

FoBRA speaking notes - Eastern Park-and-Ride Council Meeting - 12th Nov 15

I am Robin Kerr, Chairman of the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations. FoBRA is the main representative voice for residents' groups in Bath and currently has 25 full members, across all wards in Bath, and six affiliates, including both students' unions.

We have heard a lot about the impact of a park-and-ride on Bathampton and Batheaston. However, this is also about the impact of traffic on Bath. It is a choice between protecting the World Heritage City, and the lives of the many thousands of people who live or work here, and protecting fields to the east.

It is clear there is too much traffic in Bath and it needs to be reduced. Traffic congestion spoils the experience of the World Heritage City for everyone. Free and safe movement is constrained for pedestrians and cyclists. Vibration and air pollution from traffic is damaging the very fabric of the Georgian city, while air pollution harms the health of us all. New evidence is always emerging about the damage to health done by pollution.

Park-and-ride can make a major contribution to reducing traffic coming into cities. Oxford and York are well provided with Park & Ride sites, but Bath lacks one to serve traffic from the east, which is why the eastern park and ride is central to the Bath Transport Strategy, approved by the full Council, with cross-party agreement, last year. In the public consultation on this, 66% of Bath residents supported a Park and Ride to the east.

The new facility on its own will not solve Bath's congestion problem. However, provided parking capacity is reduced in the centre to offset the new park and ride spaces, in line with the Transport Strategy, it will have a substantial impact.

Some will oppose *any* park-and-ride to the east, and claim that removing the A36-A46 traffic is more important, but in reality we need *both*, as is clearly recognized by the Strategy.

The current administration was elected on a promise to build an eastern park and ride. They *must* move forward on this - for the sake of the city and people of Bath.

Robin Kerr, draft 4 12th Nov 15