

## **Rachael Hushon Statement to Cabinet – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Good evening,

I have come along this evening as a resident of Bath to thank the combined efforts of the council and WECA in installing the bike storage hangars across the city.

E bikes have really transformed the accessibility of cycling for residents in our hilly city , I am one such convert, and from what I am witnessing more and more people are using this cheap and healthy mode of travel to get around Bath. People such as Jan and his little girl Lilly who cycle to St Stephen's daily who use the hangar on my street, or Maddie an occupational therapist at the RUH who uses the Park Street hangar, they all live in top floor flats and have been given the chance to rent a space and make cycling part of their daily commute.

But residents who live in houses with gardens and garages may not appreciate the barriers to cycling faced by thousands of residents who live in street fronting multiple occupancy dwellings. It isn't possible for many of them who would like to cycle because their dwellings have no external storage areas and due to fire regulations as tenants or leaseholders they are prohibited from storing bikes in hallways or vaults. Secure Street cycling hangars are essential therefore in allowing many residents in our city any option of cycling.

I really hope that the residents who have objected to their installation and have struggled to accept these new additions to our streetscape can in time be more accepting and understand the need to provide communal facilities for flat dwellers who make up a big group in our city.

One car sized dark green coloured metal hangar sitting on the road alongside cars (very similar in size) can play a vital role and help to transform our city and allow those who want to cycle rather than motor the opportunity to do so. Our streets are shared spaces which should reflect the needs of all users.