

PE1595/D

Lord Holmes of Richmond Email of 23 December 2015

I would like to write in support of PE01595: Moratorium on shared space schemes submitted by Alexander Taylor. A moratorium on shared space is one of the key recommendations of a report I published on Friday 1st July 2015. The report was a result of my research findings which do not support a sunny view of shared space.

From a survey of over six hundred people sixty-three per cent of respondents reported a negative experience of shared space. Even more worryingly, thirty-five per cent said they actively avoided shared space, that's over a third of people planned out of their local community, shops and support services. The research also indicated a significant under reporting of accidents in these shared spaces.

I concluded that as the findings are stark, the solution is clear, an immediate moratorium on all shared space schemes until thorough impact assessments can be conducted. I also called for this to be combined with a central record of accident data including "courtesy crossings", which must be defined and monitored and updated Department for Transport guidance to enable local authorities to fully understand their obligations, not least in relation to the Equality Act.

In the words of survey respondents, shared space is: *"Lethally dangerous"* (Pedestrian) *"Absolute nightmare that I avoid if I can."* (Driver) *"Shared space is a false promise with poor delivery"* (Cyclist)

Please find the full report and media coverage here:

<http://chrisholmes.co.uk/news/accidents-by-design-the-holmes-report-into-shared-space/>

I also convened a meeting on shared space in the House of Lords earlier this month to consider the difficulties currently created by shared space schemes in the UK and asked "are shared spaces inclusive"? There was a great turnout: engineers, designers, planners, academics, campaigners, disability groups, parliamentarians, lawyers, local authorities and absolutely all agreed that there was a pressing need for better research, better data and better guidance.

I do hope this helps and would be happy to expand further on this if required.

Kind regards,

The Lord Holmes of Richmond MBE