

## **STATEMENT FROM SHIVA PAGE**

**I am still very concerned about the lack of mitigations for low waged, chronically unwell or disabled residents in all of the Clean Air Zone (CAZ), Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) & Active Travel (AT) schemes.**

The response to all my concerns has been that “all stakeholders were involved in plans from the outset”. However, when I have asked for minutes of the meetings to see what local disability & poverty organisations have raised, I never received them.

I am unclear as to whether no notes were taken at meetings with underrepresented groups or whether I am just being refused the notes. I want to be able to check what range of issues have been discussed and whether my individual access needs were included in discussions. I’m not sure why notes regarding policy proposals with groups working with & advocating for inclusion, access & equality wouldn’t be available. I’ve never received a satisfactory answer to this.

I am very concerned that our elected MP, elected Cllrs & paid public staff can pick & choose which residents they answer & which emails they respond to. This seems to run counter to the Nolan principles for those in an elected public office.

I am concerned when meetings that do happen aren’t recorded or made available online afterwards or with BSL interpreters therefore excluding large sections of the disabled community from being involved or finding out what’s planned. I am concerned that after 2 years of raising concerns with the equalities team & them insisting I had to get my boss to verify my request for alternative formats I have now been entirely removed from the discussion around good practice & inclusion I started 2 years ago. With no reasonable justifications provided.

I am very concerned that the work on the hazardous to the blind bus stops is starting this week. I spoke to a local organisation that works with deaf and blind people this week and they haven’t got an idea about the new bus stops.

I am concerned about the removal of access to BB parking, the continued fining of me as a BBH & keyworker with PCNs and with the constant adding of even more inaccessible consultations, reports, meetings & policy decisions that make access to services, appointments & friends and families harder, more costly or more painful for disabled drivers.

I am concerned that accountability now is reduced to “we won’t answer emails while you have a Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) case open” when the LGO says that new questions or concerns should still be answered. I am concerned about having my autonomy & choices decided by staff without my consent or knowledge especially when it impacts on my access to services which it’s been doing for quite a while now.

I am hugely concerned that the version of diversity we have at the moment doesn’t include disabled people, the low waged or the chronically unwell. Which means it isn’t diversity at all. As Mr Guy has blocked me & doesn’t answer most of my emails at all I have to resort to speaking here. Not that any of the issues I raised before in Cabinet have actually been solved yet.

I want a cross-party meeting with just disability and poverty organisations, those who live it every day, myself included, so that at last the disabled community can be heard, included & have their needs met. I've been asking for years now. Why can't it happen? After Cllrs tried walking as a disabled person for a few minutes you then just carried on regardless with plans that impact on disabled people. That kind of performative act when not followed up by changes for the disabled is just heartbreaking.