

B&NES COUNCIL MEETING - 12th NOVEMBER 2015

ITEM 8: EAST OF BATH P&R

I welcome the proposal for all potential options to be reviewed by a cross-party group but suggest that your top priority must be your responsibility to protect our World Heritage City landscape setting - as set out in numerous UNESCO, Government and Council documents.

Park & Ride is, however, only the tip of the iceberg for the east of Bath environs. There is also the threat of another attempt to build an A36/A46 link road.

Most alarming is the fact that the Council's preferred route for such a link road is not the Beckford Spur, as our two MPS told George Osborne, but a bridge structure which would straddle the Limpley Stoke Valley to link the A363 at Bathford to the A36 near Bathampton. This is the very option *discarded* by the Government commissioned Bristol/Bath to South Coast Study in 2004.

Such a scheme remains unjustifiable - whether intended as a Bath relief road or a trunk route improvement. It would come at enormous cost and have severe (undisputed) adverse impacts on the Cotswolds AONB and World Heritage City landscape setting, recreation and tourism and blight irreversibly the Avon & Limpley Stoke Valley.

The Council is putting out a red alert that it is willing to abandon Bath's magnificent landscape setting.

Protection of Bath's landscape setting not only has value in its own right in protecting the authenticity of the World Heritage City but also contributes directly to the economy, health and welfare of the city and its surrounding communities. The city and its environs are indivisible.

To conclude - I urge you to explore, with Wiltshire Council, a solution to Bath's through-traffic problems which centres on further improvements to the strategically important A350 route.

This - together with public transport improvements and implementation of other measures to reduce the impact of local and through-traffic - would make the idea of any link road redundant and achieve the overriding objective of protecting the unique status of *both* our World Heritage City and its landscape setting.

Thank you.

David Batho, 12th November 2015