

I have two questions and a statement.

- 1) I would like to know what can be done about the appalling conditions in damp in the maisonettes in Springfield Crest, Tynning, Radstock. The matter has been raised with Curo, but seemingly to no effect although the tenants are keeping their homes in an exemplary state of tidiness and decoration. Damp is everywhere, water is running down the walls and I think the housing inspector should call.
- 2) In the national press the situation has been highlighted where a quota of affordable housing has been agreed but then, after the planning consent has been given, the developer reneges on the commitment to 35% or whatever the authority concerned's policy is. What is happening in B&NES? Do we have a shortfall in properties not being built when they should be? Could I be emailed an answer, please?

Statement

I think that none of us who were present at the Public Enquiry session on the situation of the boat dwellers and river travellers will forget the passion with which the young mother, about to be evicted from her (rented) boat, spoke. Nor will we forget the severely disabled widower who sailed into Bath especially to meet us, nor the young professionals with no other affordable home available to them.

To some extent their problems, as described in this report, are the result of B&NES failure to deliver enough affordable or accessible accommodation on land. The river and canal dwellers are B&NES residents, as much as those dwelling in houses.

We also heard of the problems of the cruising or travelling boat dwellers who need to find satisfactory mooring in the face of CRT's new policies.

I want to see pioneering new local government policies both for those who choose this way of life, because of its freedom and closeness to nature, and those who need a more settled existence because of ill health or their small children but cannot afford rents and mortgages on land.

I am therefore disappointed that although the cabinet members accept much of the case made in this report, and some of its recommendations, so much of the thrust of the recommendations is deferred. Hope deferred deadens the heart. I appreciate that the council has limited resources but deferring matters until April 2015 brings us into the 'purdah period' before the next elections, and is unacceptable.

Too much council policy development is 'stable door shutting' or a response to a demand by central government. We have here the opportunity to innovate to help those who live afloat or just want to enjoy the scenery at weekends – and building their needs into the Placemaking Plans, the SMAA and economic development is something this Panel ought to drive forward.

Cllr Eleanor Jackson