

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 19th May, 2011

Present:- **Councillors** Simon Allen, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Rob Appleyard, Sharon Ball, Tim Ball, Colin Barrett, Gabriel Batt, Cherry Beath, David Bellotti, Sarah Bevan, Mathew Blankley, Lisa Brett, Neil Butters, Bryan Chalker, Anthony Clarke, Nicholas Coombes, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, David Dixon, Peter Edwards, Michael Evans, Paul Fox, Andrew Furse, Charles Gerrish, Ian Gilchrist, Francine Haerberling, Alan Hale, Katie Hall, Malcolm Hanney, Liz Hardman, Nathan Hartley, Steve Hedges, Eleanor Jackson, Les Kew, Dave Laming, Malcolm Lees, Marie Longstaff, Barry Macrae, David Martin, Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst MBE, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Douglas Nicol, Bryan Organ, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Brian Simmons, Kate Simmons, Jeremy Sparks, Ben Stevens, Roger Symonds, Martin Veal, David Veale, Geoff Ward, Tim Warren, Chris Watt and Brian Webber

Apologies for absence: Councillors John Bull

1 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR(MAN)

It was proposed by Councillor Francine Haerberling, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley and supported by Councillors Robin Moss and Doug Deacon and

RESOLVED that Councillor Peter Edwards be elected Chairman of the Council for the Council Year 2011/12.

Councillor Edwards made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, received the Chain of Office from Councillor Sarah Bevan and presented the Consort's Badge to Mrs Ann Edwards. Councillor Edwards then addressed the Council. During his speech (a copy of which is available on the Council's Minute book), Councillor Edwards indicated that his preferred form of address was 'Chairman'.

FROM THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS, COUNCILLOR PETER EDWARDS AS CHAIRMAN PRESIDED AT THE MEETING.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR(MAN)

It was proposed by Councillor Eleanor Jackson, seconded by Councillor David Dixon and supported by Councillors Francine Haerberling and Doug Deacon and

RESOLVED that Councillor Rob Appleyard be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Council Year 2011/12.

Councillor Appleyard made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, received the Badge of Office from Councillor Edwards and thanked the Council for his appointment.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting on 15th February 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to an amendment from Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst MBE to add the words “and on the Budget agenda item” at the end of the final paragraph of minute number 72.

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor John Bull

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tim Ball declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 14 as a Bath & North East Somerset Foster parent.

Councillor Sharon Ball declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 14 as a Bath & North East Somerset Foster parent.

Councillor Gerry Curran declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 14 as a Bath & North East Somerset Foster parent.

[Councillor Colin Barrett declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 13 as an honorary member of WWISE – this declaration was made at item 13]

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Councillor Peter Edwards presented Councillor Sarah Bevan with her Past Chairman's Badge.

It was proposed by Councillor Nathan Hartley, seconded by Councillor Francine Haeberling and supported by Councillors Robin Moss and Doug Deacon and

RESOLVED that this Council places on record its appreciation of the services performed by Councillor Sarah Bevan in the office of Chairman of the Council for 2010/11.

Councillor Bevan addressed the Council and, in so doing, thanked Members and officers for their support during her year in office. Councillor Bevan also paid tribute to the support which Councillor Edwards had given both to her, and to the Office of Vice Chairman, over the previous Council Year and wished him well for his term of office as Chairman.

The Chairman then;

(1) Advised Council that, due to family circumstances, the Leader of the Labour Group was unable to attend the meeting.

(2) Welcomed and congratulated all newly-elected Councillors and invited the Council to place on record its appreciation of the past service given by the Members who retired following the Election, and to note that work was in hand to develop a scheme to enable the Council to formally recognise their contribution.

(3) Invited Council to note the appointment of Councillor Doug Deacon as Independent Group Leader in succession to Councillor Chris Cray and confirm that existing Group Leaders remain in office, political groups having been formed with membership of Liberal Democrat 29, Conservative 29, Labour 5 and Independent 2.

(4) Congratulated Councillors Sharon Ball and Brian Simmons on their successful completion of the BTEC in Local Governance qualification for Councillors, for which they are being presented with their certificates by South West Councils at the regional Awards ceremony on 9th June 2011.

(5) Informed Council that, should the meeting appear likely to continue for some time after 8.30, he would be announcing a comfort break at that point.

8 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

9 REPORT OF URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Council was invited to note two urgent decisions that had been made by the Chief Executive.

On a motion from Councillor Francine Haeberling, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish, it was then

RESOLVED

(1) To note that on 7th March 2011, the Chief Executive approved that Prudential borrowing would be used to facilitate the purchase of 8-10 John Street;

(2) To note that on 21st March 2011, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, and exercising his power under rule 3 of the Council's Urgent Business and Absence Procedure Rules decided that Bath & North East Somerset adopt the Joint Waste Core Strategy for the West of England as part of the Bath & North East Somerset Local Development Framework and for it to come into effect on 25th March 2011.

10 NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERS ELECTED ON 5TH MAY

Council noted this item.

11 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER

Councillor Tony Clarke, seconded by Councillor Chris Watt, proposed Councillor Francine Haerberling as Leader of the Council and spoke in support of the nomination.

Councillor Andy Furse then proposed Councillor Paul Crossley as Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero.

The votes for Councillor Francine Haerberling were 29, the votes for Councillor Paul Crossley were 33 (there were 2 abstentions).

It was, therefore,

RESOLVED

- (1) That Councillor Paul Crossley be duly elected as Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council for the period ending with the Annual Meeting in May 2015;
- (2) To note that all decisions regarding the appointment of a Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members and portfolios, executive delegation scheme and frequency of Cabinet meetings are decisions solely for the Leader to make and publicise in due course;
- (3) To note that Councillor Paul Crossley has decided to make appointments to his Cabinet as follows:
 - Councillor Nathan Hartley Early Years, Children and Youth/ Deputy Leader
 - Councillor David Bellotti Community Resources
 - Councillor Simon Allen Wellbeing
 - Councillor Tim Ball Homes and Planning
 - Councillor Cherry Beath Sustainable Development
 - Councillor David Dixon Neighbourhoods
 - Councillor Roger Symonds Transport
- (4) To note that Councillor Paul Crossley announced his intention to revisit the Bath Transportation Package and, in so doing, not proceed with the Bus Rapid Transit scheme. He also announced that they would be taking immediate steps to revoke the decision to close Culverhay school and commence consultation on converting to co-educational status with a target date for implementation of September 2013.

12 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS AND OTHER ANNUAL BUSINESS

The Council considered a report on its non-executive and regulatory committee arrangements for the Council year May 2011 to May 2010 and other associated business.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Manda Rigby, it was

RESOLVED

(1) To approve the structure for non-executive and regulatory decision making, Overview & Scrutiny and the Standards Committee as set out in the Constitution, and identified in its current form in the report at Appendix 2, with the following amendments;

- a. That there be six O&S Panels (to be known as Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels) rather than the five contained in the Appendix, with the broad remits as set out in Attachment 2 to the minutes, and authority delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Group Leaders, to finalise and publish the precise remits;
- b. That the Restructuring Implementation Committee comprise three Members in the proportionality; Liberal Democrat 1, Conservative 1, Labour 1.

(2) To note the updated political proportionality as set out in Attachment 1 to the minutes, updated to reflect the notification of the formation of political groups in the ratio 29 Liberal Democrat, 29 Conservative, 5 Labour and 1 Independent, and revised decision making structure as outlined in the report and minute (1) above;

(3) To approve the terms of reference for and proposed actions by Committees and Panels etc as set out in Appendix 2 to the report subject to (1) a. and b. above and constitute those bodies accordingly;

(4) To approve the appointment of Members to the Committees and Panels in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality as shown in Attachment 1 to the minutes and nominations made by the political groups;

(5) To appoint, as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of such bodies, those Councillors as may from time to time be nominated by the political group to whom the chairmanship/vice-chairmanship of the body is allocated, as set out in Attachment 1 to the minutes;

(6) To authorise the Monitoring Officer to fill any casual vacancies in membership of all the bodies constituted and vacancy in the office of Chair or Vice-Chair of such bodies in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and the allocation of chairing entitlements made at this meeting;

(7) To determine that the bodies on which independent members are to have seats as either voting or non-voting members are as set out in Attachment 1 to the minutes and appoint such members accordingly;

(8) To authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels, to constitute and support any required Panel joint working as outlined in the report;

(9) To agree that Council wishes to make an allocation of Political Assistants to eligible groups as set out in the report;

(10) To approve the allocation of Political Assistants to the Conservative and Liberal Democrat groups in accordance with section 8 of the report and instruct the

Monitoring Officer to make available to the other two groups an appropriate level of support to enable them to discharge their roles effectively;

(11) To invite Councillors to be Member Champions for the interests identified in Section 9 of the report, or alternative proposals, and asks any so interested to notify the Monitoring Officer within one month with a view to such expressions of interest being decided by Group Leaders in due course;

(12) To note the position regarding the frequency of meetings (as set out in Section 10 of the report) as the basis for enabling the diary of meetings to be prepared, with the following variations;

- a. There to be two-monthly Council meetings in July, September, November, January, February and May;
- b. There to be monthly meetings of the Cabinet

and to authorise the Monitoring Officer to project dates forward and prepare the diary on this amended basis;

(13) To note and approve the proposed freeze on members' allowances and the recommendations of the Independent Panel both as set out in the report and in respect of the removal from the Chair of the Regulatory Access Committee of any entitlement to an allowance;

(14) To note the facility available under the approved Scheme for Councillors to forego all or some of an allowance and;

- a. The Group Leaders' intention to appoint to chair the six Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels, members who have agreed to forego one-sixth of their Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA);
- b. The Leader's intention to appoint to Cabinet, members who have agreed to forego a proportion of their SRA with the intent that the overall cost of SRAs for Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny function will remain the same, the Independent Panel having previously advised that the reallocation of SRAs to recognise particular roles within the approved budget, provided it was undertaken transparently, was acceptable to them;
- c. The Leader's intention to forego his Group Leader's allowance and allocate it pro rata to the Vice Chairs of the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels;

(15) to instruct the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to review the Overview & Scrutiny rules and other aspects of the Constitution with a view to identifying appropriate mechanisms to ensure the optimal involvement of Vice-Chairs in the conduct of Overview & Scrutiny business and report thereon to the next meeting of Council;

(16) To designate the Strategic Director Children's Services as the Director of Adult Services as required by Section 6 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, as set out in Section 11 of the report;

(17) To note the arrangements regarding Members IT as set out in the report;

(18) To instruct the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to review existing arrangements for appointments on outside bodies and report back thereon within four months; in the meantime current appointments to continue where councillors continue in office or temporary appointments be made under existing mechanisms;

(19) To appoint the Leader as a representative to the Avon & Somerset Police Authority Joint Committee in accordance with paragraph 13.3 of the report;

(20) To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make and publicise any amendment to the Council's Constitution required, or take any other necessary action, as a result of decisions taken at this meeting on this and other reports within the agenda, or otherwise as required by law;

(21) To ask the Standards Committee to review its procedure for investigation of complaints and report back thereon to the September meeting of Council with the intention of;

- a. Making the system fairer to those who are complained about; and
- b. Making proposals for the implementation of the Localism Bill currently before Parliament.

13 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tony Crombie made a statement regarding the Bath Transport Package and welcoming the Leader's intention to revisit the plans.

David Dunlop made a statement regarding the Bath Transport Package – a copy of which is held on the Minute book and published on the Council's website with the draft minutes of the meeting.

Stephen Mackerness made a statement regarding the Bath Transport Package – a copy of which is held on the Minute book and published on the Council's website with the draft minutes of the meeting.

David Dunlop made a statement regarding Culverhay school – a copy of which is held on the Minute book and published on the Council's website with the draft minutes of the meeting.

Tony Crombie made a statement regarding Culverhay school and welcomed the Leader's intention to reverse the closure proposal.

Pamela Galloway made a statement regarding the 6/7 bus campaign – a copy of which is held on the Minute book and published on the Council's website with the draft minutes of the meeting.

[At this point in the meeting, Councillor Colin Barrett declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as an honorary member of WWISE.]

Susan Charles made a statement regarding the benefits of warm water swimming for certain groups - – a copy of which is held on the Minute book and published on the Council's website with the draft minutes of the meeting.

Tony Crombie made a statement regarding the Bath Recreation Ground, outlining the history of the covenant and calling for it to remain as an open space.

14 PLEDGE TO CHILDREN IN CARE

The Council considered a report regarding the Council's pledge to Children in Care which had been updated to reflect new regulations and guidance which came into force on April 1st 2011 and asking the Council to reaffirm its commitment to the updated pledge following the election.

On a motion from Councillor Nathan Hartley, seconded by Councillor Chris Watt, and supported by Councillors Liz Hardman and Doug Deacon, it was

RESOLVED to approve the updated Bath and North East Somerset Council Pledge to Children and Young People in and moving on from Care.

15 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no items from Councillors.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

ITEM 12
APPENDIX 1: REVISED

Compulsory cumulative proportionality	# on Cttee	Conservative (C) 29 = 44.6%	Liberal Democrats (LD) 29 = 44.6%	Labour (LAB) 5 = 7.7%	Independent (I) 2 = 3.1%	Chair Allocation	Vice Chair Allocation	Co-opted members
Proportionality:	77	35	34	6	2			
Housing & Major Projects PD&S	7	3	3	1		LAB	LD	
Economic & Community Development PD&S	7	3	3	1		LAB	LD	
Resources PD&S	7	4	2	1		LAB	LD	
Wellbeing PD&S	10	4	4	1	1	C	LD	
Early Years, Children and Youth PD&S	7	3	3	1		C	LD	4
Planning, Transport & Environment PD&S	7	3	4			C	LD	
Development Control	12	5	6	1		LD		
Regulatory access	5	2	2		1	IND		
Corporate Audit	7	4	3			LD		1
Extensions	5	2	3			LD		7 voting, 4 non voting
Employment Committee	3	2	1			C		
TOTALS	77	35	34	6	2			
Compulsory individual proportionality								
Gambling and Licensing Sub-Committee	3	1	2			LD		
Taxis, Street Trading and Misc. Licensing Sub Committee	3	2	1			LD		
Investment panel	3	2	1			C		3
Optional proportionality								
Standards Committee	3	1	1	1		--		6
Licensing Committee	12	5	5	1	1	LD		

Minute Annex

Indicative 'PD&S' panel remits

Housing and major projects	Overview and scrutiny of Development and Regeneration and Major Projects; improving the public realm ('liveability') for large scale projects; involvement in Housing Strategy and affordable housing (in particular increase housing choices through spatial planning);
Economic and community development	Develop a sustainable economy for Bath and North East Somerset; improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities and champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries; Work with Police and Fire authorities (reducing crime, fear of crime, tackling drug abuse, increase domestic fire safety, etc); overview & scrutiny of Customer Services (inc Libraries and Customer Connect);
Resources	Corporate issues and overall improvement and performance for the whole Council; overseeing and championing the LAAs delivery (along with LSP Board through the work of the LAA Executive Board); lead Panel on Climate Change; overview and scrutiny of Council Connect and CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations; overview and scrutiny of Equal Opportunities Policy. The Panel has responsibility for Council wide financial overview & scrutiny.
Wellbeing	Health Scrutiny; to improve health and reduce health inequalities; transform the health and social care system so that it produces faster, fairer services that deliver better health and tackle health inequalities and narrow the health gap; health and personal care (individual budgets, residential care etc); housing choices for vulnerable people; overview and scrutiny of child health services; main drive in scrutiny of integration with PCT and involvement in work of the PCT, RUH, Mental Health Partnership and other health bodies including the Local Involvement Network (LINK). Designated Panel for statutory Health Scrutiny.
Early Years, Children and Youth	Safeguarding of children; primary, secondary and further education (improving the environment for learning and improving the life chances for disadvantaged teenagers through improvements to their education, training and support) and creating opportunities for young people.
Planning, transport and environment	Planning and transport (improving the Quality of Public Transport, Roads and Pavements and Easing Congestion); overview & scrutiny of Environmental Services; to improve the quality of life of the communities (older people and of children, young people and families) at risk and narrow the gap between the worst performing wards / neighbourhoods and other areas across the district.

Bath Transport Issues – A New Vision

12th May 2011

David Dunlop, The Bath Society

As well as cost reduction, any revised Transport Package should have three goals –

- a) The reduction of congestion
- b) Improvement of air quality
- c) Protection of the World Heritage Site including its setting within the Green Belt.

We support B&NES Low Cost Options. In addition there are two matters hitherto excluded from the BTP.

Firstly, congestion is significantly reduced during school holidays. Accordingly urgent discussions should be held with bus contractors, First and others, for a much improved school bus service. Through ticketing and prior purchasing reduce delay at bus stops and associated traffic hold ups.

Secondly, mindful of the carbon footprint, B&NES should make a major effort to consult with Wiltshire Council and jointly press for the reopening of Corsham railway station and increased rail capacity for commuters between Chippenham and Bristol. This would contribute towards reduction of congestion and pollution and, after all, rail is an existing form of Rapid Transit.

With regard to elements of the BTP :-

- A) The expansion of the Odd Down Park and Ride site is relatively cheap and non-contentious. There is no alternative rail route from the south west.
- B) The scrapping of the Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets questions any need to expand Newbridge Park and Ride. Enhanced rail investment could render this unnecessary but if increased P&R capacity on the west is justified, the original proposal on Duchy land south of the river would be cheaper and less contentious.
- C) The Bus Rapid Transit scheme was limited in scope and always difficult to justify. It is too expensive and should be dropped. CPOs should be rescinded. The current Western Riverside development being built, does

not include provision for any Bus Rapid Transport route, let alone a dedicated one ! On the eastern side, anyone who has walked the route will know that Rapid Transit along London Road and through Walcot Street is impossible – let alone the chaos of Dorchester Street ! Any hoped for (but never demonstrated) improvements in travel times cannot be realised nor affordable! Bus Rapid Transit could easily be replaced by a circular route for Park and Ride buses using Newbridge Road and the Lower Bristol Road – especially if the western Park and Ride expansion is located south of the river. Future Western Riverside residents could be served by shuttle buses which would avoid Windsor Bridge traffic disruption.

In conclusion, we ask the Council to revise the Bath Transport Package. Viz.

- i) Keep the low cost elements and Odd Down Park & Ride**
- ii) Design and institute school bus services for ALL schools**
- iii) Abandon the BRT and replace by traditional P&R buses on existing roads**
- iv) Expand Newbridge P&R on its original proposed site**
- v) Lobby for improved rail services between Chippenham and Bristol and stations in between**
- vi) Consider the comments of Dorian Baker (M.Sc, M.C.I.T, M.C.I.O.B), a bath based Transport consultant in his paper on the subject**

B&NES Council Meeting – May 19th 2011
Bath Transportation Package
Representation made by Steve Mackerness

Following from Dr Dunlop's representation, I would now like to address two matters, viz. the poor air quality in the city, and the need to reduce congestion on the main A4 London Road.

With regard to air quality, the much-discussed reduction of HGVs from the Cleveland Bridge should be a major objective. The B&NES Cabinet have voiced support for such an initiative in the past. Let us grasp the nettle – and get on with it! The lion's share of pollutants is from these large trucks. Any other solution could never come close to this in terms of cost effectiveness. A simple ban on HGVs from the A36 would achieve a huge improvement in air quality.

With regard to the congestion along the London Road, the BTP envisaged a new P&R site at Bathampton Meadows. This site has been shown, however, to NOT address any of the three objectives as described by the previous speaker. According to B&NES planners (not my conclusions, but yours), it will not reduce congestion, nor improve air quality, and has catastrophic consequences for the Green Belt setting of the WHS. If it doesn't satisfy any of its objectives, then surely it makes sense to look for a solution which does.

...Build a P&R in a declivity on Charmy Down on the site of a WWII airfield. We have spoken about this possibility many times before, but for the benefit of new Councillors - please consider the following merits.

- a) Firstly, it has no constraints on size. It will, therefore, reduce congestion on the London Road, and thereby improve air quality. Very importantly, it could cope with all traffic arriving from the north and so the expansion of the P&R site at Lansdown could be eliminated. Not required.
- b) With B&NES latest estimates on arrival rates, it is also clear that the majority of potential users will actually drive straight past its entrance.
- c) Traffic approaching Bath along the A4 from Chippenham or the A363 from Bradford could use the site at the cost of a 2.1 mile diversion – which incidentally is less than the diversion that many of these drivers use today, employing a rat-run through Swainswick, Larkhall and Camden Terrace.
- d) Christmas traffic, tourist coaches and special events can easily be accommodated.

In summary, I suggest that the following comprehensive plan (incorporating the ideas of Dr Dunlop and myself) could provide a revised BTP:

- a) All of the low cost alternatives;
 - b) Much increased provision of school bus services;
 - c) Expansion of Odd Down P&R as originally planned;
 - d) Replacement of the BRT with conventional P&R buses;
 - e) Expansion of Newbridge P&R on its original site south of the river;
 - f) Ban on HGVs along the A36 road into Bath;
 - g) Replacement of the proposed new P&R at Bathampton and the expansion of Lansdown P&R – with a new P&R site at Charmy Down;
-and all complemented by vigorous promotion of rail expansion to improve services from Chippenham to Bath.

The cost of this package would be less than half of the current BTP, and would stand a much improved chance of attracting funding in this difficult fiscal environment.

You may have been told that significant alterations to the original scheme would result in the BTP being disqualified from further consideration. This is not true (by clear statements from the DfT).

Please accord this set of measures full consideration and insist on the BTP being amended prior to our final bid to the DfT for funding. If you fail to do so, I suggest that you will be putting at risk all hopes of DfT financial support, and thereby eliminating funding possibilities for many years to come.

Thank you.

Council meeting

19th May 2011

Dr David Dunlop

Re:-Proposed closure of Culverhay School

The Bath Society believes that the Conservative B&NES administration's attitude to the Transport Package and to Culverhay School were inconsistent and unfair. Conservatives resolved to persist with the outdated, flawed and costly Bath Transport Package with B&NES contributing a further 9 million pounds – presumably by selling off assets – our family silver. This is on top of the initial £8.7 million ie almost £18 million pounds in total.

In comparison, the decision to close Culverhay was made "in the wider interests of the whole of Bath" we were told, on the basis of saving money. None of the many arguments in support of Culverhay as a vital Community asset were listened to, just as none of the arguments against the BTP were taken on board. Some consistency there then !

Culverhay is more than just a school. It has many user groups of all ages.

B&NES Core Strategy for the period 2010 – 2026 recognised on page 10 that the number of Primary School age children will increase by a projected 17%-almost a fifth. It would therefore be another failure of joined up thinking to allow the Culverhay closure to go ahead. Let Culverhay become co-educational and accept also Primary age pupils so that it can move forward and continue to properly serve its Community.

We believe that the last minute decision to close Culverhay was driven by the impact of the new Government Education policy on Oldfield Girls School. We witnessed a heartless kneejerk reaction based on short termism that ignored B&NES Strategic Policy and flew in the face of the "Big Society".

Save Our 6-7 Buses - ONE YEAR ON

Good evening and congratulations to new and returning Councillors.

When did you last stand waiting 40 minutes for a bus?

If I told you that when you are ready to leave this meeting you have to cross over the road and stand opposite the Guildhall for up to 40 minutes or possibly even longer in the cold, in the wind, in the rain, in the dark before even beginning to make your way home, how would you feel about that?

In fact, the evening interval is hourly, so let's stick to the daytime frequency of 40 minutes. This is the worst in Bath for a route serving one tenth of the urban population, with statistically more elderly than in other parts of Bath.

A month ago, over a period of only 10 days, 235 residents of north east Bath returned questionnaires deploring the 40 minute frequency, demonstrating that feelings are as intense as ever about the need to improve our bus service.

One year ago First Bus cut the connecting link between two halves of our community, and removed 2 out of the 5 buses serving the area. After a massive outcry, they reinstated the connecting route, but failed to reinstate either of the two missing buses. This has left our community with only half the former frequency which used to be 20 minutes. In view of economic constraints we are only asking for the return of one bus to approximate a 30 minute service. We need a 4th bus on our route.

In the meantime,

- our local shops are suffering with the disgraceful bus frequency. To preserve a viable community, the mix of shops must be maintained and the loss of even one will deter custom for all.
- Elderly and infirm people are condemned to unnecessary exposure contributing to the 'excess winter death' rates so high in Bath.
- It affects students, mothers with children and workers who suffer enormously extended journeys and waste hours in commuting.
- Many residents are resorting to using their cars more, frustrated at the inadequate bus service

All despair at the poor transport with full buses which leave people behind at peak times.

Campaigners are angry and frustrated that First claim it is the Council's responsibility to fund the 4th bus and some Councillors claim it is First's responsibility. It is the job of our elected representatives to inform themselves about how the public transport system is organised, to ensure sufficient infrastructure is in place and to find a way of delivering improvements without delay.

We call on the Council to tackle this problem head-on, helping to achieve reduction of congestion and CO² and respond to the needs of our community by ending the outrageous wait of a whole year.

Pamela Galloway for Save Our 6-7 Buses
17 Baytree Road
Bath BA1 6NB

Presentation to the B&NES Council Meeting by the Warm Water Inclusive Swimming and Exercise Network– May 19th 2011

I am here today to remind you of resolutions laid down by three of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Panels earlier this year and a pledge made by the Council as far back as 2003 which has still not been addressed and ask that you take these into consideration when planning Council Leisure Services

I represent the Warm Water Inclusive Swimming & Exercise Network which was set up with the support of BANES Council in 2008. It grew out of the Remedial Swimming Consultative Group brought together by BANES Council after the closure of the small warm water pool at the Leisure Centre in 1996 followed by the capping of the temperature of the main pool at 30° in 2003. The council recognised at that time that some people needed water at a higher temperature and this Group looked into providing alternative solutions. However it proved impossible and the situation has not progressed since then.

Through the WWISE Network we are in contact with large numbers of people who are now not able to access a pool warm enough for them to be able to exercise and swim. These are people of all ages – children and adults – who are disabled or are living with long term health conditions such as arthritis, back & joint problems especially ones where pain is a major factor - and let's face it, this could be all of us as we get older. Exercising and swimming in warm water at 31 would help them to maintain their long term health and fitness, quite apart from allowing them to enjoy a recreational activity others take for granted. Given suitable exercise opportunities, they would also undoubtedly have less need of NHS services. Significantly, many of them have had courses of hydrotherapy and they are not able continue their exercises to maintain any improvement as they have to wait up to year to join a follow-up exercise session, with the result they deteriorate and need further treatment at a time when NHS hydrotherapy services at full stretch already.

They are not able to use to the local Sports Centre as their need is for water at 31 - 33°. The warm water pools that are in existence are either not available to the general public, are not accessible or are far too expensive for regular visits.

Proposals in the government White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" suggest that new developments in the funding of the NHS & Public Health will mean that there will be even greater emphasis on the provision of resources in the community to encourage people to lead healthier lives. A public access warm water pool would be an invaluable resource

As you are undoubtedly aware, there is currently a public consultation under way regarding the Recreation Ground which includes the land occupied by the Sports Centre. While this consultation is about the land use, at some point in the not too distant future it will become necessary to replace the current Sports Centre

Any planned redevelopment of the Sports Centre would provide BANES Council with a golden opportunity to incorporate a warm water pool that is affordable, accessible and available to all to ensure that these children and adults are no longer excluded from accessing their local sports centre. This will allow them to lead healthier lives, take control of maintaining their health & fitness, improve their quality of life and enjoy a recreational activity we all take for granted.

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