

Objection to York Street TRO – Hannah Downey

We have owned a property in Abbey Green for almost 25 Years and access has steadily been eroded away over time and this proposal will mean we will not have reasonable access to our property at all.

We eventually moved out of the property several years ago because council changes in the city centre made it unliveable so we rented it out as an HMO to students. They have all migrated to plush new purpose built accommodation with pool tables and common rooms that are popping up all over the city. So for the last five years we have rented it as a holiday home. Paying full business rates (in an business district) we have the same rights as any other business in the area to comment and our views to be respected despite the common prejudice towards owners of holiday lettings. It is after all how I earn my living.

The council have failed yet again to really look hard at how the central area of Bath functions, who uses it and for what purpose. So many decisions over the years have been a waste of time, money and been damaging to the city. This is no acceptance.

-York Street was our final access point and is has already been closed during the day because of 'Covid-19' restrictions?? Why? However, I do not typically need access before 10am because guests check out at 10am! I need access during the working day after 10am. I am now forced to carry very heavy bags of laundry, supplies and rubbish all the way from Terrace Walk or I am forced to work in the evenings, if possible, when it is not rented, which is not that often.

-This costs more time and therefore money and is physically almost impossible.

-The provision of loading bays in Terrace walk (Bog Island) area is woefully inadequate and I am regularly getting tickets because there is no space available accept in coach bays, now the traffic is forced out of York Street. I have mountains of photographic evidence.

-When the coaches return it will become unworkable and dangerous, it already was! again I have vast amounts of photographic evidence.

-Trades won't work inside the area, it is too difficult to access and they don't want to pay any charges or wait for gates to be opened and they can't park close. I have already struggled to get someone to unblock a drain and do a fire survey!

-Our property has been devalued immensely because of these restrictions.

-The council has to allow 'reasonable access' to property owners and this is falling far short of this especially, when we consider the access we had when we purchased the property.

-I see no reason why the closure has to be extended until 10pm along York Street. Schools using the new education centre surely won't be there at 10pm? and the area has NEVER been busy at night. Please justify.

-Coaches should be dispersed around the city (or moved out altogether) so ALL city traders can benefit from passing visitors not just the few along York Street who will at all cost want the coach parties to remain chocking up Bog Island because they have the monopoly on visitors who (only) walk to the Roman baths and back again. Everyone should be able to have a slice of this cake, Bath has more to offer than just the Baths.

- The visual effects of any implementations should be properly scrutinised and consulted with historical expertise. We are a World Heritage City and the council seem to forget this. The traffic schemes and street furniture that have been installed in recent years are hideous. The forests of unnecessary and confusing traffic lights in Widcombe and by Sainsburys are two examples. The London Road planting and awful chequer board paving that looks like you are driving into Bognor Regis not Bath. The cheep looking Tomato red seating in Union Street that is too small in scale and should be in a village not city centre to name a few.

We have a responsibility to pass this city on to the next generation preserved not ruined.

I have genuine passion for this city, its residents and visitors and its future.

“Response to Consultation Online

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