

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 10th October, 2019

Present:- **Councillors** Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Jess David, Tom Davies, Sally Davis, Winston Duguid, Mark Elliott, Michael Evans, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Lisa O'Brien, Michelle O'Doherty, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Chris Watt, Ryan Wills, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Paul Crossley, Douglas Deacon, Andrew Furse, Eleanor Jackson, Paul May and Bharat Pankhania

46 CHAIRING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS MEETING

With the agreement of the meeting, the Chair and Vice-Chair of this meeting were taken by Councillors Karen Walker and Alan Hale respectively, due to the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair. [This arrangement had also been agreed by Group Leaders in advance].

47 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dine Romero declared an 'other' interest in agenda item 9 – **Protocol on Council Company Governance** – as the shareholder. [This declaration was made at item 9.]

49 MINUTES - 21ST MAY 2019, 11TH JULY 2019, 5TH SEPTEMBER 2019

On a motion from Councillor Tim Ball, seconded by Councillor Paul Myers, it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of 21st May 2019, 11th July 2019, 5th September 2019 (Special – Chief Executive appointment) and 5th September 2019 (Honorary Aldermen/women appointment) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

50 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair made the customary announcements regarding mobile phones, webcasting and using the microphones.

The Chair informed the meeting that she had allowed a short statement to be made at the next item, as it was an urgent matter about which Council needed an update. As set out in the statement, a report will be brought to November Council so a full debate can take place then.

51 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

With the agreement of the Chair, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Economic Development made the following statement;

“I have asked the Chair of the Council for the opportunity today to update you all on the Joint Spatial Plan, commonly known as the JSP. Some of you will be aware that we have received a letter from the Planning Inspectors which brings the future of the JSP into question. Whilst we are disappointed by some of the conclusions drawn by the Inspectors on the JSP, we are also pleased that they have confirmed the benefits of a strategic approach to addressing the shared spatial challenges that we have across the sub-region.

Can I reassure everyone that we remain fully committed to working co-operatively to deliver our objectives to provide homes, space for jobs, the living environment and the infrastructure we need - including addressing the housing crisis, the need for jobs and affordable housing, and above all, responding to the climate emergency.

Whilst it is clear that we will not pursue the JSP in its current form, we are considering the options open to us to move forward with the other Councils across the West of England. My intention is to bring a report to Council next month explaining the proposed way forward and to ensure that we are able to deliver our objectives. When I come to Council, I will be asking Council to delegate relevant decision making to me as Cabinet Member, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive so that we can get on and deliver our commitments with speed and determination.

This is a complicated process but I want to reassure all members that I am fully engaged with all LDF Steering Group Members and will continue to champion the importance of joint planning on behalf of BANES for the good of the West of England.”

52 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Ian Herve made a statement about microplastics and specifically pollution from artificial pitches. Councillor Matt McCabe asked Ian about Sport England’s advice about this, to which he responded that their advice was scant regarding the environmental impact, but plenty of alternative advice was available. Councillor Colin Blackburn asked about international research, to which Ian responded that a very long-term study was being conducted in California and was due to report next

year, but there wasn't funding for such research to be done in the UK. A copy of Ian's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes.

Nicolette Boater made a statement about the robustness of the Climate emergency action plan. She welcomed the report but stressed that it was vital to now deliver on this and suggested a number of recommendations to achieve this. A copy of Nicolette's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes.

Lin Patterson made a statement on behalf of Climate Emergency Watch - B&NES, a new group that has been established to keep an eye on the Council's efforts to meet the climate emergency. They welcome the 3 initial priorities that have been outlined. Lin stressed the need for a collaborative approach and invited new members to contact them through 3SG. Councillor Vic Pritchard asked if there were members from North East Somerset, to which Lin replied that there were a few, and they would welcome more.

Faye Dicker made a statement about the Joint Strategic Plan and the impact of housing development and roads in and around Whitchurch. She called upon the new Council to remove the threat of the housing blight and negative traffic impact such proposals would have on their beautiful part of the green belt. A copy of Faye's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes.

Robin Kerr made a statement about the Recreation Ground Trust, calling on Councillors to use their influence to urge the Trust to improve their governance and accessibility. Councillor Dine Romero asked Robin if he was aware that the Council no longer had the right to nominate trustees or influence their processes, to which Robin responded that he was aware of that, but that the Charity Commission might respond more readily to an approach from the Leader of the Council. A copy of Robin's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes.

John Branston, a resident of Oldfield Park, made a statement about the negative impact of the high density of HMO conversions on his area. He explained that existing HMOs were now being further expanded creating additional pressure on the area. Residents responded to the draft Local Plan consultation nearly a year ago. He called for officers and the Planning Committee to be given the necessary powers to deal with this and called upon Councillors to do whatever is possible to enable this to happen. Councillor Tim Ball asked if John understood the delay with the Local Plan and offered to meet him to discuss this further. John replied that he didn't and so would welcome the opportunity to meet.

Caroline Kay from Bath Preservation Trust (BPT) made a statement welcoming the Climate Emergency declaration and outlined the ways in which BPT could help as a property owner and advocate. Councillor Sarah Warren asked Caroline if she would like to meet to discuss various aspects of her speech, to which Caroline responded that she would. Councillor Paul Myers asked Caroline to confirm that she was talking about ways in which historic buildings could be made more energy efficient, to which she responded that she was, and referred again to the 2011 'Warmer Bath'

report which had addressed this. A copy of Caroline's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes.

Wera Hobhouse, MP, made a statement in which she congratulated the Council on declaring a Climate Emergency and committed to do whatever she could at government level to support the Council. She ran through the range of measures that would be needed and urged the Council to act now. Councillor Dine Romero asked Wera whether there would be funding from national government to support Councils in implementing these measures, to which she responded that, in her opinion, the current government was not doing this effectively but she would be standing up for her local area and trying to get government support.

Mark Baptist made a statement supporting the Climate Emergency commitment and raised the issue of refurbishment versus new build, which was not always the most sustainable option due to the embedded carbon and called on the Council to be making good, science based decisions.

Mary Walsh made a statement reiterating objections to the prospect of a park and ride at the entrance to Whitchurch village and tentatively welcomed the Inspector's decision in regards to this. She raised a query about the provision of low cost housing. Councillor Tim Ball asked if Mary would like to meet in the new year, to which she responded that she would. A copy of Mary's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes.

Annabel Tall, parliamentary candidate for Bath, made a statement calling on the Council to reverse plans to close 5 play parks and urged the Council to look at innovative solutions that had been used by other Councils, with the same constraints, to provide more play parks. Councillor Dine Romero asked Annabel if she was aware that the Council were not planning to close any play areas but were looking at more imaginative ways to provide them and wondered if Annabel considered that the previous Administration had been right to propose this. Annabel responded that it was up to the Council to look at how other Councils were able to manage this. Councillor Paul Myers asked Annabel if she thought that the budget should now be reprioritised to address this, to which she responded that she did. Councillor June Player referred to Loxton Drive play area and asked if Annabel agreed that it was important for a safe area to be maintained for very young children, to which Annabel responded that she did. Councillor Robin Moss asked for Annabel's view of Boris Johnson's statement regarding personal responsibility for obesity, to which she responded that her party took the issue seriously. A copy of Annabel's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes.

The Chair thanked all the speakers and referred their statements to the relevant Cabinet Members.

53 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROGRESS REPORT

The Council considered the first progress report since it declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019, committing to provide the leadership to enable Bath and North East Somerset to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

On a motion from Councillor Sarah Warren, seconded by Councillor Paul Myers, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) to

1. Recognise the Council's key leadership role and the significant and fundamental culture shift required, politically and organisationally, to rise to this challenge;
2. Recognise that the first phase of research has enabled a clear definition of three immediate priorities for action for the Bath and North East Somerset area and the scale and speed of ambition needed to achieve the 2030 target. In summary, these are:
 - I. Energy efficiency improvement of the majority of existing buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and zero carbon new build;
 - II. A major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions;
 - III. A rapid and large-scale increase in local renewable energy generation.
3. Recognise that further work is needed and in respect of the reviews, research and planning identified in paragraph 3.7 iv, ask for an update report for this next stage of work be brought to the March 2020 meeting of the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, with a progress report to Council each year;
4. Recognise that whilst the Council will provide leadership, the emergency cannot be tackled without active participation and leadership from all sectors in B&NES and wide and deep community engagement and that a new B&NES Climate Emergency, Environment & Place Partnership is being established to enable that;
5. Recognise that business as usual is not an option and that the Council and all our partners and contractors need to review all existing strategies and plans to re-align to the Climate Emergency, as does the rest of the public sector and the private sector, and a further update report to the March 2020 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel will identify the timescale for reviewing all the Council's existing strategies and plans to re-align them to the Climate Emergency;
6. Recognise that meeting our Climate Emergency commitments is about major system change and can only be delivered by the combined action of national, regional and local government, other institutions, and alongside action in the private and community sectors. Local government has a key influencing, convening and enabling role, but does not have the powers or resources to deliver these ambitions on our own;
7. Recognise that individual citizen action is also important and that whilst there are things that everyone can do, it is constrained by current systems and that in order to engage as much of the community as possible, blame-laying on individuals is unhelpful;

8. Note that, despite its pledge in March 2019 to provide the leadership to enable Bath and North East Somerset to become carbon neutral by 2030, the report (para 3.3 viii) states that 'based on current knowledge, we don't know exactly how to get to carbon neutrality'. Council acknowledges the challenges that this pledge presents and seeks to develop the means to reach a goal that is beyond current capabilities.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution contains wording at resolutions 3, 5 and 8 which was offered by Councillor Grant Johnson and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder.]*

54 PROTOCOL ON COUNCIL COMPANY GOVERNANCE

The Council considered a report setting out the progress made on implementing the decisions of Council on 8th November 2018 with regard to the governance arrangements and re-configuration of the Shareholder group.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Sarah Moore, it was

RESOLVED

1. To amend the Protocol to adopt the proposed new Shareholder Group incorporating enhanced scrutiny arrangements by Group Leaders.
2. To suspend the Protocol in respect of a requirement to incorporate or operate a holding company structure until further review; and
3. To delegate to the s.151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, the decision on when to re-instate the Protocol requirement to operate a holding company structure.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution was carried with 42 Councillors voting in favour, and 10 Councillors voting against.]*

55 AVON PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered the annual report of the Avon Pension Fund Committee, in its role as the administering authority of the fund.

On a motion from Councillor Bruce Shearn, seconded by Councillor Chris Dando, it was (unanimously)

RESOLVED to note the report.

[At the conclusion of this item, a short comfort break was taken. The Council re-convened at 8.35pm.]

56 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered the annual report of its Standards Committee and a recommended addition to the Code of Conduct.

On a motion from Councillor Duncan Hounsell, seconded by Councillor Sally Davis, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

1. To note the work of the Standards Committee as set out in the Annual report; and
2. To adopt the Advice Note for Councillors on Bullying and Harassment as Appendix 4 to the Code of Conduct.

57 MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - B&NES TRANSPORT OPTIONS BETWEEN BRISTOL & BATH

On a motion from Councillor Neil Butters, seconded by Councillor Duncan Hounsell, it was

RESOLVED that

This Council notes:

1. That there is an aspiration for a rebuilt railway station at Saltford amongst a large section of the community as evidenced by the petition presented to the House of Commons, the outcome of the public consultation held in 2014, and the high priority given to this by Saltford Parish Council;
2. That Saltford has appeared on the Metro West map since 2011, is included in the West of England's new stations package, and confirmed as a proposed transport improvement in the emerging Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (2019-2036);
3. That the line and costs are being considered as part of the Greater Bristol Rail Feasibility study;

This Council subsequently believes:

4. That it is important that the feasibility of opening a railway station at Saltford is assessed in the interests of the community, building upon the Higher Level Output Assessment report received by the Council in 2014;

Therefore, this Council resolves to;

5. Await the outcome of the Greater Bristol Rail Feasibility Study and, if it confirms that Saltford Station is a potentially viable project, to request that the WECA:

- a) Consider who best to take the project forward to the next stages of the GRIP process for project development;
- b) Consider how best a Salford station might be funded;
- c) Seek governance by the WECA Transport Board and WECA Scrutiny committee;
- d) Keep Salford Parish Council fully informed of developments relating to Salford station;

6. Refer this matter to the relevant PDS panel, which will receive reports from the Cabinet member for Transport responsible for rail at appropriate intervals.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution replaced the motion contained within the agenda pack which had been moved by Councillor Brian Simmons and seconded by Councillor Lisa O'Brien.*
2. *The successful amendment was carried with 45 Councillors voting in favour and 7 abstentions.]*

58 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - ELECTORAL REFORM

On a motion from Councillor Ryan Wills, seconded by Councillor Dr Kumar, it was

RESOLVED that

This Council:

1. Believes that young people should be allowed a say over their future.
2. Recognises that 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen.
3. Notes that there is currently an unequal situation across the United Kingdom, with 16 and 17 year olds having voting rights in Scotland and Wales that are not available to them in England and Northern Ireland.
4. Supports the need for greater engagement with young people, leading to greater involvement of young people in the decisions that affect their community.
5. Believes that lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future.
6. Believes that people aged 16 and 17, who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces, should also have the right to vote.
7. Recognises and supports the ongoing 'Votes at 16' campaign by the British Youth Council, the UK Youth Parliament and other youth organisations, supported by thousands of young people across the UK.

8. Notes that the “Youth Strike 4 Climate” protesters in B&NES presented a list of demands to the Council in May 2019, including the demand of government to: “recognise that young people have the biggest stake in our future, by incorporating youth views into policy making and bringing the voting age down to 16”.
9. Calls for 16 and 17 year olds to have the right in all elections and referendums across the UK.

Council therefore:

10. Requests that the Leader write to relevant Ministers and local MPs: expressing this Council’s support for the Votes at 16 campaign; calling for the extension of the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds in all elections and referendums across the UK; and indicating this Council’s willingness to participate in any pilot scheme.
11. Requests that the Leader write to the local MYPs and the British Youth Council expressing this Council’s support for the Votes at 16 campaign and requesting to join the Votes at 16 coalition.

[Notes;

1. *During debate, an amendment was moved by Councillor Liz Hardman, and seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, to extend the scope of the motion to include all UK residents. This was lost, with 4 Councillors voting in favour, 45 Councillors voting against and 3 abstentions.*
2. *The successful resolution above was carried with 42 Councillors voting in favour and 10 Councillors voting against.]*

59 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - LIVING WAGE

On a motion from Councillor Chris Dando, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) that

Council notes that:

1. In 2016 the government introduced a higher minimum wage rate called the National Living Wage, for those aged over 25 years;
2. This National Living Wage is not based on actual living costs. Instead, it is based on a target to reach 60% of median earnings by 2020 and currently stands at £8.21 per hour. The Minimum Wage for those under 25 is £7.70 per hour;
3. The Real Living Wage rate is independently calculated and based on what people need to get by. The Real Living Wage stands at £9 per hour outside London for those aged 18 and above. The rate is announced in the first week of November; and

4. Over 5,000 UK employers are now accredited by the Living Wage Foundation and voluntarily pay the Real Living Wage, including a number of local authorities. Bath and North East Somerset Council pays all employees on our main pay scale the Real Living Wage.

Council believes that:

5. Paying the Real Living Wage not only benefits employees but also employers and the wider economy. However, local government's continued ability to pay is dependent on proper, long-term funding as proposed in the Fairer Funding Review.

Council agrees:

6. To request that the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel consider the implications of Bath and North East Somerset Council becoming a Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation, including using its influence as a major local employer and provider of services to urge other local employers to pay the Real Living Wage, and report their findings to the Cabinet for consideration.

[Notes;

1. *During debate, an amendment was moved by Councillor Karen Warrington, and seconded by Councillor Paul Myers, to add an element of location variation. This was lost with 11 Councillors voting in favour, 39 Councillors voting against and 1 abstention.*
2. *A further amendment was moved by Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Ruth Malloy and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder, to ask the Corporate PDS Panel to consider this issue and report its findings back to Cabinet].*

60 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - TREE PLANTING IN B&NES

On a motion from Councillor Grant Johnson, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) that

Council notes:

1. The independent Committee on Climate Change says 1.5 billion trees need to be planted by 2050 for the UK to achieve its net-zero carbon target;
2. The Woodland Trust says that meeting this target would require 50 million young trees to go into the ground each year up until 2050. However, according to the Trust, in England in the past year, just 1,420 hectares of woodland was created, against a government ambition of 5,000 hectares a year. Its Big Climate Fightback is a campaign to get one million people to join the fight against climate change by pledging to plant a tree by 30 November;

3. Friends of the Earth have launched a campaign to double the tree cover. Doubling the number of trees could deliver annual carbon sequestration of around 37-50 MtCO₂e (million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) per year. This is equal to around 10% of the UK's current greenhouse gas emissions;
4. Trees play a vital role in addressing the climate emergency as they remove emissions from the air around us. Trees and woodlands absorb CO₂, provide oxygen, cool urban areas, provide habitats for wildlife and give people opportunities to engage with nature;
5. The Institute of Chartered Foresters recommends an urban tree canopy cover of 20% and that it further recommends that those areas already achieving this target (for example Bath) should aim to increase the cover by a further 5%. Some parts of our area, for example, Paulton, have a tree canopy cover of only 9%.

Council believes:

6. Although planting trees will not on its own reverse climate change, tree planting can contribute to addressing the climate emergency and gives people a way to take direct action and should therefore be supported by this Council.

Council agrees therefore:

7. To support tree planting initiatives carried out by community groups, charities and other organisations and to undertake its own tree planting as part of a wider strategy identified at paragraph 10, ensuring that any such trees should be from sustainable sources;
8. To welcome the announcement of the goal of planting 100,000 trees in B&NES during the Council term by May 2023;
9. To ask the Cabinet to consider within the budget proposals the production of a detailed tree coverage survey of B&NES with a particular focus on those locations affected by air pollution as part of a Tree and Woodland Plan for B&NES;
10. To welcome the Cabinet's commitment to bringing forward a Tree and Woodland Plan for B&NES and to ask the Cabinet to involve the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel in the preparation of a clear strategy for planting trees in B&NES that, amongst other things:
 - a. Seeks to address climate change and mitigate air pollution through green infrastructure;
 - b. Recognises the differences between urban and rural areas and their specific needs;
 - c. Identifies appropriate tree types for specific locations and how these trees could be integrated into the landscape;
 - d. Supports residents to connect with the natural environment;
 - e. Identifies how trees and other planting can support diverse habitats for wildlife; and

- f. Identifies how the planning process where possible, through for example a Supplementary Planning Document, could be used to:
 - i. provide greater protection to existing mature trees;
 - ii. deliver a net increase of tree cover across the district;
 - iii. introduce a system of fines for destruction of protected trees;
 - iv. ensure that no planning application for any development large or small shall be granted without a S106 for replacement planting;
 - v. ensure that no planning application shall be granted which would involve the destruction of a neighbour's trees; and
 - vi. require B&NES Council to replace trees it owns but fells.

[Notes;

1. *The above successful resolution contains wording at 8, 9 and 10 proposed by Councillor David Wood and Councillor Matt McCabe, and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder of the motion.*

61 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Council noted the question received from Councillor Eleanor Jackson, and the response provided, which has been circulated and added to the online record of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm

Chairman

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

COUNCIL MEETING 10th OCTOBER 2019

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

1. Ian Herve - Microplastics and pollution from artificial pitches
2. Nicolette Boater - Robustness of Climate emergency action plan
3. Lin Patterson - Climate Emergency Watch, B&NES
4. Faye Dicker - JSP hearings and proposed houses in Whitchurch
5. Robin Kerr - Recreation Ground Trust
6. John Branston - Draft Local Plan re HMO plans
7. Caroline Kay - Climate Emergency
8. Wera Hobhouse - Climate Emergency
9. Mark Baptist - Climate Emergency
10. Mary Walsh - Roads/housing in Whitchurch & Keynsham
11. Annabel Tall - Play parks

[Statements supplied in advance are attached]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	Nicolette Boater
<p>1. Given that the climate emergency “cannot be tackled without active participation and leadership from all sectors in B&NES and wide and deep community engagement” (section 2.4) and the commitment to “ensuring that the transition to a zero carbon future is a just one” (section 3.5iii),</p> <p>(i) If it hasn't already, when will the “new B&NES Climate Emergency, Environment & Place Partnership” overseeing and enabling the climate emergency work, come into being?</p> <p>(ii) How will the composition of this Partnership Board ensure that the perspectives of less well-affiliated and/or more disadvantaged citizens balance the perspectives of representatives from major and/or better-established delivery partners??</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<p>(i) The new B&NES Climate Emergency, Environment and Place Partnership will develop in stages over the next few months, with the first stage, the appointment of the Board, expected to be completed before the end of 2019.</p> <p>(ii) The Board will be set up to ensure it is capable of delivering the leadership described in the Climate Emergency Progress Report. It will be informed by the work already undertaken relating to the issue of a just transition, which is available on the link given in the Background Papers section of the Progress Report, entitled ‘Climate Emergency Study, Carbon emissions from households and citizens, September 2019 (Centre for Sustainable Energy)’.</p>		
P 02	Question from:	Nicolette Boater
<p>In section 3.2ii(e) it is reported that climate emergency engagement has commenced “with the Community Forums and Parish Liaison Committee”. However whilst the 5 North East Somerset Community Forums have met at least once since the March 2019 Climate Emergency declaration, the Bath City Forum (representing the unparished areas in, and around half the electorate of, B&NES) hasn't, and its future is under review. Given this;</p> <p>(i) What is the impact of this Bath governance deficit on how the Council will “Design the citizen engagement programme, utilising and building on current work with the Community Forums, the Parish Liaison Committee and the parish councils” (section 3.7iv)?</p> <p>(ii) In particular, what priority is being placed on ensuring that the membership and brief of the interim Involve Bath advisory group enables a constructive dialogue with the City of Bath around the Climate Emergency?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Dine Romero

(i) The Keynsham Area, Chew Valley, Bathavon North and Somer Valley Forums will receive updates on our work on the climate emergency in November. This builds on the successful session devoted to this topic organised by the Cam Valley Forum. However, it is recognised that we need to build on this to ensure the widest possible engagement on the climate emergency. Involve Bath has been tasked with advising elected members about future arrangements for governance and engagement in the City. We will therefore work closely with Involve Bath, concurrently with the November Area Forums, to identify the best ways of undertaking effective engagement as we work with the communities of Bath on this issue.

(ii) As the question identifies, the structure of the Bath City Forum is currently under review. Whatever the outcomes of this, however, the council is committed to working with the communities of Bath to tackle the climate emergency. As highlighted in the previous question, it is currently establishing a Climate Emergency, Environment and Place Partnership and it is planning a “conference-style” event which will maximise community input and support local activity to tackle the climate emergency.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M01	Question from:	Eleanor Jackson
<p>Why, having laid Nelson Ward Drive through Area 2 in the former Radstock railway lands development from the sub -station to the Brunel Shed, is one side being ripped up, wasting money and resources when we have a climate emergency and council austerity cuts? Would it not have been much safer for the public to have a dedicated cycle track given the speeds modern cyclists coming down the incline from Frome, reach?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>The road being taken up is the temporary haul road that was constructed for the development site traffic and is no longer required. The temporary road was a requirement of the planning conditions. As this is development related work all the costs associated with the construction and removal of the access road are being met by the Developer.</p> <p>The adoptable road is currently being constructed to the agreed Section 38 drawing given technical approval in June 2015 by the Highway Authority and meets the design standards applicable at the time the agreements were signed. With the Climate Emergency declaration officers are aware of the need to provide for even more sustainable and environmentally friendly travel and sustainable travel provision is likely to be more prevalent on developments in future.</p>		

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Address to Council meeting- 10.10.19.

Chair and Councillors.

I want to highlight a hidden but alarming source of pollution that is a threat to the Environment and Public Health and Wellbeing. Evidence is emerging daily and is overwhelming existing policy and regulation. It is the presence of toxic Microplastics that are to be found from mountain top to ocean floor and every environmental niche in between.

These invisible particles are found in our bodies, in the hearts of city children, in the placentas of unborn babies and affect our immune systems.

A recent study found that breathing air polluted with particulates can reduce young people's exam results on that day.

The particulates get ground down into ever smaller sizes and remain almost permanently in the environment. Land, River and Ocean.

A significant source is known to be Artificial plastic sports pitches.

Let me just give you some bare numbers:

A small 3G pitch, such as planned at Bath University,
will contain the following-

6 tonnes of Polyethylene

9 Tonnes of plastic stitching

3 tonnes of synthetic latex

47 tonnes of rubber crumb, which is either thousands of shredded car and lorry tyres or a virgin product made from oil of course.

The planned 3G pitch at Twerton will be larger and so contain more of each. About 120 tonnes of rubber crumb here.

A recent Swedish study estimates that each pitch will produce through erosion and drainage 70 kgs of microplastic for each year of life. That is 293 million particles.

The normal lifetime of a 3G pitch is about 10 years.

A 1/2 litre plastic water bottle weighs 11 grams,

In ten years a 3G pitch will eject into the environment the equivalent of 63,000 plastic bottles.

The rubber crumb is known to leach toxic heavy metals into the local environment and water drainage system.

In particular Zinc, which is toxic to aquatic organisms.

In Holland concentrations up to 20 times that allowed for a construction site were found.

A Hybrid pitch is no better.

A leading manufacturer states that in a hybrid pitch there are 20 million polypropylene fibres which amounts to 48,000 kilometres.

More than the circumference of the earth.

There is of course an alternative. Grass.

Not so convenient for the accountants but maybe a little better for the rest of us.

To rip out natural grass with all of its biodiversity and carbon sink potential and replace it with these artificial products must be wrong.

The microplastics are now thought to decay in sunlight and in the sea to produce methane and other climate change gasses as well as disturb the oceanic carbon cycle.

A conclusion from a study from August of this year. "If we stop all plastic entering the sea by 2020, the amount in the deeper oceans will still have doubled by 2050."

Last Wednesday, in a letter to the Times, a leading paediatrician called for the banning of such pitches, calling it "irresponsible" to continue.

I am asking council to halt all such installations whilst further international research is done.

Statement to 10.10.19 B&NES Council

Thank you chair.

As a business strategist and policy professional, and as an active citizen concerned about the enduring wellbeing of this locality, averting climate and ecological catastrophe now drives all my activities.

So much so that in May 2018, I publically called on the Council, to raise its ambition, accelerate and scale up its decarbonisation efforts in the light of the irrefutable evidence surrounding the perils of current GHG emissions.

And I was delighted that 9 months later this Council declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030.

But the bigger challenge lies in delivering the pledge.

So, I have scoured this first progress report for signs that the Council can and will deliver on its March 2019 pledge.

In this it is promising that the resolutions before you tonight

1. Affirm that a contextual, iterative, collaborative approach is critical to solving the truly systemic problem we face
2. Set up a more effective and inclusive governance and communications structures to enable this
3. Commit to ensuring a just transition
4. Focus on buildings, energy and transport as major arenas for impactful action.

and I urge you to wholeheartedly adopt these resolutions.

But don't then sit back, for this is just the beginning!

It's incumbent on all of us in diverse ways to get on with

- Creating a new low carbon vision for our locality
- Finding and traversing new pathways for getting there
- Engaging in myriad conversations on this collaborative venture.

For we are in this climate and ecological crisis together, and it is by acting together, that we have most chance of getting get out of it.

And the sooner we do so, the better it will be for all of us.

Nicolette Boater, B.A.(Oxon.), M.Phil.
Delivering lasting value to Government, Business, and Communities.

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Faye Dicker statement

I am a resident of Whitchurch Village in Banes.

The village has been under the JSP threat of thousands of houses within the green belt. Thankfully the planning inspectors have turned down these proposals, which was of great comfort to thousands of residents.

In November last year, I set up the South Bristol Wrong Road group, following a public meeting called by my local councillor Cllr Paul May. We now have 2700 active members, who are all impacted by the proposal of the South Bristol Ring Road - which in turn is being proposed to support the proposed housing.

I wish to ask the council to listen to our community and remove the threat of housing blight that has arisen from the JSP proposals and stop the idea of a new 2 mile long road from Keynsham to South Bristol, otherwise known as the South Bristol Ring road.

If the ring road goes ahead, the knock on effect will cause irreversible damage. With extra traffic on a ring road, it will result in drivers looking for rat runs nearby and spreading the pollution. May I spell it out, rat runs would ruin Whitchurch Village, Queen Charlton and all modes of transport wanting between Bristol and Bath.

This is an outdated proposal. It is a backwards step to create yet another road through our beautiful green belt. Worse still, it would then be discharging through a housing estate and past the primary school my children attend. If this road goes ahead, I will no longer be able to cycle my daughters to school, as our route will become a ring road, carving up the village.

It is completely contrary to modern ways of dealing with the climate emergency.

There are long standing reserved more sensible routes for access within Bristol which can be used for cycling, walking and buses without destroying greenbelt.

If the council start the whole process again without withdrawing the threat to my village, this will be viewed as a major negative response.

The proposed houses have no workable infrastructure or employment. This means people will have to travel to work, using their car - at a time when we are in a climate emergency.

The previous council never listened despite so called consultation, but you are new and you can make decisions which will make us all proud of you. You can make a difference to our future and have a positive impact on the next generation.

Faye

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Rec Trust - statement to Council 10th Oct 19

Chair and Councillors,

I was recently invited to the Annual Meeting of the Rec Trust. In case anyone has forgotten, this is the body which owns the Rec, the largest and most significant piece of open land in Bath, and the place where application for a very large rugby stadium may shortly be submitted. I attended the meeting as I wanted, on behalf of the residents of Bath, to hear what the Trust thought of the Scoping Report recently submitted by Arena1865 as the basis for its request to B&NES for a Scoping Opinion setting out the framework for the stadium's Environmental Impact Assessment. This is because, if the Environmental Impact Assessment isn't right, the planning application won't be either.

The Trust Chairman firstly refused to take questions, on the grounds that it wasn't that kind of meeting. When we asked where questions could be asked, he replied, "At the AGM", but added that the AGM was private so we couldn't attend. Under pressure, he did permit a few questions, and mine was one of them. However, his unsatisfactory reply was that they would consider the issues and answer in writing. I can let you see his answers, but they are bland, uninformative and useless.

The operation of the Trust seems to be completely opaque and it's unclear even how the Trustees are selected and appointed. This is not the way for a public body in charge of an asset so important to Bath (and to the World – after all, it is a World Heritage Site) to act. I call on you therefore to invite the Trust to mend its ways, to become more open, and to revise its Governance policies in line with modern practice – and to do this very, very soon.

Robin Kerr, final, 7th Oct 19

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Statement by Bath Preservation Trust on climate emergency to Bath and North East Somerset Council, 10th October 2019

Hello, I'm Caroline Kay, Chief Exec of Bath Preservation Trust. At BPT we welcome the declaration of Climate Emergency. The paper before you indicates primarily how the Council will encourage others: we at BPT would like to persuade the Council to 'show not tell' as well.

Since 2011, when BPT, with CSE, produced 'Warmer Bath', award-winning guidance for energy efficiency in Bath's traditional buildings, there have been 8 lost years when changes that should be possible and straightforward, even in listed buildings, could have been achieved by many households, including across all of the Council's traditional commercial estate. 'Warmer Bath' will be updated in the context of the Emergency but most of it still pertains.

We regret the lost opportunity across the MOD sites and Bath Riverside for designed-in solar generation. We consistently suggested this be included. We also think the Council should be braver in using every lever they possess, including differential parking pricing, to discourage fossil-fuel-based personal transport of any sort. Any new car parking should have the potential to have 100% charging points. Cars must be made fit for Bath, not vice versa.

We are concerned that the Council's commercial property is categorised as Scope 3. It will be a rare tenant who would refuse their landlord the possibility of improving energy efficiency in their buildings and we are pleased that the Council's paper brings a stronger focus onto the Scope 3 emissions though we would prefer that focus to be more on Council property than procurement.

We are pleased that the Council's paper has not repeated the unreferenced, unverified assumption of their consultants *Anthesis* that 'listed buildings are likely to have a higher carbon footprint'. Good data on listed buildings is thin on the ground, and the EPC is proven to be an inadequate tool for them. Sloppy assumptions of this sort led to streets and streets of readily improvable old family houses being demolished in the 50s and 60s and replaced with thin-walled concrete-based housing blocks - concrete that is one of the most carbon-hungry materials there is. CSE's report, by contrast, highlights that these 'new' buildings can be where you see the greatest fuel poverty and energy inefficiency.

For traditional buildings, we would recommend the 'whole house' approach advocated by Warmer Bath, Historic England and CSE. Bath should be leading the way on developing expertise in this field. With our World Heritage status, we have a unique opportunity.

BPT Trustees and Staff met this week to consider every measure that BPT can take both as a property owner and advocate. As a charity, we are actively pursuing grants for physical changes to our own listed buildings and in our advocacy role we have meetings arranged with Councillors and officers in the next weeks. We wish to participate actively in the Emergency, Environment and Place Partnership and we would like to work at pace either with the Council, or a private sector owner, on a demonstration 'Georgian House of the Future'.

As Extinction Rebellion said when they demonstrated at the Roman Baths - *you can't protect your past if you don't protect your future*. At Bath Preservation Trust we agree.

www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

@bathprestrust

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I live in Whitchurch Village

I was relieved when I read The Inspectors had listened to our pleas against proposed plans for road and housing but we cannot raise banners yet!

Whitchurch has doubled in size over recent years and even A B&NES "Must visit popular attraction" is now a house farm 250 houses

I do not understand why housing numbers given by Central Government are not challenged by Local County Councils and the surveys they must do are not open to public for scrutiny. I have tried to find origins to no avail perhaps the numbers are plucked from the air used on so many documents they become real or perhaps they come from modellers sitting behind computer screens and only know Whitchurch from a Google Map. This would make sense why Whitchurch and Keynsham are used to prop up B&NES housing needs.

I have attended meetings and workshops held by councils showing plans and at all officials have told us if the housing was rejected the road would also be cancelled. This made us feel secure as we didn't believe anyone would allow a Garden Town (whatever that is) to ruin our village and more of our Green Belt.

I was shocked to hear WECA made decisions about Roads and it was not B&NES WECA was approached and yes you know B&NES is the decision maker so I take from this we are safe.

The road would destroy a Cricket Field Rugby and Football pitches and a well used childrens' play area this was purchased from the council by residents for the parish

A proposed Park and Ride at the entrance to the village would be not be appropriate as everyone knows this increases traffic and pollution so with that off the plan we can breathe more easily.

Thank you for listening

Mary Walsh

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Annabel Tall BEng CEng MIET
Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bath

When I became a parliamentary candidate for Bath I really didn't expect to be here asking the council to reconsider proposals to close five of our young children's play parks. I am asking you to think again. We know that councils are facing challenging times, but they do have choices about how a budget is spent. The role of a councillor is to listen to all the officers' recommendations then use your wisdom as elected representatives to prioritise the competing demands.

Looking at the big picture our play parks provide a vital service, particularly in our city environment. Our children need to learn the benefits of outdoor activity and play from an early age. We are facing a national obesity and exercise crisis and we should be doing all we can to get them outdoors and active with inviting play equipment. We know parks bring benefits to their health, wellbeing, social skills, and concentration in nursery and school. They also provide an invaluable opportunity for new parents to make friends and establish social networks. Why do we think the play parks were built in the first place? Without the parks the negative consequences fall on our other services, schools, mental health services, society and our NHS.

While our council is proposing to cut our children's play parks, other councils such as Bexley and Gloucester, with the same constraints, are not only keeping theirs open, but are using innovative solutions to build more.

Over the last few weeks I have been contacted by countless parents asking me to help them. They are relying on people like me and their councillors to make their case as I am doing tonight. A short video I put on FB 2 days ago has already had over 1500 views. Residents care deeply about their children and their play parks.

I am absolutely sure that everyone here wants our children to have happy, healthy lives. When you are making your decisions think of the broader issues, the long term consequences, other options. Above all, think of our children, our residents and our city. I urge you - think again.

Annabel Tall BEng CEng MIET | Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bath

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