

PE1595/O

Thomas Taylor Email of 6 January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to add my unequivocal support for the petition referred to in the Subject Heading – PE 1595.

I am 67 years old and Registered Blind.

It is noted that in general terms there have been slow but steady improvements made in the UK to access for young, elderly, blind and otherwise disabled pedestrians.

The recent illegal and disastrous 'Shared Space' development has radically reversed this improving trend. It is hard to fathom just what the planners (??) were thinking about or hoping to achieve when dreaming up this ridiculous concept which runs counter to the most basic principle of access to all and indeed, that of humanity itself. I am sure that the audacious perpetrators of this scheme can conjure up statistics that will appear to support their claim that this and that improvement has occurred, but logic and plain common sense defies any such claims.

What will result if this unbelievably appalling scheme is adopted, is either that many more needless injuries and fatalities will occur or that the young, elderly and disabled members of our society will be effectively debarred from safely leaving their homes without assistance - probably a mixture of both. Not that anyone seems to care, but their independence, sense of freedom and of self worth will be drastically diminished. Even those blind persons lucky enough to have guide-dogs will not be able to share the so-called Shared Space areas (note, not 'crossings'), as the pavement edges will not conform to their trained vertical height criteria. Notwithstanding this, these invaluable dogs will not, like so many of their human brethren, be able to make effective 'eye contact' with vehicle drivers, many of whom will do their utmost to take every ounce of advantage they can by bullying their way through these no-pedestrian-land areas.

Those responsible for dreaming up these schemes, and even worse, those who intend to implement them, should be ashamed of themselves. To term a Scottish phrase, I am 'black affronted'.

T A Taylor MBE