

Thank you for having me, my name is Gennie Widick, I'm thirteen and I attend the Royal High School.

My parents do not drive, we don't have a car, so improving access to public transport is crucial to our family and others like ours. I have been walking to school since I enrolled in year five, as well as taking the bus in colder months due to asthma. I will often take the bus in and out of town, for school, social and any other activities, including buying groceries and other necessities or going to the library.

We have already seen our council make an amazing difference to the safety of residents, with the closing of Winifred's Lane. I, myself have experienced a dangerous amount of close calls with vehicles on that intersection. The trial of LTNs like that one is already making our neighbourhood safer for walkers like me.

Building upon that, I believe the council can take further consideration of residents' safety and accessibility needs by extending park and ride hours later into the evening. This is a critical change, taking into account the safety of women in particular who do not always feel safe walking unaccompanied into the later hours of the evening. My sister, for example, comes home from school on the weekends, and has to either walk up Lansdown Road from the station with her bags or pay for a taxi if she leaves London on a train with non-peak fares.

Having accessible, affordable and reliable transport options is required for Bath residents, especially considering the needs of the elderly and disabled parts of our community. After eight thirty pm, our only two options are to walk or take a taxi. One being a challenging and even dangerous trip for those who are more vulnerable, while the other can be prohibitively expensive. All in all, extending park and ride times will benefit not only school children such as myself but also the entirety of our community, residents of all ages and visitors alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.