

PETITION TO CITY OF YORK COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF REVERSE THE BAN, 20TH OCTOBER 2022

The wording on the postcards that were collected reads as follows:



Dear Keith Aspden, Leader of City of York Council

I urge the Lib Dem-Green council administration to reverse the ban on Blue Badge holders entering the city centre. Other cities have addressed security concerns without excluding disabled people and York should do the same. As a Human Rights City, York should not be acting in this way.

Name:

Postcode:

Resident:

Visitor:

Please note that 'Reverse-The-Ban' is non party-political

Please add your own words below if you wish:

Reverse-The-Ban collected **2,734** postcards of which **2074** were from residents and **660** were from visitors, including people who work in York or visit regularly from the surrounding area and tourists.

Reverse-The-Ban is a coalition of 27 disability- and age-related and allied organisations in the City of York that have come together with the aim of reversing the permanent Blue Badge ban in designated parts of the city www.reversetheban.co.uk:

York Accessibility Action

York Access Hub

York Carers Centre

York CVS

York Cycle Campaign

York Dementia Collaborative

York Disability Rights Forum

York Human Rights City Network

York Inspirational Kids (YIKS)

York LGBT Forum

York ME Community

York Older People's Assembly

York People First

York Sight Loss Council

Accessible Arts and Media

Age UK York

Ageing Without Children (AWOC) York

Associazione Premio Eleanor Worthington-ODV

(York-Urbino)

Different Strokes - York

Healthwatch York

Lollipop

MySight York

Older Citizens Advocacy York

St Sampson's Social Centre

The Wilberforce Trust

Unite Community York

United Taxi Trade York comprising:

- Station Taxi Association
- Independent Taxi Association
- Hackney Carriage Association
- York Private Hire Association
- York taxi action group

DISCLAIMER: Reproduced below are 767 additional comments that individuals/couples added to their postcards. Reverse the Ban has reproduced these 'as written' in order to convey the writer(s)'s views; the only changes made were to remove any identifiable information. We carry no responsibility for the wording itself.

There were a total of 767 additional comments made on the postcards

(i) Additional Comments from Residents

- 1 Equality is a right not a privilege
- 2 It feels like disabled people have been stripped of freedom by being denied access to blue badge parking in York city centre pedestrian area
- 3 The ban on parking for blue badge holders is highly discriminatory!
- 4 Never been in town since the ban
- 5 This year's exclusion of blue badge holders is a disgrace!!
- 6 Everyone should be able to fully access the city centre
- 7 I feel ashamed that 'Make it York' excludes the disabled
- 8 Please connect with the Liberal Democrat strong commitment to human rights
- 9 This ban is dreadful, non-democratic and against human rights
- 10 While trying to keep the city centre traffic free is an excellent aspiration, exceptions must be made for blue badge holders
- 11 Policy is excluding not including
- 12 It is time to do the right thing and open up the city to cabs and cars for the disabled
- 13 An unbelievable violation of human rights that diminishes the name of this good city
- 14 I find this very hard to understand
- 15 Not acceptable, is it?
- 16 Bring back badges or get something equivalent please
- 17 Please, please for the sake of compassion and human rights: REVERSE THE BAN!!! Thank you
- 18 Find it outrageous and disgusting that a lobby group came in to talk about how this would affect them and the whole council voted to exclude disabled people from their own city. You do not represent the people of York
- 19 Let disabled people into your city
- 20 Shame on every person who voted for this. May you hang your heads in shame. How do you sleep at night?
- 21 Unable to get to appointments in city centre
- 22 Disabled rights are human rights
- 23 Shameful of a "progressive" party to enact this ban
- 24 Disabled people deserve basic rights at the very minimum. The council has acted wrongly in this situation and I sincerely hope the matter is resolved
- 25 I mean honestly what the s***?? York's already terrible for accessibility
- 26 Not expected of such a council

- 27 I'm a Green member and it's a disgrace
28 Justice
29 An injury to one is an injury to all!
30 Cannot get to bank – have to go to Malton
31 A city for all!
32 Not enough consultation has happened nor actual listening to the issues surrounding.
This is an affront to human rights
33 As a local resident in York I feel that I am excluded [from] my own city to access, due to
my support needs and disability. I feel that they have done this underhand without any
consultations in a fair manner and I feel that being a local..... I am now excluded
34 (all from one person) I do hope you will succeed, so that disabled people can access the
city, and also bring back the trade to the shops and organisations.

In February, during the time of Storm Dennis, it was my 94th birthday, and my family had
booked a special lunch at The Ivy. We knew no cars would be allowed, so my daughter
and I took a taxi - only to find that was not allowed near, even with my Blue Badge, I had
a long (for me) and painful walk, in the wind and rain. It was even worse after the lunch
as we had to walk to a taxi rank and had a long wait, No taxi was available to pick us
up. My daughter and I were literally soaked through our coats, and very cold.

I now have to go to Monk's Cross or Vanguard to visit a shop, optician etc,

I understand the need to guard against terrorism, but I doubt whether old
and/or disabled people are banned from the centre of London.

Good luck to your efforts.

- 35 Please reverse the ban
36 This ban prevents me taking my wheelchair-bound mother into town
37 Get rid of that Andy D'Agorne. What does my city look like! Cliffords Tower, how do I get
there and where do I park? I hope to God that man A D'Agorne never needs a blue badge
or maybe he can put it on the front of his bike. I for one feel suicidal. I want my city back.
38 Please reverse this ban. Disabled people need the previous situation to be re-instated.
Thank you
39 My Dad's a blue badge holder, can't get anywhere near the town centre
40 Disgraceful attitude of CoYC
41 Please take note, life is hard enough for people
42 I feel very strongly about this as a York resident
43 Please reverse the ban
44 How are disabled people supposed to manage? Unless this is an aberration, this is
deliberate!
45 Put all residents first!
46 Disabled people have a right to park!
47 Definitely need to let blue badge holders in city
48 Disgraceful decision
49 Impossible to get to shops/appts/banks without in town parking
50 Stupid

- 51 You couldn't make it up!
- 52 Ban is disgraceful, should be banned
- 53 I am embarrassed to live in a city which makes such discriminatory decisions
- 54 How else do you think these disabled people can get around
- 55 Please do something as soon as possible
- 56 My mum is 96 and needs me to have parking access
- 57 All should be welcomed
- 58 Disgraceful policy to deny people with disabilities parking rights
- 59 Life is hard enough as it is
- 60 You are discriminating again your residents and visitors
- 61 Blue badge holders should be allowed in the city!!
- 62 My father is disabled and this really limits his access to the city centre
- 63 My husband has been disabled for 40 years. Very disgusted at York City Council
- 64 It's hard enough people accepting being disabled without worrying about parking issues
- 65 Blue Badge holders need to be able to be as active participants in York's city as anyone else
- 66 I think it's disgraceful
- 67 Should be some facilities for disabled parking
- 68 Look at how other cities are dealing with security concerns without excluding disabled people and follow their examples. If people want to do damage they can do just as much on foot – see the Manchester Arena!
- 69 I have been an informal carer for a friend who recently died and used a walker and/or a wheelchair. She found the ban a great inconvenience and impacted on her getting about
- 70 York should be carrying the flag and leading the way if they're to be considered a human rights city! Shame on you!
- 71 The car parks are too far away from the centre to allow people with disabilities to get into York
- 72 Frankly, it's disgraceful. There is too much of a personal agenda being applied here. This should not be 'driven' by one man. York Council needs to get us back on track. BAN THE ELECTRIC SCOOTERS. ALLOW BLUE BADGE HOLDERS IN!
- 73 Discriminating against disabled people. All people should have access to the city centre
- 74 Anyone disabled needs to be able to use blue badges in York city centre
- 75 Disability have rights to have access to town
- 76 This ban is in breach of a range of fundamental rights. It must be reversed!
- 77 This ban makes York inaccessible. Do not alienate people who need badges
- 78 This ban would be a breach of citizen's fundamental human rights – how dare you call yourselves the representatives of England's first Human Rights City!!!
- 79 Re-open York to blue badge holders. This ban is not fair
- 80 The issue of the vehicle as a 'safe space' is a crucial one
- 81 I think you have put money over people's rights, it's a shame
- 82 I think the blue badge should stay in operation
- 83 The local authority should be pro-active in making all areas of the city accessible to Blue Badge holders. To not do this demonstrates an unwillingness to include people who are at a disadvantage because of inability. York Should be a city of exclusion!

- 84 You are discriminating against people with disability. Too much space given to cyclists and scooters. People do not ask to be disabled
- 85 Please let the disability return for disabled people and put them before things for tourists and people who are able bodied
- 86 Definitely want one [reverse the ban]
- 87 My father-in-law is 95 and has COPD. This ban is removing his right of access to the city centre
- 88 I am disabled with multiple points of arthritis and am awaiting a mobility scooter.
- 89 I think at least one route into and out of the city centre should be made available to us, preferably one for entry from North, South, East and West.
- 90 Can't take my car into the centre but have nearly been hit by delivery cars numerous time
- 91 I miss when York felt like home
- 92 As a carer for my mum and partner I can't manage to take them both into city centre any more
- 93 As a Blue Badge holder my life has been worsened dramatically by the ban. E.g. I can't access City Screen early evening any more and places like Bettys
- 94 I am truly ashamed to be living in a city that does not let blue badge holders into the city centre and hope to see this reversed
- 95 The impact of the ban has taken an intense toll on the emotional and mental health of myself, my friends and family. Visiting my beloved city centre is no longer an option; 'allowing' us to enter before 10.30 and after 7pm casts disabled people and Blue Badge holders as second class citizens. I fell in love with York age 14 and moved here at 18. Now, age 35, I am unwelcome.
- 96 Please remember we all have human rights and being able to access our beautiful city should not be taken away. Not everybody can access it without their highly specialised vehicles
- 97 Disabled and less mobile people need protecting from discrimination and degrading treatment by the City of York Councillors. These councillors are taking away our freedom, equality, opportunities, our right to socialise and enjoy activities in the city centre. We are patronised with suggestions of cycling, shuttle buses, benches and what's to say they will even be available when required. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters don't work for everyone and the terrain isn't always suitable anyway. Citing anti-terrorism measures implies that blue badge holders are likely to be engaged in terrorist activities! What have we don't that offends the council. Why do they hate us so much? This feels like the thin end of the wedge. What have they got planned for us next I ask myself.
- 98 Our lives would be much enhanced if my husband, who has Parkinsons, could get nearer to the city centre!
- 99 This is a very regressive policy
- 100 It's a basic human right
- 101 I am a carer for a lady with disabilities and she regularly goes into York centre and this has made life very difficult for her. I also agree that the security issues could absolutely be addressed in another way.
- 102 When "all" does not include everyone we are on a slippery slope
- 103 I am deeply embarrassed that my city does not welcome disabled people and furious that the council are so dismissive of our rights to move around the city – on our own, with family or friends – without any good reason
- 104 I got a blue badge purely to have better access to the city via taxi; now it is useless

105 We should more rights that cage tables and buildings!

106 Disabled people deserve access to everything able-bodied people do: we shop, have appointments, meet friends + family, we party and do fun activities. You're blocking us from living our lives!

107 York: there's no point being a tourist city, if you don't look after residents who live here all year round

108 WHY

109 A ridiculous & totally insensitive decision – and from the LIB DEMS

110 Everyone has a right to be in our city. Reverse the ban!

111 This ableism is bullshit!

112 As a parent of a disabled young person it is criminal to exclude them easy access to the city. as a city of sanctuary the disabled should be equally welcome

113 It is surely possible to make our city work for disabled people

114 Where are our Human Rights?

115 Mum has blue badge. Unable to take her to shops, banks in York

116 My elderly mum of 92yrs who we can no longer get her into the city for her clothing/shoes etc

117 York should be open to all!

118 Please make York more disabled friendly!

119 This is an outrage in a world of equality of opportunity

120 Stop hating the disabled. What have they done to deserve this????

121 This is incredibly ableist. You need to do better

122 My disabled mother in law can no longer come into town!

123 This decision of the council has negatively affected the lives of disabled people in York. The negative effects are not hypothetical, they are documented, they are happening just as disabled people have warned the council time and time again. It has evidently been ignored by the council, or else it should have been resolved. If the council claims that they are listening to disabled people, I can only assume that, despite disabled peoples' continued please and warnings, the council's insistence of the ban and the recent castle car park initiative is the council's active hostility against disabled people. As a resident of York I am incredibly disappointed by the city's treatment of our disabled peers and the actions of the council is shameful. This ban alone should call into question the validity of the city's "Human Rights City" label. I urge the council to REVERSE THE BAN! And understand that this is a starting point in upholding fellow disabled residents' rights!

124 We need access in vehicles for blue badge holders back again, please

125 Equality of opportunity is crucial for those with mobility problems to enjoy life to the full

126 V. important to have enabling practices!

127 Please reverse the ban on disabled people

128 There are many disabled people and those with Blue Badges should be able to reach the city centre. Lots of cities have free shuttle buses and this is [also] really needed in York for many people who can't walk much but have no blue badge.

129 This action has closed my world down

130 Life is hard enough for the disabled and their carers. You have made it so much worse.

131 I am a 90 year old disabled lady. You have taken away my rights to be able to go into York centre to meet with friends at various places including St Sampsons Church [Centre]. Growing old comes to all of us. We can't stop it.

- 132 I have lived in York 57 yrs and since the blue badge ban I have been unable to access York. This is greatly distressing to me and I feel rejected and unwanted which adds to my isolation.
- 133 My father lived in York for the whole of his life and walked and cycled everywhere until his mid 90s. In the last few years of his life his remaining pleasure was to be driven into the city and where he could manage a short walk. This link with his past added to his well-being. To see this has been taken away from people who pay taxes to live in the city is iniquitous
- 134 This decision has completely removed access to my own city. It is unjust in every sense.
- 135 My 26 year old daughter has been excluded from her own city centre since the introduction of the ban. Having been limited in the first place to what was accessible to her, she is now totally excluded because she is unable to walk from any of the car parks to the shops. Her quality of life has been significantly affected.
- 136 My disabled husband can no longer visit the city he loves!!!
- 137 My mother is a blue badge holder who is over 100 and still able to walk and use shops with support. I used to be able to take her by car, into Goodramgate and park outside or near each shop she needs – Boyes, Savers, Peacocks (ladies clothes now closed – lost its customers due to ban?) and Boots pharmacy. Now the covid emergency is over, it's time to re-enable parking access on Goodramgate and other places, e.g. Colliergate for Barnitts, for blue badge holders.
- 138 (this all from one person) I am so saddened by the continuing effective ban of disabled people into the city centre, and ashamed of being a York resident (and born here). My mum died last month. She had MS for 40 years. Since the removal of parking and access into the centre, she was no longer able to be taken into town by my father. I was no longer able to take her to see a film at City Screen.

The small things in life that non-disabled people take as granted. Disabled people are workers, consumers, visitors, residents and tourists.

But most of all they are human beings.

They have rights protected by the Equality Act 2010 and the city I am from has breached these by making changes that have caused indirect discrimination. The Council (of which I also used to have great sympathy for and work at) has unfortunately caused great misery and suffering to disabled people and their families.

Access into our city really is that important to people.

Please, please reverse the changes.

Give disabled people the opportunity to live as others do. Please.

- 139 If you were disabled you would realise that we are all human beings, who have the right to enter into our city.
- 140 Inhumane. Shocking
- 141 Isolation is a killer – please abolish this ban.
- 142 It is appalling that people with reduced mobility are prevented from participating in York's social and cultural life. Everyone is likely to be affected by reduced mobility at

- some point in their lives, and it should not be difficult to find solutions that allow people in this situation to access the city centre. I urge the Council to do better.
- 143 A 'solution' to an issue that disproportionately disadvantages disabled people isn't a solution at all. Our lives matter just as much as yours
- 144 No other city has taken away the right of access to people to be able to enter parts of their city freely and without prejudice – York as a city which claims to be for Human Rights should read the charter they signed in 2017 and remember all people want to enjoy this beautiful city and the facilities it has, not just those who have no restrictions to their access.
- 145 The social model of disability emphasizes that people have impairments, but what disables them are the barriers we place in the way of their inclusion. The Blue Badge ban is a clear example of a failure to remove the barriers to disabled people's inclusion in the life of our city. It is shameful, divisive, and unacceptable from a self-declared "Human Rights City". How can our ambitions around tackling health inequalities & building a city for all be taken seriously when council leaders took a decision like this despite being begged not to? How can people believe it when we say we will shape the future of our city around what matters to our residents if we ignore the voices we most need to hear? Reverse the ban, show you understand it was wrong, before you are made to. It will be too late if that day comes.
- 146 Please allow all people of York access to their city again. Disability should not be a barrier to accessing the city centre.
- 147 Changes should not be at the expense of people with disabilities.
- 148 I feel that there is no rhyme or reason for this ban on blue badge holders. I've lost my independence and my liberty. I want & need to get into town to spend money. No can do. I strongly object to being told on how to live my life. Disabled peoples' lives are hard & difficult enough without this ban. It's a disgrace.
- 149 The COYC issues Blue Badges which are impossible to use in the city where I pay rates. Guess where my voice will go at the next local elections!
- 150 This is pure discrimination. I am doing this on my dad's behalf as he has health related issues. York needs to be community-driven, not profit-driven
- 151 We should make York an inclusive city for all!
- 152 Security should never mean exclusion.
- 153 This is blatant discrimination, if you wouldn't allow Blue Badge holders to park at least give them free public transport
- 154 Everyone deserves to be able to access and enjoy our beautiful city
- 155 Keith you are a bellend
- 156 Essential that full and proper provision is made!
- 157 Many blue badge holders are reduced to driving round looking for parking places which are full then having to return home as they couldn't find a space near enough for them to access the city centre. This affects their quality of life and health. Please reconsider
- 158 Equal rights and independence for the disabled to park in York, like other welcoming cities in the UK.
- 159 Disability rights = human rights
- 160 This would effectively make the city centre unreachable for most blue badge holders
- 161 Get rid of pavement tables and chairs
- 162 Get rid of pavement cafes

- 163 Yes I think it's wrong. I work at St. Sampson's for the over 60s and there is no longer access for blue badge holders. This issue needs to be reversed as other cities have overturned it
- 164 I volunteer at St. Sampson's and it is sad to hear previous customers regret that they can no longer access the centre
- 165 Obvious, init?
- 166 Selfish, thoughtless council. Shame on you
- 167 Disgusting to stop the disabled coming into the city centre
- 168 The changes to parking for the disabled has resulted in me no longer coming into York unless it's essential
- 169 The ban on Blue Badge parking has now reduced our visits to York by 98%!!
- 170 Discrimination – Council should be ashamed of themselves
- 171 As a Blue Badge user, I find it difficult to access services in York now. I am excluded from socialising also
- 172 This is causing a lot of problems to my 92-year-old neighbor
- 173 No need to punish disabled people by restricting lives further
- 174 Disability discrimination!
- 175 I am a Blue Badge holder and find the parking options in York restrictive. Transfer to taxi option is not practical – need a special car and assistance
- 176 You should be supporting the residents just as much as the tourists. York seems to be becoming a money making exercise these days!
- 177 It's discrimination
- 178 Hope you never get to be handicapped, life can be hard
- 179 It's simple, reverse the ban!
- 180 This is utterly ridiculous and is a horrendous breach of the HRA and the Equality Act
- 181 Please consult York residents before you make such big decisions and NRM is another example!
- 182 To be an inclusive/Human Rights City, York Council should include everyone and give everyone the right to access the city centre, not exclude an entire community of people who need to use their vehicles to access banks/shops/cafes etc. Life is hard enough for them without this additional stress. It's time to put this right!
- 183 Everyone should have the right to come into our city centre whenever they want. People should not be prevented from coming into the city centre because they are disabled. It is the highest level of discrimination and quite frankly utterly disgraceful. What has happened to York?
- 184 Think it's appalling. Blue badge holders have just as much right to be there as everyone else, why should their access be denied!!!
- 185 The ban will increase loneliness and isolation of people with mobility issues and further decrease their opportunity to interact and access stimulation, culture/etc.
- 186 I am embarrassed about this ban and have had friends visit from abroad who were able to travel internationally with their disability, only to receive a hostile welcome from the City of York.
- 187 Please consider reversing the ban
- 188 I think this is disgraceful.
- 189 Now being disabled, I find it hard to get into the city centre & then walk from a car park, when the only bank is in the city centre.

- 190 Allow disabled parking as parking is hard at the best of times.
- 191 How can this happen. People need spaces
- 192 Disgraceful that the elderly and infirm cannot get into the city centre. These people worked and paid taxes for many years.
- 193 The City of York's treatment of disabled people is shameful and needs to be corrected.
- 194 I feel these people should be allowed to park in town and have the freedom of the City like everyone else.
- 195 Keeping the ban is anti-historical!
- 196 I have friends who are disabled and really worry that they will not be able to enjoy York or go shopping.
- 197 It's not acceptable that you are excluding disabled residents and visitors from York city centre.
- 198 Would of expected better from Lib Dems/Green Party!
- 199 Shame on you York council, people with disabilities have enough challenges to overcome without being denied access into their own town centre! Honestly I was hopeful when a joint Lib Dem/Green Council got voted in but see no improvements under your leadership.
- 200 Please overturn the ban
- 201 Separation is isolating!
- 202 Justice. Equality. Inclusion
- 203 This is crazy. Huge adverse impact on people's rights of access. Retrograde step.
- 204 Daft!!!
- 205 I find parking in York city centre very hard with my breathing and getting around. This should be reversed.
- 206 Don't target disabled people – why are you discriminating against the elderly? It is a disgrace. Shame on you!!
- 207 Blue Badge holders rely on freedom of access to the city and should not be restricted
- 208 Thank you for supporting this case.
- 209 I think York should allow blue badge holders in the city centre, as it would enable disabled people to access the city, as it is more difficult to walk from a car park. By doing this you will enable disabled people to have freedom of choice and enhance their mobility.
- 210 I am very angry about the current ban on Blue Badge holders..... It seems to me that this is indicative of the move to prioritise commercial and tourist industry interests in York over those of the residents. I have always supported tourism as a vital part of the city's economy, but it strikes me that the main purpose of the city's economy should be to provide for the city's residents, and that doesn't seem to be happening. I am an elderly resident of York, I first came here nearly fifty years ago, and I am very saddened to see so many residents being excluded from the heart of their city.
- 211 This car park is my lifeline to coming into York at all.
- 212 Please reverse the ban, to allow people with disabilities to have access to the city centre, for important services, eg banks, opticians.
- 213 Not happy with current restrictions for blue badge holders wanting to access the city centre. Need to reverse the ban!
- 214 I have an elderly father and this would affect him
- 215 This is discriminatory for people who have various disabilities. I thought York was a friendly city.

- 216 The ban is not good for disabled in these days of equality and diversity.
- 217 It's unfair!
- 218 This is an embarrassment for the city!
- 219 How on earth was this ridiculous rule passed. Council is not listening to the residents.
- 220 How did this get passed????
- 221 My sister spends all her time doing this!
- 222 A discriminatory disgrace!!!
- 223 6 months ago I fell on the dreadful pavements and broke my hip. I have been unable to get to York to the bank. I think the city council should spend more money on the pavements.
- 224 For the people needing a blue badge, being able to park near to locality treasure troves like the centre of our amazing city is a fabulous way of enriching their lives. Please don't continue to deprive them.
- 225 The lack of access amounts to disability discrimination with this council's repeated failure to make reasonable adjustments. Someone needs to go round York in a wheelchair and see just how difficult it is for someone with mobility issues to navigate the city.
- 226 As I am disabled and cannot walk far, I have a walker I push. But to come into York for entertainment or singing at St Sampsons Church [Centre] Fridays, I have to use Dial A Ride to bring me in. £9.50 fare one way, otherwise it's £14 each way ordinary taxi. The bus stops in Acomb to York are too far away from where I live and walk to. If I use Fleetways or York Cars they drop me at Pavement outside Marks and Spencers. Still a long walk to St Sampsons and shops nearby. Hope this helps the cause.
- 227 Please support people who have no choice but wish to enjoy York and all it offers.
- 228 Can't bring other people with mobility issues into town.
- 229 Without our car my husband is housebound. We are too far for him to walk to the nearest bus stop and I do all the driving. As far as we are concerned this is discrimination for people who are not able-bodied and old.
- 230 This is discrimination against disabled people. These people have enough problems to cope with and being unable to park near the city centre may lead to them being housebound.
- 231 My mum got a disabled badge. She needs it to get in York city centre.
- 232 I entirely agree that the City of York Council must reverse the ban on blue badge holders in central York.
- 233 Please help everyone have a simpler life.
- 234 My husband enjoyed being in York many times due to parking in city. Although he is now dead, I wish this for others.
- 235 We will be judged by how well we reach out to those most in need.
- 236 I object to pavement coffee culture, unless it is a pedestrian walkway with no cars. It not only impacts wheelchair users and guide dogs but pushchairs and general public.
- 237 A disgraceful and possibly illegal act, with no consideration for older folk whatsoever.
- 238 Essential!!
- 239 I believe that the ban reversal will be beneficial to York City Council and to blue badge holders who need to use the city centre for essential shopping.
- 240 This would make life easier for any amount of people.
- 241 Blue Badge holder. Yes please.
- 242 Discrimination against disability.

- 243 This is shocking and should not be allowed. People with disabilities are being kept from the city. This is disability discrimination.
- 244 Disability discrimination.
- 245 Disgraceful
- 246 This policy is discrimination!
- 247 Many blue badge holders are prevented from using such an essential service as their Bank by this ban. Several banks and building societies are located within the boundary of the banned area.
- 248 Disgusting policy
- 249 (all from one person) I recognise the need to address security issues in our city, but feel that banning blue badge holders from the city is quite unacceptable. Banning any group is a form of discrimination which should not be permitted.

All out citizens have a right to go about their lawful business, in their city. As a retired OT, I'm a strong advocate for people remaining as independent as possible. By stopping disabled people from shopping, using the bank, attending appointments etc, the council is preventing people from exercising their independence.

Other cities seem to be managing security concerns in a way which is not discriminatory. Please lift this ban at once. It has no place in a free society!!

I'd also add that the environment of the city currently does little to support the ability of disabled people – too many events attracting crowds of visitors, and too many pavement cafes blocking easy transit!!

- 250 I'd also add that the environment of the city currently does little to support the ability of disabled people – too many events attracting crowds of visitors, and too many pavement cafes blocking easy transit!!”
- 251 The provision for disabled people in York is already massively lacking and a ban for blue badge holders is a direct attack on disabled people. NO BAN!
- 252 I am in full agreement that steps need to be taken in this matter, having acted as a carer for 2 family members and a close friend.
- 253 We should find a way to make York a more inclusive city.
- 254 Please reverse this. I care for a blue badge holder with Alzheimers and it's impossible to get her into the city centre. It's against human rights.
- 255 Any councillor of York – are you disabled or does any of your family who may be disabled. If you don't know what it's like to be disabled then you do not know what it's like to manage disability, living with it 24/7
- 256 Access to city centre for disabled people should be a priority.
- 257 We suffer enough. Please don't make us suffer any more.
- 258 The ban on blue badge holders is an insult to older York residents who deserve better treatment from Y.C.C as a Human Rights City.
- 259 Please reverse the ban to enable those with disabilities access to the city centre for vital goods and services.
- 260 (all from one person) The banning of blue badge holders is discriminatory and will hit on the most vulnerable people in our society. It was understandable that during the covid restrictions that access for blue badge holders should be banned. Not that these restrictions have been lifted there is no reason why this ban should remain in place. Citing security measures is a poor excuse. Why not ban people with backpacks!

Whilst the measures appear to have the full support of the business community, perhaps this is because over the last few years the number of pavement cafes has increased. Fossgate every other establishment appears to be a cafe.

The change in the type of establishment more towards hospitality has driven residents in general away from shopping in the city centre and in particular blue badge holders. The current ban also assumes that those with certain disabilities will be able to walk any distance, this is not the case which is precisely the reason for the introduction of blue badges in the first place.

- 261 (all from one person) Please make the city centre easily accessible to all disabled people. So many (including blue badge holders) are unable to access the city centre from the distances allowed at present. Our streets are very narrow and are often jammed with tourists by 9.30 or 10am every day of the week. Pavement cafes also increase the hazards for disabled people.

Whilst tourism is an important source of income for York, it is also now making it impossible for small independent shops or the market to survive.

Most disabled people (especially physically disabled) cannot use the Park and Ride services successfully for two reasons:

1. Most bus drivers do not offer help
2. The buses have a very small proportion of seats available.

- 262 York Council should be doing more for elderly and resident people and disabled people.
263 This affects a lot of people.
264 Please overturn this decision and improve accessibility.
265 This needs overturning.
266 They should be entitled – to make it easier to get about.
267 Do change your mind
268 It's my partner who drives and needs this.
269 My husband is disabled so we want this ban to be lifted.
270 I am disabled. I need to park in the town centre. This ban needs to be lifted.
271 Please reverse this discriminatory policy that severely curtails the lives and human rights of disabled people.
272 This is vital for disabled people to visit our town.
273 DON'T BAN THE BLUE BADGE!!
274 Surely disabled people have just as much right.
275 What a ridiculous decision. Reverse it.
276 Let them have access.
277 I definitely [dis]agree. My dad needs one.
278 Reverse the ban on blue badge holders.
279 Rubbish Council.
280 This is discrimination at its best. Try getting into shops etc in a wheelchair.
281 Should bring it back.

- 282 Disabled people need to live too. It is unfair and an invasion of their human rights.
Please reverse the ban.
- 283 Bring back D.P.A.G.
- 284 Just make it easier. Don't make the situation more difficult with the stress!
- 285 Keep open to blue badge holders.
- 286 Please help blue badge owners to access York.
- 287 It is inconvenient.
- 288 Disabled access needed URGENTLY.
- 289 Out of order. Not good.
- 290 This decision was not thought out in respect of the needs of disabled people.
- 291 Disabled need to park if they can't walk.
- 292 Should not be banned.
- 293 Yes, please remove the barrier.
- 294 It is essential for disabled parking to be allowed in the city centre to give them access to the centre.
- 295 I am able bodied now but who knows what the future holds this is my city and I want to be able to access it with both my able bodied and disabled friends and family.
- 296 I'm writing to express my support to a reverse the ban on blue badge holders from parking in the city of York as they previously were able to. This ban is discriminatory and impacts the lives of those who are unable to get into the city centre because of their disability to support the local economy and enjoy what the city centre has to offer them, be that retail, eating out or attending choir rehearsals which are held in the city.
- 297 My parents have been York residents since the 1950's and have been directly affected by this ban and, as elderly residents of York, it has hugely impacted their wellbeing and social opportunities. I was born and raised in York and I return frequently to support my parents. My sister and I both find it stressful and inconvenient when we want to bring them into the city centre as we have to drop them off as close to where we need to be in the centre and leave them alone whilst we go and park elsewhere.
- 298 I am a manual wheelchair user who moved to County Durham three years ago. The ban means that York, which I expected to be an excellent shopping and socialising choice, is not possible for me.
- 299 To ban disabled people from our town centre is an absolute disgrace shame on you York Council you think more of the tourists than your own citizens.
- 300 We feel that City of York council cannot hide behind dubious claims about terrorist prevention methods in order to justify this. They have also clearly failed to provide the shuttle bus service that was mentioned numerous times in the infamous meeting a few months ago. Surely that should be a simple and quick thing to arrange?!
- 301 I have not been into town since the parking changed for Blue Badge holders as it has become too inconvenient and would be detrimental to my health with having further to go to access services in the town centre. Pleasure outings such as to the cinema or for meals out have ceased and I have sought alternative out of town locations for things like the opticians. Shopping I would have done with a quick visit to town is being replaced with online purchases. These examples, combined with many others in a similar situation, must be harming the economy of the city.

- 302 The ban will keep disabled people from entering the City. Would you (the council) act differently if you had a mobility issue. Disabled parking in the car parks you suggest are too far out of the City, please use some common sense for once.
- 303 The ban is ridiculous and I find it discriminating against people with disabilities. Do these people actually know or even understand what it is like to be unable to walk just a few yards?
- 304 My Dad was a blue badge holder and very much enjoyed being able to get into York every week to meet up with friends for coffee. He would have been very upset to know that the City now no longer welcome disabled visitors.
- 305 I am a disabled person who relies on a mobility scooter to get around. York has long been a favourite place to visit, either for day trips or longer visits, but with the changes to Blue Badge parking arrangements it is no longer accessible to me. There is simply no point in trying to visit when people like me are being made to feel so unwelcome. The worry of finding somewhere to park ruins a visit and unless you reverse the ban I can't imagine us coming back.
- 306 Please reverse the ban on disabled parking in York city centre. This ban affects May people including businesses where disabled people shop. It is inhumane & cruel to keep this situation
- 307 We are moving to Doncaster shortly and one of the things we were looking forward to was visiting York. As a blue badge holder and someone whose mobility is becoming increasingly impaired, not being able to park in the centre and having to walk longer distances on crutches, this ban will inevitably mean we are less likely to visit.
- 308 I am the main carer for my 92 year old father, twice per year he likes to go to his bank and get it updated, his bank is, was the Yorkshire Bank on Coney Street, we usually went there for 09:30 for when the bank opened and only stayed there 5 -10 minutes tops, now I can't take him and he has lost his independence and feels very undervalued as a citizen of York. Please can you reconsider your decision.
- 309 I am horrified to hear that the Council is planning to ban Blue Badge holders from the city centre. My late partner had the benefit of one when he was very ill. It made all the difference to the quality of his life that he was able to visit the city centre as it gave him a modicum of independence and a normal life. We went into town every afternoon. He was very limited in what he could do but he enjoyed going out for a cup of tea and feeling part of things. Otherwise he would have been stuck at home all the time. If this appalling plan is approved by the Council, at the next election I will vote for whatever Party proposes overturning it.
- 310 An absolute disgrace that this has been put in place!
- 311 I wish to join the protest at the high-handed actions of City of York council in banning blue badge holders from the streets of the city.
- 312 Please have a heart for those people unable to get to the shops without being able to park. I used to take my mother in and park outside Brown's department store, where she could buy most things she needed plus she could get to Hotters shoe shop with her walking aid. Now she would be unable to do that. I know how much she enjoyed being able to choose and do things for herself. To take away people's independence is heartless.
- 313 I often visited York before Covid, especially with family and friends. But without the accessibility of a close blue badge parking I will not be able to visit in the future. This is a shame as it's one of my favourite cities, and I come for music as well as

shopping/sightseeing/food. You really have not thought about the rights of those with mobility issues. We don't all have access or the need for a wheelchair/mobility scooter - and I liked to visit occasionally on my own too, but this is now completely impossible. Please reverse the ban.

- 314 I frequently took my 93 year old mother into town to visit the cafes and shops. She can only mobilise very short distances with a wheeled walker. We have had to resort to very occasional trips in the wheelchair when my husband is available to accompany us to lift the wheelchair in and out of the car. You seem to have no thought or consideration for people such as my Mum who would like to be able to get out of the car and walk a few paces to a cafe etc let alone the wheelchair users. Please reverse the ban.
- 315 I'm a Blue Badge holder who can't walk far and used to thoroughly enjoy visiting the city centre, fairs etc. but was incredulous when the Council decided to discriminate against me and people like me by preventing access. I haven't been into the City since. It's an appalling and shortsighted action against disabled people
- 316 I am blind and moving around is very difficult and stressful without more barriers relating to blue badge parking.
- 317 Please think again. You're here to look after every one not just the few. We have a say at the ballot box remember!
- 318 As a disabled person I no longer feel welcome in town, or in the York community. I rarely get into town these days because of access limitations. I can't bring my kids into the city centre for activities as my son and I are both disabled and he can't manage buses. I miss feeling like I belong and am welcome here.
- 319 I am deeply dismayed at how York Council is so clearly and openly discriminating against people with disability, effectively banning them from the city centre and other areas with no regard to disability legislation and without the slightest show of humanity in your approach. It's a disgrace for this city.
- 320 I tried to have input during the consultation but felt from the start that the decisions were already made it was in fact a fait accompli and I was being "used" so that boxes were ticked and the consultants had consulted people with disabilities. The situation is getting worse with the street cafes using the footpaths and the designated parking bays being too far away from the city for people with limited mobility what ever causes this in their situations.
- 321 (all from one person) By preventing blue badge holders from accessing the city centre, they are missing out on services and opportunities, for example the opportunity to work in the city centre or even to enjoy leisure time. The ban will very likely contribute to stripping disabled people of independence and social connections, impacting on mental health. The council claims the ban will protect against terrorism, but Liverpool did not take any such action following the terrorist attack there in November 2021, the event which I believe this ban is in response to.

The council is now proposing to close the car park next to Clifford's tower, which has 31 Blue Badge spaces, forcing Blue Badge holders to use St George's Field Car Park, which only has 4 Blue Badge spaces and is prohibitively far for some, making accessing the city centre exhausting, stressful, and dangerous, especially as much of the city's paving means it is already hard to navigate with disabilities. The council seems to be favouring tourist influx over the quality of life of York's permanent disabled residents.'

- 322 Access to York city centre is very poor and requires careful planning! What needs to happen is a coordinated approach to encourage a more diverse populous into this human rights city.
- 323 York is becoming a national embarrassment. Clearly disabled people aren't welcome. This is not the 19th century when people were hidden away.
- 324 It's a disgrace that blue badge holders can't enter York's city centre since Nov 2021. This ban needs to be reversed immediately. It's discriminatory and breaches human rights. Other cities have found ways to keep people safe why not York?
- 325 Your current policies have stopped me getting into town, even in my wheelchair, as I can't park close enough to my desired destinations to get to them, and I can't get passed a lot of obstructions (pavement cafes, etc). Please, please reassess & overturn your current policies as a matter of urgency as they are thoroughly discriminatory and completely neglect the human rights of disabled residents like me.
- 326 Please don't exclude disabled people!
- 327 This is really something that needs addressing as a matter of urgency as there are people out there with genuine need to be able to access places that those without health problems access as a matter of routine.
- 328 Do IT Do IT Now Please
- 329 This is completely unacceptable a major step backwards.
- 330 SORT YOURSELF OUT, KEITH !!!
- 331 Please change this as disabled people need to be able to get to town and public transport just isn't enough!
- 332 I've been a York citizen for 25 years and frankly, this disgusting behaviour makes me ashamed to be. Sort it out.
- 333 I can't access York anymore!
- 334 The pavements are difficult without all the tables and chairs. Residents should take priority over tourists.
- 335 Please stop making it impossible for residents and visitors to shop & visit THEIR city. Not everyone is fit enough to ride a bicycle. Other historic cities manage to do this without banning blue badges.
- 336 It's a shame you don't look after your own residents.
- 337 This is discrimination of disabled and older people of York. Most of them have lived, worked and shopped in York all their lives and are now not allowed in the city!
- 338 I believe all should have access to part of the city. Visitors should be able to experience all of the city and even more residents should have access to their own town centre.
- 339 It's discrimination and unfair. Disabled people have their own rights.
- 340 York is already an old city where there are restrictions on some buildings on how accessible they can be. We get this. But the parking is a whole other issue - there are other ways to keep our beautiful city safe without making it inaccessible to people who live here! This can be an amazing place to live for EVERYONE.
- 341 This move is a disgrace! Tarnishes this city's reputation and breaks the 2010 Equality Act due to the false pretext of it being an anti-terrorism measure.
- 342 You should be ashamed and I hope you are.
- 343 Shocking lack of disability access. My grandad and uncle cannot come and visit me in town.
- 344 Having had a disabled husband I know how restricting and frustrating it is to be banned from the city we financially support.

- 345 It's an absolute disgrace that disabled people are treated in this way.
- 346 I feel York is all about tourists now. As a blue badge holder. I find it disgusting.
- 347 One of our children is a blue badge holder due to Duchene Muscular dystrophy - a muscle wasting, life limiting condition. We are fortunate to be staying very close to York for a holiday but having to pay for taxis to get as close to the city as we can because of our son's difficulties with walking long distances.
- 348 Goodramgate should be open to disabled people earlier.
- 349 Living where I do with a very limited bus service and severe walking problems this decision has spoilt the few times I tried to get to the theatre or city screen or to go to a special shop.
- 350 A 7pm curfew is heartless and Castlegate impossible unless you come very early. Please reconsider.
- 351 I can't even drive a car, but I agree with this ban being removed.
- 352 Now I struggle to enjoy my home city.
- 353 As a disabled person it's difficult to get into the city centre which means I am isolated from being able to go to the city centre. Please reconsider the decision so me and others can access and park in the city centre.
- 354 Seems like a way to make York less inclusive.
- 355 I find it strange that in a time of such inclusivity, City of York Council should make life so much harder for a group of people who already have additional needs.
- 356 This definitely needs over-turning. What a disgrace to stop blue badge holders going into York - this is blatant disability discrimination.
- 357 Please reverse this ban now.
- 358 The ban on blue badge holders in York city centre could be seen at its best as thoughtless and inconsiderate and at its worst as spiteful and vindictive. The council seems to be saying please come and visit York... but not if you are disabled.
- 359 Please come and visit our many welcoming pubs, cafes and restaurants... but not if you are disabled.
- 360 Please come amend spend in our wonderful shops and keep the city centre alive... but not if you are disabled. I not that delivery vans, post office vans and other business related vehicles have permission to drive in the city centre so why not blue badge holders? Surely this small number of people can be accommodated by a council that wishes to promote York as a welcoming city and show that all people matter to York, and that all are welcome.
- 361 Reverse the ban please.
- 362 Parking generally needs a major rethink.
- 363 A very unfair policy but the whole parking situation needs to be carefully considered.
- 364 It's an absolute disgrace that disabled people are treated this way.
- 365 This is discrimination of disabled and older people of York. Most of them have lived worked and shopped in York all their lives and are now not allowed in the city.
- 366 I have worked with disabled people and have disabled friends. I know first hand how hard it is to get around for the person and the carer. Accessibility in York is bad enough as it is without the council making it worse. I think it's a disgrace and discriminates against disabled people. I am sure solutions could be found.
- 367 They should have the right to park in town again.
- 368 Blue badge holders struggle and need help. Anything to help the elderly community.

- 369 It's shameful that York is so unfriendly for disabled. The council should be working to change that image, not make the situation worse.
- 370 I am disabled and have a blue badge. I have great difficulty walking and have to plane my route when in town. For instance if I am going to Coney Street /Ousegate /Coppergate I park near the Castle Museum then when I want to go Goodramgate/Colliergate/Petergate/Stonegate I move the car to Aldwark area If I use my mobility scooter I have problems with pavements as cafes have been allowed to over spill onto the pavement and I can't get off the pavement as there are no drop kerbs for instance in Castlegate. I have written to the council about this and they have said they are looking into these areas. That was last July and still nothing been done. It's easier for me to go to out of town shopping like Vangarde/ designer centre but I need to go to coney street/market street for my bank and building society.
- 371 I urge the Lib Dem-Green Council administration to reverse the ban on blue badge holders entering the city centre. Other cities have addressed security concerns without excluding disabled people and York should do the same. As a Human Rights City, York should not be acting in this way.
- 372 I am a resident, and disabled. I really feel that this rule should be re considered as soon as possible. It would make a massive difference
- 373 I am a blue badge holder and it has very much limited my visit to city centre even with other places to park the side streets were very much needed hopefully they can be reinstated in future.
- 374 I have not been in York centre since first lock down.. I now find shopping on line is better.. I miss being able to sit in a cafe and enjoy a tea or coffee. Resident. (Postcode not supplied)
- 375 I'm 50, disabled & have lived in York most of my life. Now that my health has declined I feel it's cruel to penalise disabled ppl, by removing their right to park within York, just because we have a disability that prevents us from walking far.
- 376 It's ruining this amazing city. Let's change it for the better & make it accessible for all who wish to shop & take in the wonderful sights of York without having to drive miles out of York. Resident. (Postcode not supplied)
- 377 Resident of York for 63 years. We think the parking ban is a disgrace & unfortunately are nearing age & health where it will affect us too. This council simply does not care for its residents disabled and able bodied!!
- 378 I'm a 57 year old severely disabled York resident and find this parking ban has, indeed, impacted on my visiting the City Centre. I will be very interested t to learn how the Council responds.
- 379 My wife has a blue badge - we bank with Lloyds branch in Acomb which has closed and transferred us to the city centre which we cannot access. To add insult to injury the badge is now due for renewal at a cost of £10.
- 380 Being Disabled can cause restrictions in our Body and Mind. So being restricted by the Council who run our city is so wrong. You can become Disabled by Illness or Accident. But dictating against us is Wrong.
- 381 *Discrimination of the worst kind against someone who was born and raised in the city 73 years ago.*
- 382 Disabled people are made to feel very unwelcome in York and like second class citizens.
- 383 How dare you discriminate against disabled people! This goes completely counter to equality, diversity and inclusion! I thought Lib Dems and Greens would be inclusive.

- 384 I think of York as a welcoming and inclusive city, I am so sad and shocked that our Council should behave in this way and exclude a valued part of our community.
- 385 In an age when we are working towards complete equality, diversity and inclusion, it is paramount that York – the city of Sanctuary – demonstrates its commitment to including disabled people.
- 386 Let my granddaughter back into her city!
- 387 Discrimination!!
- 388 Please change the rules!
- 389 Disgusting, shameful and discriminative.
- 390 I have friends that would greatly benefit from reverse the ban.
- 391 York city centre should be a place for everyone to enjoy.
- 392 The ban has had a really bad effect on disabled people. Its limiting their freedom. I thought there was an Equality Act that makes it illegal to discriminate – not provide opportunities – the ban breaches this now.
- 393 Think about your own residents! Not Tourists and money!
- 394 I have family members with disabilities which means this ban has a huge negative effect on their lifestyle.
- 395 My disabled daughter and her blue badge who I have to drive is restricted in her daily life and activities by this ban.
- 396 The Blue Badge ban is ableist. Why not work with advocacy groups as Bath Council did, to balance counter-terrorist measures with disabled people's rights to a full life?
- 397 This ban is unacceptably discriminatory and must be reversed.
- 398 It's against disability human rights to deny access to public spaces.
- 399 It feels like I'm being discriminated against for being a wheelchair user. Let me access my city!
- 400 (all from one person) "What else can you take away from disabled people especially disabled children! I had a phone call from CYC last week permanently terminating the transport my disabled 12 year old son receives to take him to his respite - he is a full time, personal assisted wheelchair user. Are you saying, because he is disabled, he doesn't have a right to be in the city centre like everyone else? That is ridiculous and you should be very embarrassed and ashamed. I work very hard to ensure my disabled son is included in every aspect of everyday life - I recommend you do the same and give disabled people a break they don't need this when life is already tough enough! I live in hope of change!"
- 401 As a person that has mobility issues, it is a nightmare to get into the city and the cost of parking is absurd
- 402 As an elderly disabled person, I depend on friends & taxis to travel – cannot use walker safely to need to be taken to outside destination. This restriction on disabled badges is simply discrimination!
- 403 Stop discriminating against disabled people! Do more for your constituency! Be kind!
- 404 I don't fully understand why York prioritises able-bodied people (scooters etc_. Disgusted. Also need more support for elderly/younger people who are not blue badge holders but need cheaper parking, later buses. I go to Malton & Thirsk rather than York. As easier..... this is tragic.
- 405 My daughter would love to visit York again but is now a blue badge holder and needs an escort.
- 406 This is a short sighted and discriminatory decision by the Council
- 407 Do not discriminate and reverse the ban
- 408 Please reverse the ban as we and other businesses need the trade in York city centre and it makes it harder to get about to shop!

409 York is for all residents and tourists and disabled people have as much right to these facilities as any able-bodied person.

410 Why make life hard for those who are finding it hard enough to get around, never mind more added restrictions. Shops also need every customer they can get – it's hard times.

411 Lost a lot of regular customers due to the ban – definitely needs to be reversed!

412 It has affected business in the city centre. We have missed all the blue badges, they spent money in the city and now this has gone. The shop will go too!

413 This is stopping customers shopping in the city centre.

414 My friend is a wheelchair user, she can no longer come into town and shop. This is discrimination against disabled people and especially one who has been a resident for a lot of years.

415 Discrimination at its finest!!! Disgraceful!!

416 Disgraceful. I have a mum and a sister that have blue badges and we need to get into the city. Life is hard enough. Do something about it!

417 Make sense!

418 How dare you!

419 I didn't even know this was a thing. I guess we are all flat-out stupid at some point. Bad move, don't do it.

420 Blue badge holders should be able to access shops close to them rather than (streets) being completely pedestrianised.

421 Our customers need to be able to park closer to the branch for us to be able to help them with their finances!

422 We need to allow people to have the ability to come to the Branch.

423 Disability is a protected characteristic, we must ensure their rights and needs are protected!

424 Come on York City sort it out, human rights for everybody.

425 My brother has a blue badge. This isn't fair. It's discrimination.

426 Please lift the ban. Disabled rights please.

427 It should be a basic right for disabled people to be able to access the city of York – why is this an issue!!

428 Having issues with mobility shouldn't make it harder still to access the city's facilities.

429 Since the ban we have lost some of our older clients who cannot manage to get into York City Centre so lost sales! This also affects me personally as my mum is in a wheelchair and a Blue Badge holder with breathing difficulties. With her medication she cannot leave the house before 10.20am until it takes effect and since the ban we have been going to Barclays Bank in Haxby which is now closing and she has NO access to Barclays York City Centre!! (city centre dress shop manager)

430 Policies that allow Blue Badge holders to access the same amenities as other individuals has to be a positive step for York. I am sure it will also benefit independent stores in the area. (city centre lingerie business owner)

431 Closing the roads won't stop people driving, it simply makes places less accessible and adds to the problem of traffic (having to go round places like The Groves of city centre) so adding to pollution. This access is needed to include disabled people who cannot access our city centre!

432 My brother, a lifelong York resident is no longer able to visit his own city centre due to this ban.

433 This ban is unacceptable.
434 Disabled people are not something to be ignored.
435 It's totally unacceptable to create further barriers for people with disabilities.
436 Everyone should have access to the city centre.
437 It's sad that holders of blue badges are treated like this.
438 I believe it's vitally important for disabled people to have equal access to the town centre as non-disabled people.
439 A discriminatory Council.
440 My brother, a lifelong resident, is no longer able to visit his own city centre due to this ban
441 All citizens need to be considered, some much more than others.
442 Disgrace!!
443 Absolutely crackpot idea!!
444 This ban is unacceptable. It treats a human right as something to be ignored
445 Banning blue badge holders is giving way to terrorists.
446 The YCC needs to think carefully about the needs of disabled people in York
447 This is restricting life for people whose everyday life is already filled with challenges able-bodied people do not give a second thought.
448 This is a disgrace
449 Shocking treatment of disabled people
450 I'd like the Council to consider whether they would still consider this decision fair if they themselves or their families were disabled and were denied access to the city centre and its facilities
451 Needs more parking in city centre. Car park charges are so expensive for residents
452 More fairness for disabled people
453 This is an act of discrimination against disabled people – visitors and residents
454 This ban is a complete disgrace. Reverse the decision, effective immediately. Look after your citizens
455 This is unfair
456 Banning blue badge holders from entering the city centre is a clear breach of the Equality Act 2010. When disabled people cannot enter the city centre they are excluded from accessing a whole host of services and facilities that should be available to all. This is obviously discriminatory and the current policy needs to be changed immediately
457 The ban is a disgusting violation of basic human rights
458 York needs to give every person the equal opportunity to use and enjoy our city
459 Typical York!
460 It is disgusting behaviour of York Council
461 Councillors should visit Stratford-on-Avon and see for themselves disabled parking provision right in the centre
462 This is disgraceful!
463 It is a disgrace and an affront to basic human rights. No other city has implemented security in such a draconian way that it breaches all semblance of equality and penalises the most vulnerable in our society.
464 I work with people who have learning difficulties and I know how distressed they are about this.

465 It is totally wrong that people live in a city and cannot go into town, particularly as when they moved or were born here they could – and that the council has now chosen to exclude them. There are other ways to make the city secure. This is total discrimination.

466 I think that in this day and age YCC would be more inclusive and not discriminatory to people with disability. Is this even legal to exclude people with disability from shopping and enjoying their lives to the full?

467 I am a carer for a person in a wheelchair and find it very difficult to visit the city centre. This is very discriminating of YCC

468 This is terrible. Please listen to disabled people in York.

469 I don't think you should stop blue badge holders in the middle of town because Brunswick people need to park where we are close to things

470 It is a shame that the York Council are not thinking about all its residents and visitors! Excluding people with disabilities is outrageous!!

471 We need some car park[ing]

472 Surely to make life easier for everyone, regardless of disability, is good for everybody

473 As an 'older resident' I dread getting older and being unable to enter my city

474 Please reverse all the crazy policies relating to disabled people – the parking issue is a nonsense

475 We have a granddaughter who has cerebral palsy, 8 years old, so do we assume that she would be expected to be pushed into York and not allowed to enter the city by car? Such a perverse state of affairs!

476 Footpaths is blocked by café tables/chairs/signs forces us to walk on the roads – we cannot hear cyclists etc coming up fast behind us, especially speedy 'Deliveroos' & '@Just Eat' cyclists riding all over the footpaths too. A cyclist knocked me down and broke my bones.

477 Ridiculous! Uncaring! Bizarre! It could be you!

478 Have a disabled sister and mother and will struggle to find places near to the centre for them

479 Unable to visit town centre due to no streets to park

480 My daughter is terminally ill and it is difficult to get disabled parking in a place where she can go to popular shops in the centre

481 This must be reversed. Disabled people should be given rights!

482 It seems discriminatory to banish disabled people

483 Unacceptable to increase barriers to those with blue badges

484 Disgusting to ban blue badge holders in the first place. The people that made this decision are obviously not disabled themselves. Selfish

485 It is very important for disabled badge holders to have access to our city centre

486 This is completely wrong in every regard

487 Everyone deserves access

488 This seems discriminatory to me. Why would you want to deny disabled people access to the city?

489 This ban is discriminatory and disappointing

490 As a granddaughter of a disabled grandfather, I feel passionately about reversing the ban.

491 Permanently barring Blue Badge holders in the city reduces accessibility for vulnerable groups and encourages discriminatory practices. To avoid this, it is essential to reverse the ban and promote human rights.

- 492 I am a university student. My father has recently become disabled due to a workplace accident which will soon require him to undergo amputation. York has come to be my second home which I love to show off to my family and friends when they visit me. My home town is in Kent which means travelling to visit me is a significant task for a disabled person on its own. It is therefore heartbreaking for me to hear that exclusion will greatly hinder and restrict my ability to show my father this beautiful and historic city that I have come to call home. So much of the culture that made me fall in love with York is found in the city centre which will soon become inaccessible for him. This I wholeheartedly support the reversal of this ban. Covid has already prevented me from sharing this city with my family. Thus after shielding for so long in the hopes that one day they could properly visit, this ban effectively ends the ability for me to share the wonders of the city centre with my family.
- 493 I vote Green because of your commitment to making the world a better place for future generations. This should include people with disabilities!
- 494 I am currently a manager for a care company within York and have witnessed first hand the difficulty my clients are having with the restrictions in place. Many are choosing to not even go into town as it just causes upset and frustration. The city should be open to everyone, not a select few.
- 495 As a Human Rights City, York should **not** be acting this way.
- 496 How are disabled people to access the services and facilities that you take for granted – banks, GPs etc
- 497 Having resigned from the Lib Dems last year in protest of the blue badge ban, I continue to be furious that compromise wasn't reached. It is not too late to do the right thing!!
- 498 You smell like mouldy sausages
- 499 You are all useless blood sucking parasites
- 500 I have been unable to bring my sister, 83, into the fun of the town as she cannot walk far
- 501 Surely these people have enough problems
- 502 From a disabled woman
- 503 From a disabled lad
- 504 Why is city of York council acting like this?
- 505 I feel this is discrimination against the disabled. My friend, a blue badge holder, can no longer access her bank!
- 506 York is meant to be a welcoming and humane city – please reverse this ban
- 507 Reverse this – it's obviously wrong!
- 508 Please reverse the ban – to be an accessible city
- 509 It's time this was sorted out!
- 510 Reverse the ban!
- 511 Why would you think this [reversing the ban] is a bad idea?
- 512 I feel that the strict security operation is well over the top for York. Far too "politically correct"
- 513 Making it impossible for blue badge holders to access their city is **NOT** what we want to see!
- 514 We need to use walkers so going round York is difficult as we have to go on the road or up and down the pavements
- 515 We have to use walkers so café tables and chairs mean we have to go up and down pavements or on the road

- 516 In addition you need to end the obstruction of pavements. Patently this is incompatible in the CYC equalities obligations
- 517 Removing blue badges limits individuals with additional mobility requirements from being able to access the city centre. York is a gorgeous place that should be easily accessible to everyone regardless of ability/disability. This is ableist and, quite frankly, embarrassing
- 518 People need to be able to have easy access to the city and bringing their car in makes life better for them
- 519 We should be helping disabled people not hindering them
- 520 Most unfair on local disabled people. Don't put tourists before Yorkies!
- 521 The council provides facilities for tourists. How about disabled people. It's time someone reassessed this
- 522 The blue badge should not have been taken from the disabled in the first place. It was a disgrace. 'Bring it Back'. Too many cafes and pubs, stag dos and hen dos. Families avoid York.
- 523 We are looking at yet another bossy/misinformed method of keeping the elderly and/or lame people off the streets. This shocking 'order' should be dustbinned - immediately
- 524 Allowing people to enjoy a good quality of life is important. Excluding the disabled community from accessing vital services such as high street banks and specialist healthcare shops is not what I would describe as a human rights city. York needs to reverse the ban to provide equal and dignified access to the city for all
- 525 Discrimination under the guise of 'safety issues' and 'climate concern' neither protects nor serves the community or the environment.
- 526 This ban is unacceptable. Disabled people are not something to be ignored.
- 527 In the name of security – a 'perceived' risk – disabled people, including people with emotional disabilities 'actually' become isolated in their own homes.
- 528 It's sad that holders of blue badges are treated like this. Also, I have 2 brothers with blue badges, and they agree. I do not support banning blue badge vehicles.
- 529 I am a support worker regularly needing to assist service users for shopping / appointments/ social engagements in York Centre. This is increasingly difficult. Reversing the ban would assist transportation.
- 530 As a support worker this situation is proving very very difficult for me to pick up and drop off the clients, I support either wheelchair users or those with sight loss.
- 531 Seems like York does not welcome blue badge holders.
- 532 Because of the ban, as a wheelchair user, I am struggling to push my chair because of poor street pavements. Being visually impaired I have fallen out of my chair not been able to see obstacles.
- 533 This is indirect discrimination against disabled people
- 534 This is against the Equality Act 2010
- 535 Café culture is discriminatory, a hazard to everyone, intrusive, taking over the place as though you have a right to, and stops disabled people having access to what they have a right to.
- 536 A ridiculous discriminatory behaviour for the sake of tables – usually empty – blocking pavement and access. It is a wonder any resident, able-bodied or needing mobility support, ever goes in York city centre. A bloody joke
- 537 Excluding blue badge holders from York city centre is wrong. York is a Human Rights City? I don't think so!
- 538 York is for everyone

- 539 A city that excludes disabled people can never be a home – rather, it is an inaccessible monument to ableism
- 540 This is crucial to the well-being and independence of many from our city and for visitors. Those who are differently-abled must be given equal access and equal rights to all citizens. This is, indeed, an equality and human rights issue
- 541 Because of this ban, I am now reliant on a wheelchair to cover long distances to access places in the city centre. Also because I am blind I require the services of someone to push me.
- 542 I am over 60 years old and I volunteer to take a blind person with severe mobility issues into town twice a week. Without these trips he would be confined to his house. Since these restrictive measures were introduced, he has been forced to buy a wheelchair in order to get to these places. Please reverse this ban.
- 543 I am a 30 year old with a chronic lung condition and I am very limited in the distance which I can walk. My quality of life is severely reduced by the lack of access to York city centre, caused by these draconian measures
- 544 It is essential that blue badge holders should have access to York city centre at all times. Delivery drivers and taxis have not been banned so why should blue badge holders be discriminated against
- 545 Elections are coming!
- 546 Not allowing disabled people into York town centre discriminates against our disabilities and human rights. I am unable to use public transport. I have special needs and can become anxious while out, so need to be able to access the car easily
- 547 It's abhorrent to see York Council treating disabled people like second class citizens. York is poorer for it. Reverse the Ban

(ii) Additional Comments From Visitors

- 1 As a retired police officer I find the discrimination against blue badge holders disgusting
- 2 Lack of parking limits my parents getting out & about. Disgusting
- 3 Disabled people need accessibility!
- 4 Stopping friends living a full life!! BAD
- 5 Reverse the ban now!!
- 6 Lack of parking will stop me visiting York
- 7 Ability to get out and about and maintain independence – reduce community needs impact
- 8 This ban must be reversed. Access for all!
- 9 Please open York to all
- 10 Disgusting
- 11 People who are disabled need these as much as those who aren't disabled
- 12 I feel very strongly about this
- 13 People need this!
- 14 I visit York on a daily basis and would be a lot easier for my mobility scooter due to terrain
- 15 Need equity of access for everyone please
- 16 See sense, please. It is difficult enough being disabled without lack of access to shops and sites
- 17 This ban is pure discrimination; it hurts disabled people across our city and country. Reverse the ban!
- 18 Disabled people are people!
- 19 Commercial is not more important than civil liberties
- 20 Seems an odd move to me – why this change. Isn't it discriminatory? Not acceptable. Thank you
- 21 As someone nearing disabled status, to hear that this could restrict my experience and already excludes disabled. I am just gutted and saddened
- 22 It is necessary for some people to be able to park in the centre
- 23 Vital for access to essential amenities for ALL
- 24 This is poor!! Everyone is equal
- 25 I don't give a s***
- 26 Disabled rights are human rights
- 27 Don't discriminate!
- 28 Very important for wheelchair users to be close to shops, banks etc
- 29 Please reinstate disabled parking for me
- 30 Reverse the ban, please!
- 31 Reverse the ban! You don't realise the stress you are causing to those who NEED all the blue badge spaces. Don't take away the rights to be part of a community
- 32 We have a right to quality of life.
- 33 Disabled people need to have quality of life. Make their lives easier not more difficult.
- 34 This is an injustice to disabled people under false pretences of 'safety' and 'terrorism' – REVERSE THE BAN!
- 35 I am a regular visitor to York and have a blue badge. I need to be able to park in the city centre so please reverse the ban.

- 36 It's wrong to close the car park. It will affect me as I am over 75.
- 37 This is devastating for anyone using a wheelchair. Don't do it.
- 38 We love to come to York but my husband is disabled and you are making it more difficult for disabled people. Please think again.
- 39 Please do not close.
- 40 Please be fair – disabled need full access!
- 41 Stupid decision to close the car park
- 42 As a blue badge holder, facilities like this are the only way society includes us.
- 43 If this closes will no longer visit York.
- 44 We come to York weekly and are a badge holder – to park nearer (problems walking) would be an advantage
- 45 Where are my human rights? I can't travel or walk too far. Do I starve and stop spending money
- 46 Awful!!
- 47 Ridiculous!
- 48 My daughter, who is a wheelchair user and who grew up in York and loves to visit now feels excluded and finds it difficult to come home.
- 49 While I appreciate you are trying to protect the public – you are also excluding part of the community which is most unfair
- 50 The ban on Blue Badge parking in the city centre means that we as a family do not feel welcome. York was one of our favourite places to visit, to spend money, and to enjoy. Unless this ban is reversed we will be taking our money elsewhere
- 51 This ban is highly discriminatory and unnecessary. York city centre is a beautiful place to visit and relies heavily on tourists to support local business. To deny access across the day to both residents and visitors who need blue badge access is a very poor reflection on the city and its council.
- 52 As a regular visitor to York and admirer of your beautiful city, I want to keep access open to everyone, including those with a disability and who need a Blue Badge to enable them to have closer access to city centres. By keeping your ban you are effectively telling a whole community that you don't want them there. This is a huge step backwards not only in inclusion and diversity, but in human rights. Please reverse the ban!
- 53 Human rights? – but only if you are able-bodied.... Shame on you lib Dem-Greens.
- 54 We were planning to visit York in the week commencing 5 September, as tourists, whilst on holiday in North Yorkshire.
- 55 I have a Blue Badge. I also have ME, so I'll only be going if all the conditions allow that day. But I wish to register my disgust at this policy, which needs to be reversed and is now making us think twice and is deterring us from coming to the city.
- 56 Please send a postcard on my behalf to let York council know this is unacceptable.
- 57 Powerchair-user, teacher of Social Model to UG & PG architects, surveyors & QS - York will go front & centre in my lectures this year as an example of wilfully stupid Ableist policy, unless they back down.
- 58 To York Council, how dare you treat our blue badge holders with such disrespect? Not only are you ostracising people who are already struggling to travel into this beautiful city of York, as residents and visitors. You should all be ashamed of yourselves, please reconsider.
- 59 It is appalling and a disgrace to ban the blue badges. This should be revoked!

60 Everyone should have access. Equity not equality. Inclusion is always important.
61 Let's move forward, NOT backwards. York 4 All!
62 Try a little creative thinking. Surely you can make the city available to everyone.
63 We also contribute to the economy. No go equals no business equals no money.
64 No access not going to be shopping and supporting local businesses.
65 Chester has solved the problem - please speak to them!!
66 Please reverse this decision, makes a world of difference.
67 If you want visitors of all kinds, ages and ability you must consider their access requirements.
68 An unnecessary restriction for already limited group.
69 Discrimination against disabled people which I believe is actually illegal.
70 This is an extremely unfair policy. Surely there is a way of dealing with this issue that does not simply involve excluding disabled people from the city centre. Every single word that the council writes about inclusion is a blatant lie!
71 I am shocked at such discrimination in my home city! Outrageous!
72 Please reverse this ban.
73 As a wheelchair user, this is extremely important to me.
74 Please restore ALL access for blue badge holders as soon as possible
75 Disability discrimination has further reaching effects than is realised.
76 Please rethink your plans for the closure of Castle car park.
77 Blue badge parking in the city centre is invaluable to us as a family
78 An ableist policy that actively discriminates so reverse the policy!
79 We both have Blue Badges and without being able to park we could not be able to visit your wonderful city. We will talk residents into frightening people to being against councillors against getting voted into power
80 Whey Hay. Residents, do you wish to all pay at least double rates and have a lonely town centre and lose more of your cash? You have residents giving time to run St Sampsons so it's about time this was recognised and staff should look at photos on disabled badge photos. We have never had to show our photo. Help!
81 Disability in modern era should not be a barrier to access and no reasons can justify oppressing people.
82 Without access improving, I cannot get into the city to visit where we regularly used to shop, including for essentials
83 I know this is very difficult but please find a way to make this work
84 This is short-sighted, discriminatory and a backwards policy
85 I live in Manchester and disabled artists I work with there know and talk and are outraged by this. Green politicians saying they disagree with this too – York is getting known for discriminating against disabled people at a national level!
86 I am a blue badge holder and entirely agree with the above request [ie the wording on the postcard]. How can you justify discriminating against disabled people in this way
87 What sort of person does this?
88 Equity = Equality
89 (Visitor and work in York) The purpose of a blue badge is for individuals to get as near to their location as possible! Complete own goal. We have millions of tourists, some of whom will be affected by this. Why allow them to leave with a negative memory of York? Be interested how many Council members have a disability?

90 i the blue badge ban it was difficult to park. Since the blue badge constraints, we've not
come into York.

91 Society is, and should be, becoming inclusive yet makes it less so – Reverse the Ban.

92 We should be making life easier for people with limited mobility not more difficult

93 (Visitor to Minster and York Unitarians) I am concerned that these very reasonable
security concerns are disproportionately affecting those who are already at a
disadvantage in terms of access – the elderly and those with limited mobility

94 I live outside York but work in York with people with disabilities. I think "security
concerns" is a really lame excuse

95 I was born in York and lived here for 20 years. I am appalled that the city of my birth and
the county town should discriminate against disabled people. The council should resign
and each member who voted for this should be prosecuted.

96 York should be accessible to all

97 I personally feel like this is unethical. All places should be accessible and easy to park and
commute. I have noticed it is difficult access to town centre already. If the parking was
removed this would prove a bigger challenge for disabled community.

98 This shouldn't even be under consideration – need access for all

99 You should be ashamed to be even considering closing access to disabled people

100 Reverse the ban please. Disabled people deserve the same rights as anyone else

101 Chester has designated car park for blue badge

102 I live near Chester and we have a designated car park for blue badge holders

103 Blue badges need to park

104 York needs to get its act together. Favour locals and cleaner streets

105 Disabled need access. Able can accommodate

106 You're disgraceful. I'll never vote Lib Dem, Green

107 (visit every week) I am 83 and have a sight problem. Please think of how difficult I find
shopping with so many tables in the square

108 I am an ex resident of York (born & bred) but relocated to North Notts in 2009. Since
then I have been registered blind and now find on visits 'home' I am unable to park close
enough to the city centre to do any shopping or visit any of the familiar attractions. York
has, to my disgust, become an impossible place to visit

109 Access for All!

110 Please reverse the ban to be inclusive and fair

111 Where else can they park to reach the shops!

112 Prior to the blue badge ban it was difficult to park. Since the blue badge constraints,
we've not come into York.

113 I travel to York a lot as I have family there and find it disgraceful that blue badge holders
and cabs cannot enter the city. Many of these people have mobility issues and you are
totally alienating them from the city, discouraging residents and the many visitors that
come to York.

114 My mother who has a heart condition and cannot walk far is currently unable to visit York
on our family holiday.

115 Please make York accessible for all.

116 By refusing to allow blue badge holders to park in the city centre you are discriminating
against a whole section of our community.

- 117 Blue badge users need access to entrances and exits especially for blind and partially sighted people.
- 118 This ban affects not just locals but visitors with disability.
- 119 Having a blue badge is essential.
- 120 As a blind person, this will prevent me from visiting York.
- 121 The ban leads to many people and their families being unable to enjoy the city and lead the lives they want to lead.
- 122 This ban has adversely affected family members who are blue badge holders
- 123 We have visited York weekly for over 18 years but the ban on blue badge holders is now spoiling our weekly outing and we feel the rest of our outings and it prevents us bringing our grandchildren (16 of them) to learn about beautiful York. Help preserve our outings.
- 124 It is totally wrong that disabled people should be denied the splendour of York
- 125 Ultimately the action discriminates against the people who need such access. And it also affects mental health, capacity and quality of life. Is such action as banning people who need assistance truly a local matter? Terrorist planning will not defeat those who are determined
- 126 It's not, just the parking. Street cafes force people in chairs into the road. State of the paths – camber flag stones are all conspiring to make wheelchair users feel very unsafe
- 127 Due to the restrictions I now cannot get my mother anywhere in the city for her to be able to do her personal business, therefore taking her independence away
- 128 I used to love going to York with my daughter where my parents lived but we don't go now as lack of disabled parking
- 129 Disabled people should be welcome everywhere