

Placemaking : Address to Cabinet 12 November 2014 Item E2639

Once again, two cheers for the Cabinet. This is because:

- 1) *finally* another step forward has been taken in the strategic planning process following the adoption of the Core Strategy, and I want to applaud all the work officers, town clerks and *volunteers* at parish level and in Bath have put into the production of the documents behind this report. Thank you.
- 2) As far as I am concerned, this time real attention has been paid to those who responded to the earlier consultation, and subjects modified accordingly. I think I even detect some of my own photographs of Radstock which were submitted through Radstock Town Council clerk, and protests about the inclusion of unsuitable sites were heeded, and were withdrawn.

As far as Radstock is concerned, I would like to say, *get a move on*. Government instructed councils to sell surplus sites, but Bath Old Road is still not developed, after seven years, and St Nicholas' Old School must be rescued to preserve our heritage.

However, in the background documents far too little attention has been paid to issues of drainage and flooding in Radstock and elsewhere, not to mention decontamination issues.

If I may speak as Chair of PDS Housing and Major projects in a personal capacity, I am very concerned about 3.2 and 3.3. Out in the wilderness of the Somer Valley, where bandits lurk round every corner, we feel very strongly that we do not want to see satellite suburbs for Bath and Bristol, but vibrant communities with in depth economic investment and improved infrastructure. Prioritising brownfield sites over green fields is clearly a sound strategy, but when it means potential sites for factories, retail outlets and offices are lost, as my panel have been investigating, this is reprehensible. There is no point in building seas of new estates, if there are no jobs once the builders have left. Scores of residents in Westfield have been telling me that they don't want more social housing for benefit scroungers. I point out that most of those on benefit are so because their wages are so low. Placemaking should be about jobs, jobs, jobs

It is also about improving the transport system and road infrastructure, bringing back rail, and getting better broadband. The Bath Transport Strategy (5.6) is far too limited. More tomorrow !

Cllr Eleanor M Jackson