happened it didn't go down very well...

Alas there will be many more situations needing to access essential services in and beyond the Ring of Steel.

And is this the time to be putting more work on our medical services, GP's social workers etc to obtain a Bluebadge?

Maybe an interim pass from GP's ordered by phone or internet would be the quickest?

I hope you've already got the answers? otherwise the decision cannot happen as soon as we hoped.

And the big question 'Freedom Day'
on 19th July....I'm being told to ask:

ARE THE BARRIERS BEING LIFTED?

Susan Charles

Access Banes Chair.