

Item 11 Joanna Matthews Trustee, Unlimited Oxfordshire

Dear Councillor Andrew Gant,
Unlimited Oxfordshire is a Disabled People's Organisation (a registered charity too) - we made a submission to the Broad Street Consultation this summer.

I am writing to you as a trustee of Unlimited about the Report for Item 11: OXFORD: BROAD STREET - TEMPORARY PUBLIC REALM SCHEME 4 Specifically, I am writing about the misleading presentation relating to Unlimited Oxfordshire's concerns about the relocation of four Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPPs) to Parks Road, forcing most users to walk an additional 200 metres to the places that they want to visit.

In Paragraph 46, Unlimited's concern about the additional 200 metres of walking is not mentioned.

In Paragraph 50, this concern is included by the words "and location", which you could easily miss (particularly considering that the reports for all of the Meeting Agenda total about 1,000 pages).

Also in Paragraph 50, Unlimited's concern is fobbed off by the sentences: *"Officers have observed both locations are well used by blue badge holders. Furthermore, the reallocation of the disabled bays across Broad Street and Parks Road has resulted in a net gain of one bay in the local area."* This is repeated in Paragraphs 72 and 73.

The Report fails to point out that the four DPPPs in Broad St are very well used; during a large part of the day, when a vehicle leaves, the space is taken by another vehicle usually within a minute or two, often immediately. The DPPPs in Parks Road are moderately well used, and when a DPPP there is vacated it usually remains vacant for much longer than those in Broad St.

Additionally the Broad Street spaces are level access on both sides making it easier for a Disabled driver and passenger to get into and out of their vehicle, this includes those who use motorised wheelchairs reversing in and out of a rear vehicle door. The Park's Road spaces have a pavement kerb one side and the road on the other. Some Disabled people, but not all, can use them.

Blue badge holders are being discriminated against! Visiting most of Broad St and Turl St after parking in Parks Road is very difficult or impossible for some Disabled people. As I am sure you qualifying criteria to get a Blue Badge are:

- you claim Personal Independence Payment because you can't walk further than 50 metres
- your mental health stops you from making journeys because of overwhelming distress
- you have a permanent and substantial disability which means you're unable to walk or find it very difficult to walk (on assessment of providing proof)

Unlimited Oxfordshire (on behalf of our members but also all Blue Badge holders in Oxfordshire) wants an additional four DPPP's in Broad St to so that more Disabled people can access goods, services and a social life in Oxford City Centre - just like non-Disabled people. This is a low cost solution. A simple rearrangement of the seating areas in Broad St would enable that.

Please don't be misled by the Report. Please could you direct officers to prepare an amendment to the Broad St scheme that will include an additional four DPPP's in Broad St.

kind regards,

Joanna Matthews (Trustee)

for and on behalf of Unlimited Oxfordshire

A registered charity

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