

E3281 On Street parking and parking permits.

Yesterday Cllr Shaun Hughes and I were driving between the site in Charlecote Road which is the subject of a controversial planning application and the Mineral Hospital for a briefing prior to the next planning committee meeting. We missed the briefing because even with my blue badge we could not find a parking space near the Min. until we had circled round the new security system several times. It would be interesting to know how much of the air pollution in Bath is caused by disabled people circling round. This struck me as being a metaphor for the whole problem highlighted in this report, the problem of striking a balance between the need to reduce emissions and the demand to regenerate the economy by attracting businesses and tourists Not to mention the problems faced by humble NES residents who (apart from when they avoid the Christmas market like the plague) have to come into Bath, and find the First bus fares too expensive without a bus pass, and too unreliable.

Radstock/Westfield residents, especially the traders and taxi drivers find the CAZ a real problem, and they resent having had to upgrade their vehicles to avoid the higher charges. The taxis have enough problems with Uber. At the end of the day, it is not so much the Bath residents who will be affected by these changes, but NES.

However, I am here tonight to talk about a very specific problem this report exposes. People such as medics, carers and traders need cars and then long stay permits in order to provide a service. Now that the long stay permits in council car parks have been withdrawn, doctors, nurses and administrators are getting parking tickets if a patient delays them over the allotted four hours. The pharmacist is threatening to leave. The town will die if basic services cannot be provided there.

Previously RADCO had its own permit system for traders, but the development of the new store and the adjacent sites at The Shambles and St Hugh's, are no longer available.

In 2015 a senior planner said that Radstock was 100 parking places short to conform to the then policies Things have now got worse.

It may seem obvious that this report should go through because pollution kills but lack of a balanced strategy in our small towns and villages will kill the local economy and turn us into dormitories for Bristol – and put yet more commuters on the roads.

Cllr Eleanor Jackson (Westfield)