

I am writing to you as the founder of Cafe Conscious in Barton hill,

Firstly I want to say how disappointed and let down I feel by this local council, your underhand tactics of closing Avonvale Road via google maps last year without informing any of the small business's that are trading on this road, all of us are from minoritised backgrounds trying to make a living this was without our knowledge we have only just found this out, we could have put out information ourselves that the road was still open if you had the decency or respect to inform us.

How does this relate to the Equality act or the Bristol City Council Equity & Inclusion policy 2023-2027?

Cafe Conscious has always been an independent we relied on passing trade which kept us going so we could support the community, this is SOME of what Cafe Conscious delivers:

1. Weekly coffee mornings for the older people in our community alongside adults with learning/disabilities
2. Food parcels and pre-prepared meals for our older community that are unable to cook themselves
3. Free school meals for young people who attend trauma informed alternate learning provision education
4. Training and work experience for young people with SEND
5. Qualifications for our volunteers and supporting them to set up their own business if needed (we have supported 3 females this year)
6. Gardening for young people in alternate learning provisions at our allotment which then they will cook the food they grow for the community
7. Cargo classroom learning about black history with a art class and a Caribbean dinner (this is a pilot and will be expanding)
8. Special guardianship support groups with looked after children around identity
9. Christmas day a cooked dinner at Cafe Conscious and gifts for our elders in the community that otherwise would be on their own
10. Quiz evenings and community monthly meals at Cafe Conscious

I have reached out to Kerry Mc Carthy around supporting us with training because we are in the most economically deprived region in Bristol support people with mental health, people with addictions, psychosis, at risk of homelessness, domestic abuse, I also reached out to Tony dyer, all we asked for was support not money just support so we can support all of the above and so much more that we do.

With services on their knees and lack of funding why wouldn't you support a community cafe that supports so many vulnerable people in Bristol? With this East Liveable neighbourhood and the bus gate directly Infront of us you have cut off our trade how are we supposed to carry on? You all should be doing everything to keep us open instead you are trying to end Cafe Conscious. During covid we made and delivered hundreds and hundreds of meals, the evacuation of Barton house we supported because we care and now you are destroying all of this, I was supposed to attend a Lord Mayors event last week and I didn't go because how can I go when we are at risk of closure? I have also won recently a bbc award and a invite to London for VE day for the 8th May 2025 and I had to let them know what this council is doing to us and the people we support that will be affected.

I have been trading for over 11 years and supporting SEND in the Cafe the reason why I set up was because my son was diagnosed with Autism, Cafe Conscious is a safe space for families to come with their children without fear of being judged.

We now have community connector status and a strong tight relationship in the community. For some of you that don't know me my name is Deniece and here is a little more info:

1. I am a mother to 6 children (3 with SEND)
2. I am also a Director and Project Manager at Autism Independence (Transitions to adulthood)
3. I have special guardianship for my great nephew (my child number 6) who was a looked after child
4. I am a school councillor for the Snowden Village (6 schools, I oversee SEND and EHCP's)
5. I have a auto- immune disease which has just hit me hard because of the stress the ebln has caused due to me wanting to support as many people as possible.

I really hope you all reading this will reach out to myself, this is my personal email address my work one is [cafeconscious@outlook.com](mailto:cafeconscious@outlook.com)

Please do not send me links to grants I have recently applied for 3 and got turned down, Ed plowden offered no business rates, lighting and a bin, this is not helpful we do not pay business rates our lights are environmental friendly and we don't produce much waste, also please don't signpost me that is just fobbing us off we need hands on support.

Kind Regards  
Deniece Dixon  
Cafe Conscious

I could go on and if any of you want to talk more about the above please contact me.