

## Statement regarding naming of street/walk in the Keynsham re-development project

It is a shame that after a some years of the Keynsham community and B&NES working together on the redevelopment of the centre of town through the Town Council, KDAG and the focus group that we have arrived at such an impasse on street naming. Consultation up to this has been good although inevitably not everyone has agreed on design and materials used. Unfortunately consultation of naming the street in the development can only be described as a shambolic. The online survey was odd because Martin Laker was unable to provide information such as where did the people live/work who responded. The question needs to be asked how much has all this tick box exercise cost.

Both the Town Council and KDAG were asked to put forward suggestions and agreed on the historic names for the area of Prospect Place and Cheapside. I understand that the cabinet did not like Cheapside but in my view they do not understand the origins of the word. Many years ago I was proud to start working in the insurance industry in London in Cheapside. It was the centre of the banking and insurance industry with the Mansion House and the Bank of England at one end and Holborn and Fleet Street at the other, however even if the cabinet did not like this what was wrong with Prospect Place. It is reported that the cabinet have chosen Market Place because Keynsham is a historic market town. It was, for a cattle market which stood where Homeavon House now is on the Bath Road not at the centre of town. It is also reported that they hope to develop a market aspect to the area but we are interested in providing for the monthly Farmers Market not a regular market which would affect the trade of shops in the Town. We were very careful when we set up the market to ensure that the produce sold was not in direct competition to that sold in the town.

Following that the cabinet have found more legislation which will prevent the name being challenged at the magistrates court .So much for localism and democracy then. The cabinet are determined to ignore the will of

Keynsham people to demonstrate they have the power. It is of interest how much easier it has been to find agreement with Taylor Wimpey over street naming at the K2 and Somerdale sites.

It will be a shame if this development is remembered only by a street name being forced on us by a Bath cabinet who refuse to listen to the voice of the people of Keynsham . This will be a bone of contention for a long time to come for the people of Keynsham and will overshadow the good that the buildings will provide. I end by asking this O & S panel to do all it can to overturn this cabinet decision and return democracy and the right to a local decision to the people of Keynsham.