

PE1595/R

Andrew McAulay Email of 10 January 2016

To the Public Petitions Committee.

I would like to add my support to petition PE1595 lodged by Mr. Alexander Taylor, Chairman of EDVIP Forum.

I am deafblind with other disabilities and I am very concerned and anxious as Shared space is about to happen in the town centre where I live, Kirkintilloch. The proposals are to remove all controlled crossings and safety rails, which I depend on to cross the road. Without the rotating cones at these crossings I would be unable to access the town centre on my own. This would therefore take away my independence. There was a trial of the shared space scheme and I almost got run over by a taxi, who had to brake very fast so that he did not hit me. I have also experienced courtesy crossings while on holiday with my wife and while some drivers stopped for us, many others did not.

I am all for making the town look nicer and more inviting to visitors, but surely this can be done without putting lives, such as mine and other vulnerable people at risk. This is discrimination against disabled people. I have a number of visual impaired, deafblind, elderly, wheelchair user and other disabled friends who I know will be avoiding the town centre when this goes ahead.

I therefore give consent for my support to be added to the Parliament website.

Andrew McAulay,
Member of EDVIP & Deafblind Scotland.