

## **MEMBER/PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO SELECT: PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE: 13 November 2020**

### **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

#### **5.1 Question from Mx Youlton**

My child is being treated unfairly and put at a disadvantage for reasons relating to their disabilities. Living in a residential area without parking restrictions – why aren't they allowed a sole use disabled parking bay outside our house? This action of the application of regulation acts as a physical barrier which makes accessing their home difficult and dangerous to their health. This is indirect discrimination and is unlawful unless you are able to show good reason for your regulation and its proportionate and has solid objective justification. This council has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for a disabled person to access their home safely without danger to their health.

#### **Supplementary Question:**

With other drivers parking in disabled parking bays outside the homes of disabled people, because they are not allowed to by the council – is this not a case of discrimination if you do not allow these spaces to be sole use? Being sole use will stop able bodied people and other disabled people parking in it causing an unsafe environment and distress to the user of the bay.

#### **Response by Chair of People and Communities Select Committee**

The County Council as highway authority has the power to implement Traffic Regulation Orders that can restrict or limit the use of the highway. One of the ways we can do this is to create a disabled parking bay. We usually implement these as part of wider parking schemes to support areas that attract people, such as shopping streets or public transport hubs. The bays are available to any and all Blue Badge holders and provide them with convenient parking close to their destination.

The County Council can, as part of a resident parking permit scheme, create disabled bays within that zone which can be assigned to individual addresses. However, the resident is then required to have a permit to use that particular space which helps us to manage it and prevent its misuse by others. Initial support for a resident permit zone must be gained from the wider population of an area before a scheme can go ahead.

### **6. LOCAL MEMBER ISSUES/ MEMBER QUESTIONS**

#### **6.1 NO QUESTIONS RECEIVED**