

PE1595/YY

East Dunbartonshire Access Panel Email of 20 January 2016

I would like to write to give my unqualified support of Petition No PE01595: and thank Mr S. Taylor for bringing this issue to the attention of the Scottish Government.

I consent to this submission being published on the Petition page.

We as an organisation, East Dunbartonshire Access Panel (EDAP) are totally against the concept of 'Shared Space'. The Council have changed the name on a few occasions but the result is still the same.

In spite of the amount of overwhelming opposition to this concept, the Council are refusing to listen to the people of East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) area and are steamrolling this absolutely foolish undemocratic scheme with no thought of the long term consequences on the population.

This scheme is illegal under the 'Equality Act' and also against the 'Local Authority Duty of Care' to the citizens of the area. It is deliberate discrimination against the vulnerable members of the area, including disabled, elderly and people with Alzheimer's, blind and partially sighted, people with learning difficulties and mental health issues. (The elderly population of EDC is the highest in Scotland at 25% while the National average is 18%)

I attended a meeting (recorded) along with Mr S. Taylor, with the design team re the 'Shared Space' who were hostile to me and treated me disrespectfully. They were extremely unhappy regarding the research which I had carried out and published to East Dunbartonshire Access Panel Facebook pages. I had found out about a fatality and accidents which had occurred in other towns and they seemed to be extremely annoyed with my findings.

I also questioned the disregard for the 'Equality Act' and the 'Local Authority Duty of Care'. I was informed that there were other factors, mainly financial, to be taken into consideration. I informed them that this was totally unacceptable.

I raised a formal complaint against two of the team with a senior council official. This official would not uphold the complaint, so I raised a further complaint against them for refusing to answer the points that I had raised. This is an ongoing situation.

I have witnessed at first hand in the town of Letchworth Garden City, which has a similar scheme, the 'curtesy' shown by drivers during rush hour to pedestrians.

There is no break in the traffic, and pedestrians have to walk to the end of the road to cross at controlled crossings. The vehicles refuse to stop.

There has been no consultation with the residents of EDC before the decision to implement this scheme. In any meetings which we (EDAP) with the design team, we expressed our disapproval continually and consistently.

Kirkintilloch town certainly needs a total makeover as it is in decline. This did not happen overnight and the people responsible for the neglect are the same people who are trying to implement a cosmetic makeover at the expense of the majority of the residents.

I would urge the Petitions Committee to seriously consider a moratorium on the concept of 'Shared Space' until proper research and Quality Impact Assessments take place.

If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Kind regards,

Peter McDade (Secretary)
East Dunbartonshire Access Panel