

## Federation of Disabled People Objection



Dear Sir/Madam

### **RE: Proposed Traffic Regulation Order - New Road (Disabled Parking)**

I am writing on behalf of members of the Federation of Disabled Peoples 'Get involved group' to raise a formal objection in relation to the above traffic order.

We have consulted with the Get Involved projects disabled participants, volunteers and interested parties, our reasons for objection are as follows:

- Reducing Blue badge parking in this prime area of town will place disabled people at a disadvantage when wishing to access it.
- The space left is open to abuse as people will be able to park their vehicle in the middle of the space making no room for others
- Many of the other accessible parking bays are situated too far from this location to be of purpose for disabled people who are restricted in how far they can walk.
- There are no alternative parking places in New Road such as yellow lines if a disabled person wants to go to the theatre or a restaurant.
- The disabled parking bays are being used constantly, a reduction in the number of bays will have an impact on the amount of money being spent in the restaurants' and theatres' on New Road.
- There are approximately 400 blue badges being issued each month, an ageing population and increasing demand for blue badge parking, unless alternative disabled parking spaces are created, how will New Road benefit from reducing disabled parking access in the future? The demand is not going away.
- New Road is challenging at the best of times for disabled people, with having to navigate around existing street furniture. The proposal to reduce the disabled parking and increase street furniture not only impacts on the ability to park in an accessible place, but impacts on accessing the facilities on New Road for pedestrians and disabled people alike.
- The reduction in space for disabled parking bays will make it even more difficult or impossible for some drivers to get in or out of their cars, restricting their mobility even further.

We ask that you take these points into account when considering this order.

Finally, we would ask for some clarification why no formal Equality Impact Assessment was not conducted in the planning of this order? It is not clear whether this would be a requirement in such plans and we would appreciate some further information on this for our understanding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the points raised, many thanks for taking our points into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Wigley

Involvement and Participation Officer

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