

PE1595/OO

Eileen Thomas Email of 20 January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Reference PE1595

I write to support the Petition (ref PE1595) calling for a moratorium on all Shared Space Schemes throughout Scotland until safety and equality issues have been addressed.

A shared space scheme has recently been implemented in my home town of Kinross. I have been an active member of the community here, including four years on the community council (three as secretary) and nine years as editor of the Kinross Newsletter, a monthly publication of local news which has been in circulation for 38 years. I have a keen interest in, and knowledge of, local matters.

The Kinross High Street environmental improvement project, including elements of shared space, was adopted by Perth & Kinross Council in January 2015 and completed in late September 2015.

There was considerable concern about various details of the project, in particular relating to matters of pedestrian safety. The only controlled pedestrian crossing in the centre of the town was removed and 'courtesy' or 'suggested' crossings put in place. This has caused confusion, and danger, as there is no common understanding of what the rules of usage are, if indeed there are any. The shared space areas, where the pavements and roads are all one level, with no defined pavements, are a danger to young children in particular, as they run out into the 'road' area, thinking it is all one big pavement. The experience in Kinross is of an ever increasing alarm about the potential for injury to pedestrians as a result of the completed development.

I hope the Scottish Parliament will support the petition submitted by Mr Taylor who, as a blind man, has gone to great length to bring to the attention of the public the dangers of shared space for all and in particular for the most vulnerable groups in society.

I am content for my submission to be posted on the Parliament website.

Yours faithfully

Eileen Thomas