

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 16th May, 2013

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, John Bull, 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, 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, Liz Richardson, Manda Rigby, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Brian Simmons, Kate Simmons, Jeremy Sparks, Ben Stevens, Roger Symonds, David Veale, Martin Veal, Tim Warren, Chris Watt and Brian Webber

Apologies for absence: **Councillor** Geoff Ward

1 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2013/14

It was proposed by Councillor Nicholas Coombes, seconded by Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones and supported by Councillors John Bull and Bryan Chalker and

RESOLVED that Councillor Neil Butters be elected Chairman of the Council for the year 2013/14.

Councillor Butters made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the chain of office from Councillor Rob Appleyard and presented the consort's badge to his wife, Charlotte.

Councillor Butters then addressed the Council.

FROM THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS, COUNCILLOR NEIL BUTTERS, AS CHAIRMAN, PRESIDED AT THE MEETING.

3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2013/14

It was proposed by Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley and supported by Councillors John Bull and Bryan Chalker and

RESOLVED that Councillor Martin Veal be elected Vice-Chairman for the Council year 2013/14.

Councillor Veal made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, received the chain of office from Councillor Butters and thanked the Council for his appointment.

4 MINUTES - 4TH MARCH 2013

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Bryan Organ, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 4th March 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

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

Councillor Butters presented Councillor Appleyard with his past Chairman's badge. Councillor Appleyard then presented the past Chairman's Consort's badge to his wife, Alison.

It was proposed by Councillor John Bull, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish and supported by Councillors Dine Romero and Bryan Chalker and

RESOLVED that the Council places on record its appreciation of the services performed by Councillor Rob Appleyard in the office of Chairman of the Council for 2012/13.

Councillor Appleyard addressed the Council and, in so doing, thanked Members and officers for their support during his year in office. Councillor Appleyard outlined some of the highlights of his year, made reference to the charities he would continue to support and paid tribute to the support which he had received from Councillor Butters in his role as Vice Chairman over the previous Council year. He wished him well for his term of office as Chairman. Councillor Appleyard also thanked his wife Alison for her support throughout his year as Chairman.

The Chairman then made the customary announcements regarding mobile phones and a comfort break should one be needed.

7 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

8 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS ETC AND OTHER ANNUAL BUSINESS

The Council considered a report inviting its approval for the non-executive and regulatory committee/Panel arrangements for the Council year May 2013 to May 2014.

In moving the motion (as circulated at the meeting), Councillor Paul Crossley thanked those Members who were not continuing in post as Cabinet Members and Group Leaders, for the dedicated service they had given to those roles. This was seconded by Councillor Dave Dixon and supported by Councillors Tim Warren, John Bull and Bryan Chalker.

It was then

RESOLVED to

1. Approve the structure for non-executive and regulatory decision making and Policy Development & Scrutiny working (set out in its current form in appendix 3) and revised political proportionality (as attached at amended Appendix 2);
2. Appoint those bodies with membership, terms of reference and delegated powers as set out in the Constitution (with an amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Wellbeing PDS Panel on page 30 of the appendix, 4th bullet point, to remove the words 'recommend to full Council whether to');
3. Approve the allocation of seats on those Committees and Panels (such seats to be filled in accordance with the nominations made by the political groups);
4. Appoint to chair each committee and panel those Councillors as may from time to time be nominated by the political group to whom the chairmanship of the body is allocated (current arrangements are as set out in appendix 1);
5. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to fill any casual vacancies in membership of all the bodies constituted and vacancy in the office of Chair of such bodies in accordance with the wishes of the political groups;
6. Note the Terms of Reference of the Health & Wellbeing Board, approved by the Board on 30th April 2013 (and attached within Appendix 3), and formally appoint the Board, as described in section 10 of this report;
7. Note the resolution of the Licensing Committee to appoint one Sub-Committee, and their views on how this would operate, as set out in paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 and accordingly approve, with no Member voting against, a pool of six Members in such proportions as Group Leaders may determine, from whom a Sub-Committee of three Members will be constituted;
8. Agree the bodies on which co-opted members are to have seats as either voting or non-voting members and appoint such members accordingly as set out in revised Appendix 2);
9. Approve the appointment of the Independent Persons with responsibility for supporting the Standards Committee, as set out in section 8;
10. Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairs of the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels, to constitute and support any required Panel joint working as outlined in section 7;

11. Confirm the current Member Champions in post for the roles set out in Section 9 and authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, to review the number and remits of the roles, and appoint members to fill such revised roles in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders;
12. Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments on such outside bodies as are for the Council (rather than Cabinet) such to fill;
13. Note the arrangements for the conduct of Cabinet business and the report of a special urgency decision taken by Councillor Paul Crossley as set out in section 11;
14. Note the calendar of meeting dates that has been prepared up to May 2015 which is available on the Council's website; and
15. 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.

[Notes:

- 1. The underlined wording in resolution 2 above was proposed by Councillor Vic Pritchard and accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion.*
- 2. The resolutions above were carried with all in favour except for one abstention from Councillor Brian Webber.]*

9 DESIGNATION OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER, LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER AND OTHER STATUTORY ROLES

This item was withdrawn from the agenda with the consent of Council and deferred to a future meeting.

10 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL CROSSLEY - COMMUNITY COVENANT PLEDGE

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Chris Watt, it was

RESOLVED to

1. Recognise the close ties between Bath and North East Somerset's communities and serving and former members of the armed forces and their families;
2. Note that the Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement at local level the Armed Forces

Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces;

3. Adopt the Community Covenant Pledge, comprising the following principles, objectives and intentions
 - a) Encouraging support for the Armed Forces Community working in, living in and visiting Bath and North East Somerset
 - b) Recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in Bath & North East Somerset
 - c) Taking opportunities to bring Council, partner and community knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community, including building on existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.
 - d) Encouraging the integration of Service life into civilian life and encouraging members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.
 - e) Complementing the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community
 - f) Encouraging all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector working together in partnership at local level.
 - g) Encouraging the Armed Forces community to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.
4. That Bath and North East Somerset's Community Covenant Pledge includes a commitment to working with the armed services community on specific measures which meet and deliver real benefits for former and serving armed forces members and their families, and requests officers to work with the Armed Forces Community to establish a Community Covenant Action Plan;
5. Request the Chairman of Council to sign the Pledge on behalf of the Council along with representatives of the Armed Services community and partners;
6. Invite the Public Services Board to consider how public services can work together to address issues raised through the Covenant;
7. Publicise the Community Covenant in the local community and with parish and town councils; and
8. Request that Cabinet receive reports on progress on implementing the Community Covenant.

11 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions had been submitted by George Bailey and Ian Barclay. The Chairman referred to the responses that had been circulated.

Statements were made by the following people;

- Joe Scofield. In response to a question from Councillor Gerry Curran asking if Joe Scofield was aware that he and Councillor Tim Ball had visited this area 3 years ago with a Highways Officer and it had been put on the list of works to happen over the next few years, Mr Scofield responded that he was aware. He added that it did seem a long time ago now though and residents were asking why something couldn't happen sooner. In response to a question from Councillor Bryan Chalker regarding the exposed electric cable, Joe Scofield responded that he didn't know what it was for. [Members noted the need for urgent action to establish if the cable was live.]
- Karen Abolkheir. In response to a question from Councillor Paul Crossley about whether Karen Abolkheir was aware that the Gypsy & Traveller DPD was coming back to Cabinet in June with a full set of answers to the queries she had raised, Karen Abolkheir responded that she was aware of this now. In response to a question from Councillor Tim Warren about whether Ms Abolkheir had received responses to her earlier questions yet, she responded that she had received an e-mail earlier that evening which she was yet to fully digest.
- Phil Townshend. In response to a question from Councillor Tim Ball about whether Mr Townshend was aware that all applications that are refused or withdrawn are entitled to be re-submitted, he responded that he was not.
- Kris Mountford. In response to a question from Councillor Tim Warren regarding the 37 errors referred to in the statement and whether there was particular planning expertise in the Parish Council, Kris Mountford responded that there was not.
- The Chairman referred to a submission from David Redgewell.

In each case, the Chairman referred the statements to the relevant Cabinet Member apart from the one from Kris Mountford which was also referred to the Planning Department.

Copies of all statements submitted are available on the Minute book and online.

12 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

2 questions had been submitted by Councillors John Bull and Dave Laming. The Chairman referred to the responses which had been circulated.

Councillor Will Sandry made a statement in his role as Chairman of the Student Community Partnership. This has been placed on the Council's Minute book and online.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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AMENDED POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY TABLE – COUNCIL MAY 2013

Compulsory cumulative proportionality	# on Cttee	Conservative (C) 26= 40%	Liberal Democrats (LD) 29 = 44.6%	Labour (LAB) 5 = 7.7%	Independent (I) 5 = 7.7%	Chair Allocation	Vice Chair Allocation	Co-opted members
Proportionality:	86	34.4	38.3	6.62	6.62			
Housing & Major Projects PD&S	7	2	3	1	1	LAB	LD	
Economic & Community Development PD&S	8	3	3	1	1	LAB	LD	
Resources PD&S	7	4	2	1		LAB	LD	
Wellbeing PD&S	9	4	4	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	13	5	6	1	1	LD		
Regulatory access	5	2	2		1	IND		
Corporate Audit	6	2	3		1	LD		1
Pensions	5	2	3			LD		7 voting, 4 non voting
Employment Committee	3	2	1			C		
Standards Committee	5	1	3	0	1			6 non voting
Restructuring Implementation Committee	4	1	1	1	1			
TOTALS	86	34	38	7	7			
Compulsory individual proportionality								
Licensing Sub-Committee	3					LD		
Pensions Investment panel	3	2	1			C		3

AMENDED POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY TABLE – COUNCIL MAY 2013

Optional proportionality								
Health & Wellbeing Board	3	1 (observer)	3 (as appointed by the Leader)	1 (observer)	1 (observer)			
Licensing Committee	12	5	5	1	1	<i>LD</i>		

Notes

1. DC Cttee - informal arrangement has been that one LD place is filled by Lab
2. Standards Cttee – informal arrangement has been that one LD place is filled by Lab

Public Questions for Council 16th May 2013

(NOTE: The following questions and answers will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible after the meeting and linked to the published draft minutes of this meeting.)

1. Question from George Bailey

The Halcrow Report was completed July 2012, the Cabinet Member looked at the list of faults in August but it was not considered by B&NES. I finally presented my statement regarding the Halcrow Report to Cabinet on 16th January, with a reminder on 11th February. Responses seemed to be favourable but no action has been taken. Since the branch could be included with Metro West, can we be assured that the report will be re-worked within this financial year?"?

Answer from Cabinet Member/Leader

The Cabinet considered a report on the Radstock to Frome Feasibility Study at its meeting in January. The meeting agreed that:

- (1) To NOTE the conclusions of the study as outlined in paragraph 5.11 of the report;
- (2) To NOTE that the majority of the disused railway line remains protected within the Local Plan Policy D9 for 'sustainable transport purposes' which at the moment is represented by a cycle path, NCN 24;
- (3) To ASK Halcrow to review their conclusions in the light of the results of the 2011 Census and the likely growth in housing in the area promoted in the Core Strategy to ascertain if their conclusions remain valid in the light of this more up to date information; and
- (4) To ASK Halcrow to consider the merits of a simple shuttle between Radstock and Westbury to allow access to the wider rail network including intercity services both to London and the South West and the implications of the potential expansion of the Greater Bristol Metro Scheme.

We are awaiting the results of the 2011 census (10% journey to work data) to see if there is indeed a significant demand for trips from Radstock to Westbury to see if this changes the conclusions of the report that it is unlikely that there is sufficient demand to re-open this railway line. It should be noted that there were not "faults" in the report by Halcrow.

2. Question from Ian Barclay

The Combe Down Stone Mines Stabilisation Project (a Council Major Project) which affects some 700 Combe Down properties, is now in it's final stages. As part of the Project Completion Procedures will the Council, the Cabinet, a Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel or any other Body be reviewing the performance of this c£160m Government and Council-funded Project, assessing the many

Project Aspects including those listed below, many of which appear to remain unsettled at this late stage:

- Area of Stabilisation Project and Aims of the Project
- Project Timeline, with principal dates from January 1994 to end of 100 year Design Life
- Council's role as Project Developer and Landowner, and as Mine Owner and Operator, including the abandonment of the Mines by the Council
- Private Landowners, Stabilisation Works and Documentation provided by the Council
- Legal, Insurance and Contract issues for the Council and for owners of Stabilised Properties
- Planning Applications, Planning Conditions and Permitted Development works
- Combe Down Stone Mines Community Association formed by the Council in 2000, wound up by the Board in 2010
- Project Archaeology Report and Report on Bat Mitigation Works
- Restoration of Project Worksites at Firs Field, Combe Down, a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
- Takeover of Scott Wilson Consultants by URS and any implications for the Project
- Long Term access to Project Information and Pre-Project Information including web site and archives?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

A good practice review of the project was carried out by team members and Prof. David Adamson, an expert in sustainable construction. This review was published in book form in 2011, it is also available electronically via the Combe Down page on the Council's website (www.bathnes.gov.uk/cdsm).

It is not intended that there will be any further review of the project.

Poolemead Road

Hello,

I've been talking to Twerton residents and there are two issues regarding Poolemead Road that I want to raise.

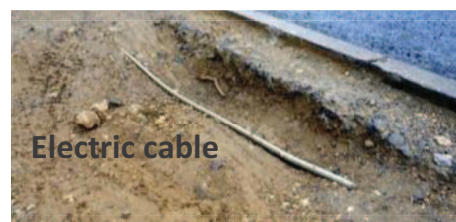
The first concerns a place where people park their cars on the roadside verges at Poolemead Road. There's been an idea to install grasscrete here in the past, but that's never happened. As a result, there are about 30 metres of ruts, craters, mud, and pools of water along the verge. An electric cable has also been unearthed – is it live?

If you go into Whiteway you see grasscrete installed all around Haycombe Drive, which protects the roadside verges. But go down into Poolemead Road and you see a stretch of roadside that's left to deteriorate.

Haycombe Drive – grasscrete protects the roadside



Poolemead Road – roadside left to deteriorate



So I'd like to ask what commitment the Council will make to address this problem at Poolemead Road.

The second issue concerns residents of houses 41 to 55 Poolemead Road being given parking tickets for parking on a “vehicular crossing area” outside their homes.

Residents have parked off the road here for 35 years without complaint. They even paid the Council to have this area adapted for parking with dropped kerbs and raised sections. The money was taken from their rates.

Parking on the vehicular crossing area at Poolemead Road
(This car has a disabled badge so the owner can park here.)



Now the Council’s Traffic Department is sending wardens to ticket these residents, for parking in the spaces that the Council built for them using their money!

This matter was first raised with Councillor Tim Ball on the 19th of December 2011 and he’s been sympathetic. But the latest ticket was given on the 3rd of May 2013 and nothing has stopped the problem yet. So the issuing of tickets goes on.

What commitment will the Council now make to see that these residents get treated fairly?

My name is Karen Abolkheir. I represent the Stanton Wick Action Group

I make representations to you regarding your Gypsy Traveller DPD and our concerns over its management and progress.

8 members of the Group spoke at the 9th May 2012 Cabinet meeting, setting out the flaws to the process and in particular to the proposals for a very large site in Stanton Wick. The Cabinet did not respond and treated us to a lecture on the failures of the previous administration, their responsibility to a minority group and their consideration that our representation was racist.

We continued to make representation through Cabinet, Scrutiny Panels and to individual members of the Cabinet.

We employed planning consultants and provided the Cabinet with detailed and extensive information and argument as to the deficiency of the process and the serious concerns as to the justification of including the Stanton Wick site as one of 6 “preferred sites”.

At a Full Council meeting on 18th June this Administration, despite our providing one of the UK’s leading planning barristers and detailed information, passed a resolution stating that you had listened to the speakers and proposed an amended resolution. Laudable – but the proposed resolution was typed, printed and handed out BEFORE the Full Council Meeting started.

You will understand why the 3 communities affected had no option but to seek a Judicial Review of the DPD process and the inclusion of inappropriate sites on the Preferred Options list.

On 12th September 2012 members of the Group spoke again but Cabinet failed to remove the Stanton Wick site on valid planning grounds, choosing instead to use reasons of viability.

Consequently, we now await a resubmission of a planning application for 12 pitches but this time on a site capable of accommodating 72 pitches.

We have made representations to the April and May Cabinet, as well as to the PTE Scrutiny Panel and the H&MD Scrutiny Panel, raising serious concerns and asking for:

- 1) An explanation as to why a planning application with 37 errors, some very misleading, could be registered.
- 2) An explanation as to why a site measuring 6.8 hectares can be registered as 0.6 of a hectare with the consequent under calculation of application fees.
- 3) An explanation as to why the updated Needs Assessment Report had no less than 4 references to the Stanton Wick site, 2 of which were by the agent for the Planning Application.
- 4) An explanation of the procurement process for the report, which appears not to have followed best practice

- 5) An explanation why the report completed in December 2012, was published on the weekend before the Special Council meeting to approve the Core Strategy on 4th March
- 6) No report on progress on the Lower Bristol Road site – which was to be brought forward for a planning application as a traveller site 8 months ago
- 7) No report on progress the DPD which is now nearly a year late

Our questions remain unanswered.

Officers say there was no resource available for the DPD due to the priority of the Core Strategy yet an external consultant has been working exclusively on the DPD for 3 days per week.

Please learn from the mistakes of last year and put open and constructive effort into the DPD. It is part of the Core Strategy and both the travelling and settled rural communities deserve real attention and effort if we are going to protect them from opportunistic and inappropriate development in the green belt.

My name is Phil Townshend and I speak on behalf of the Stanton Wick Action Group and many rural residents of BaNES

As Karen has pointed out, despite our best endeavours to engage in and encourage an open and progressive DPD process by making representations at Cabinet and various scrutiny panels many of our questions remain unanswered. There appears to be an unfortunate chain of events which at its best can be the result of incompetence.....

The communities of Publow, Pensford, Stanton Drew and Stanton Wick have been forced to provide their own consultation and have provided extensive responses to a deeply flawed planning application for a 12 pitch, 6.8 hectare gypsy and traveller site. This application has subsequently been withdrawn but not before large sums of taxpayers money has been wasted. The application was so flawed it should not have been accepted even with your officer responsible for the DPD giving planning advice!

We note today however that this application has been resubmitted and revalidated free of any application fee despite there being a significant change to the planning red line. Surely this must be considered a new application subject to the appropriate planning fee ?

You will understand that we cannot and will not sit by whilst this chain of unfortunate events continues. There are clearly questions that must be answered openly and fully and we hope that as a result measures will be put in place to ensure a high level of openness and competency and that rapid progress is made with the DPD.

Our community and neighbouring communities have lived with their very own "Sword of Damocles" hanging over their heads for the last 12 months. The whole process of integrating the travelling communities with the settled communities has been bungled, with vitriolic statements of blame and righteous anti-racist bigotry, replacing open and inclusive discussion and hard work. There is a thread of scheming, politicking and I am sorry to say departure from open and honest reporting which runs through this whole sorry affair. It has served no one and has damaged many.

We have lost any faith in you to manage an impartial, open, transparent and timely DPD process.

We will continue to challenge and seek openness and performance. There are many taxpayers and good citizens of BaNES who want answers and to understand what is happening in your Planning Department. We hope that the questions can be answered and the reassurance demonstrated without the need for external scrutiny.

Please expect the best performance from your officers, do not condone favouritism, hidden agenda's or lack of respect for your taxpayers,

And please take the politics out of the DPD and the Core Strategy, there is no time and you will not be forgiven if it fails again.

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**Speaker – Cllr. Kris Mountford on behalf of the Chair of
Stanton Drew Parish Council, Cllr Judith Chubb-Whittle**

Statement to

Full Council Meeting

Thursday 16th May 2013, 6.30pm

Concerns relating to Planning application 013/0125/FUL

[And to the BaNES 2012 Gypsy & Traveller DPD proposal]

to develop the Old Colliery Site, Stanton Wick as a Gypsy, Traveller site.

Good evening, I am Kris Mountford, I am reading this statement on behalf of the Chair of Stanton Drew Parish Council.

Last year the parish council came to you to ask you to scrutinise the gypsy & traveller DPD due to the deeply flawed process carried out in 2012 concerning the old colliery site at Stanton Wick.

The Cabinet resolved in September [2012] to remove that site as a preferred option because of the arguments the parish & action group put forward.

Then in January [2013], a planning application was lodged by the land owner & agent well known to this council, for a gypsy site, which was classed as a major development.

The application was withdrawn two weeks ago, just prior to determination and we were expecting another application and this has come through today.

I come to you to ask you to scrutinise the process by which the planning application was allowed to proceed in the first instance.

The parish council identified a minimum of 37 errors in the previous application, one of the fundamental errors being the hectareage involved noted as 0.6ha but actually being 6.9ha. Council officers need to definitively measure the area.

The parish council asked questions of the land agent & owner and invited them to consult with us to answer such questions as;

‘What is a sewage treatment package?’

No answer was received.

Many hours have been spent over the last 12 months by parishioners highlighting errors made by BANES during the DPD to prevent gypsies & travellers being denigrated to this isolated, contaminated spot. Now, many more copious hours have been wasted having to highlight once again a multitude of errors that should have meant the application being turned down as soon as it hit the BANES’ Planning Dept reception desk.

I respectfully ask the full Council to look into the process by which planning application 013/0125/FUL has been managed in the light of such a poor quality application and to carefully scrutinise the 013/01965/FUL

Last year the Cabinet wished to shoe-horn this inappropriate, contaminated site into the deeply flawed DPD matrix, like the ugly sister’s foot into Cinderella’s glass slipper.

Please help us to ensure that the correct, fair, transparent & democratic process is upheld for the re-application by scrutinising the process & points of contact that occurred during the application and the on-going gypsy & traveller DPD.

On behalf of our parishioners, I thank you.

Statement to BANES Council Major Projects Committee meeting 14 May and Full Council meeting 16 May 2013 as well as Bristol City Council Full Council meeting 21 May 2013

Putting Passengers and Stations at the heart of the Four-Tracking of Filton Bank

Greater Bristol and South West Transport Groups welcome Network Rail's proposals for four tracks between Lawrence Hill and Filton Abbey Wood which will double capacity on both the InterCity lines to the North and West of Bristol as well as the Greater Bristol Metro routes to Clifton Down, Avonmouth and Severn Beach, Henbury, Yate/Gloucester/Cheltenham, Newport/Cardiff to Weston/Taunton and Portishead and perhaps eventually to Thornbury.

Whilst the Department for Transport is funding the InterCity Express Program of high-speed electric trains between London, Swindon and South Wales via Bath and Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway. Funding is not currently confirmed for the Greater Bristol regional services which are proposed as part of the Greater Bristol Metro. These local services include a reopened passenger service from Bristol Temple Meads to Henbury and Avonmouth via Filton Abbey Wood, as well as extending the Severn Beach services to Bath and Wesbury (Wilts) via Clifton Down, Stapleton Road, Lawrence Hill, Temple Meads and Keynsham.

The Four-Tracking project is a vital element in facilitating a major Metro scheme for Greater Bristol as well as allowing significant service improvements to the regional rail network. It is essential to put pressure on the Office of Rail Regulation to ensure that funding for the project is approved with the Secretary of State for Transport (Patrick McLoughlin MP), but that funding should also be approved for necessary improvements to existing stations between Temple Meads and Pilning, as well as Oldfield Park and Keynsham.

Statement to BANES Council Major Projects Committee meeting 14 May and Full Council meeting 16 May 2013 as well as Bristol City Council Full Council meeting 21 May 2013

At Temple Meads, additional bay platforms must be built in the renovated Brunel Train Shed and Midland Train Shed. At Lawrence Hill disabled access needs to be provided in place of the recently renewed steps from road bridge level to both platforms which will help passengers with luggage and mothers with push-chairs.

At Stapleton Road the replacement footbridge has not been designed to accommodate the four-tracked layout which is proposed for the station, nor does it afford access to the two planned new platforms which will be required for the Bristol Metro and the InterCity Express programme. As it was in the past, Stapleton Road could again become a real transport interchange, providing a hub for local Metro trains and buses to East Bristol.

At both Lawrence Hill and Stapleton Road (along with other stations on the Bristol Metro) CCTV, passenger waiting facilities and better information screens will be needed. Patchway and Pilning will also require suitable facilities if they are to play their part in generating passengers for the Metro and wider network Neither of these stations is wheelchair accessible. As the coalition government has ring-fenced money under the Access for All station improvement programme, it is imperative that the West of England Partnership should bid for money from this fund so that the upgrading of these stations dovetails with the Department for Transport's funding of the Filton Bank four-tracking. In the case of Keynsham station, BANES Council have dovetailed the DfT's Access for All programme with the InterCity electrification project.

We sincerely hope that newly elected councillors as well as existing representatives from the West of England Partnership authorities, the Mayor, MEPs, MPs and all others who speak for the Bristol and Bath City Region

Statement to BANES Council Major Projects Committee meeting 14 May and Full Council meeting 16 May 2013 as well as Bristol City Council Full Council meeting 21 May 2013

will put aside party politics to unite behind this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to give Bristol the transport network it desperately needs. We encourage everyone to support The Bristol Post's Campaign to secure funding for this project which will bring real improvement to the quality of life throughout the city and region.

As a footnote, we are very shocked to see that there are NO infrastructure proposals whatever by Network Rail for ANY development in the Greater Bristol Region other than the already agreed IEP project for four-tracking Filton Bank. This leaves the whole of the Metro project in serious jeopardy unless it is submitted to Network Rail, the Office of Rail Regulation and the DfT, and these bodies are persuaded to include provision for the Metro in infrastructure planning (as is the case with South Wales and most of the urban centres in the north of England).

David Redgewell

South West Transport Network – Tel 07814 794953

Norman Brown

Save Our Trains – Tel 01935 479129

The Filton four-tracking campaign is supported by:

Friends of Bristol Suburban Railway

Greater Bristol Transport Alliance

Rail Futures (Severnside)

The Portishead Rail Group.

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Councillor Questions for Council 16th May 2013

(NOTE: The following questions and answers will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible after the meeting and linked to the published draft minutes of this meeting.)

1. Question from Councillor John Bull

Is it the case that the City of Bath Mayoralty is now being funded from general BANES Council Tax revenue; what is the justification for this, and why was the decision to do this not publicised?

Answer from Cabinet Member for Community Resources

I can confirm that there is no provision within this Council's Budget to fund the Mayor of the City of Bath. All costs related to this role are funded by The Charter Trustees of the City of Bath who set their own council tax precept.

2. Question from Councillor Dave Laming

I would like to request that this Council implements a policy to ensure all Councillors are informed of any Compromise Agreements that are entered into.

Having no knowledge that such an Agreement existed with a council officer, then being wrongly accused of breaching the same has caused me great personal stress.

For clarity I would emphasise this request is for transparency of merely the existence of the Compromise Agreement, not the content, thus ensuring no other Councillor suffers as I have with a situation of this kind?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

I will ask officers to look into the issue and provide a recommendation for consideration within a month.

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1

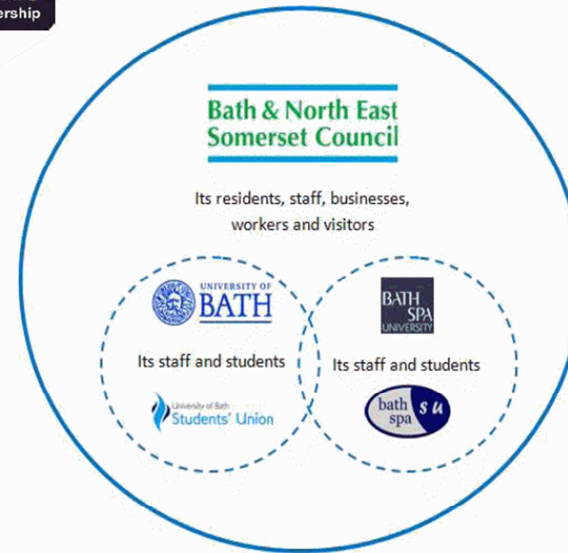
Student Community Partnership

ClIr Will Sandry
Chairman



2

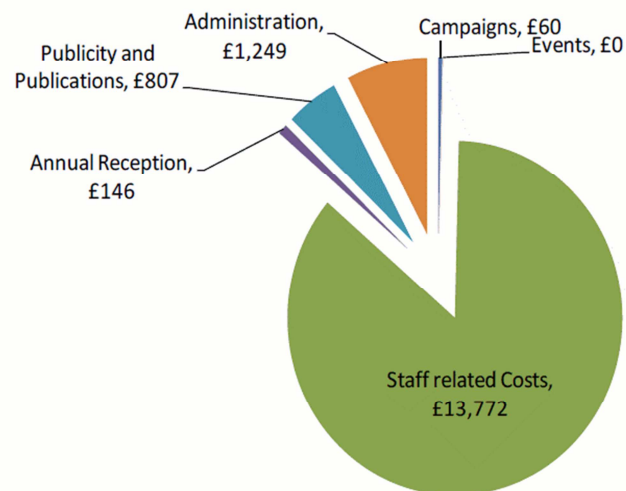
Student Community Partnership



3

Student Community Partnership

SCP Expenditure 2011/2012



4

Student Community Partnership

Community Liaison Co-ordinator

- Post funded by SCP
- First point of contact for complaints
- Co-ordinates activities agreed by the Partnership
- Works with long term residents, students and other organisations to build positive relationships



Annual Campaigns

5

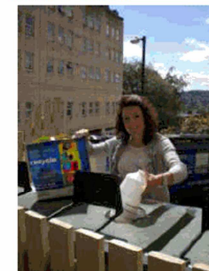
- Being a Good Neighbour Guide
- Start of Term Door Knock
- Accommodation Guide
- Don't make it a night to regret
- Moving Out Campaign



Acting on complaints

6

- First point of contact for complaints from students or long-term residents
- Student Action Line - discontinued summer 2012, calls now go through Council Connect 01225 394041
- Most common complaints are noise and waste issues
- Liaising with partner agencies e.g. Police and Environmental Protection



The Future

7

- The SCP Action Plan online: www.townandgown.org.uk
- Reviewing website and publications
- Using Social Media such as Twitter
- New 'Student Community Fund'

Community-liaison@bath.ac.uk
[@townandgownbath](https://twitter.com/townandgownbath)