

**PE1595/Q**

Sean Howes Email of 7 January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to give my support to the call for a moratorium on shared space schemes. For both walking and cycling shared space provides a poor quality environment based on a flawed premise. Shared space claims that those in driving, walking & cycling can all share on an equal footing. The reality is motorists, the only ones who can & do cause serious harm, dominate the space while more vulnerable users are bullied out of the way. When using shared space vulnerable users stick to the edges, yield despite allegedly having equal priority & when crossing must fight for right to space. Motorists often show an unwillingness to yield to those crossing and the lack of formal crossing compounds this.

I have repeatedly faced intentional intimidation from motorists in shared space who don't wish to allow me to cross. When on a bicycle shared space does not provide the needed protection from dangerous overtakes and many times I have experienced motorists bullying me towards the edges. Taking space forcefully by using their vehicle as a weapon and slowly pulling towards me. This leaves the option of them colliding with me or for me to yield. As I don't wish to be harmed I yield the space. This is how sharing in shared space plays out and does not fit any definition of sharing I can find. Shared space is based on wishful thinking and a desire to keep the motor car in what should be space for people.

Many of the areas where shared space is being applied would be better suited to other proven solutions. Areas that are supposed to have a pedestrian focus should be pedestrianized. Allowing for considerate cycling, deliveries and disabled parking only. On through routes dedicated space should be provided with formal crossings, protected bike lanes and wide pavements. In both cases these solutions provide safer, more usable & more comfortable spaces for those with disabilities, people who are partial sighted/blind, other vulnerable walkers & people on bicycles when compared with shared space.

Yours Faithfully,

Sean Howes