

Cllr Eleanor Jackson

Statement to Cabinet 7-Dec-11

I am glad to see the members of the Radstock Action Group sitting here in front of you with their Tee Shirts emblazoned with 'Save the Heart of Radstock'. But it is not just a matter of a negative response to a road scheme. We have great plans for developing Radstock, especially through tourism. Tourism is vital to the economy, as is retail footfall, just as in Bath, and indeed the rest of North East Somerset.

Public toilets are essential for tourists. Many tourists are over sixty and they need convenient conveniences. The grey pound is vital for Bath's economy – coachloads of pensioners spending money in the Christmas Market for example. Radstock has a key position on the National Cycletrack, but no public toilets since B&NES closed the existing ones recently.

I do not think that the public toilets policy is right because it does not go far enough. Para 6 in the report to cabinet talks of the risk that B&NES will have to do something about the situation. B&NES Council should embrace the obligation, not treat it in a negative way.

Similarly they should be rolling out superfast broadband. Dr James Weeks from Meadow View, Radstock explained to the last cabinet meeting how vitally important it was. Rural businesses depended on it, and I hoped that cabinet would reverse its decision and take up the offer from government.

Toilets for tourism, retail and visiting business people.

I rest my case.