

Julie Gregory statement – Cabinet 20th July 2021

I'm Julie Gregory I'm speaking from my personal perspective and similar others.

My life is ruined by hidden disabilities, the worst two being blood cancer and chronic fatigue syndrome.

I cannot stand for long or walk far and when I do I feel constantly dreadful and always require a long period of recovery.

I cannot ever use public transport or car parks. It's not a choice trust me.

If I can't park outside I can't go.

Mobility Scooters - are Not really an option for me.

But they'd be more accessible ,

if located in a very central place,

with adjoining car parking

Both of these need to be free, as many of us live on very limited budgets.

Having been required to shield for most of the last 16 months I was utterly distraught when I went into town to find no access for blue badge holders. This has greatly impacted on my mental health.

Roads being covertly closed off and pedestrianised with no access for blue badge holders.

No real consultation, I suggest that 90% or more of our 83,000 plus population knew nothing about any permanent changes,

were not notified or consulted.

I do not call 500 responses fair, informed or representational.

I also understand an advocate for disabled people has only been allowed during the last two months.

Pedestrianising our city is a disproportionate response to very unlikely terrorist actions and we have to live our lives and not be held in fear or to ransom by them. I feel it's just an excuse and a disproportionate response.

Parking services have walked across from the Guildhall Blue Badge bay, to the corridor, to look for two culprits taking Blue Badge spaces, so that they could be moved on rather than fined.

What deterrent is that, shocking and shameful.

Loading vehicles regularly park in Blue Badge bays and seem to think they're entitled.

they also take most space prior to the 10am am street closure

We are not allowed to park in loading bays

I am begging you to please reconsider the following places:-

1. York Street - take out the bollards so we could turn round at the end and make the whole street Blue Badge only access, as this is one area where I can go and sit in the square enjoy music, company, scenery, ice cream et cetera.

2. Consider making either end of Kingsmead Square Blue Badge Parking areas, so we can have access. Please ask me how.

3. Saw close, please make all of the road from the bluecoat house to the end where the mineral hospital was Blue Badge Parking only.

4. enable Blue Badge Holders to park on Bridge St, outside the disabled access door to Victoria Gallery

Many of the very few blue badge parking bays are just not in the right place in the city, again please ask me.

Finally I do understand that you are all working hard, under increasingly challenging circumstances, and I thank you.