

**STATEMENT BY DEREK REDDING TO BATH COUNCIL MEMBERS ON 12  
NOVEMBER 2015 (TO BE READ BY MARK STEPHENS)**

In support of the local economy and to meet demand, would the council members countenance a retail park to be built on the meadows?

A large Park and Ride will be every bit as damaging to the character of the east of Bath as a retail park in scale and impact; no amount of shrubs and turning lights off in the small hours is going to hide it from the many surrounding vantage points near and far. This is why so many people who know the area feel so strongly about these proposals.

It concerns me that the need for an additional Park & Ride is being promoted falsely as a measure to reduce congestion. Any reduction in congestion on the London Road and elsewhere is wishful thinking. Park & Ride is beneficial to narrow groups of users and suppressed demand will soon fill any notional freed up space. Park and Rides attract new journeys and this proposal has been artificially linked to development in the west of the city, which can be expected to generate significant traffic and congestion throughout the city, not just in the east.

If you were to consult residents on how they view the loss of significant town centre parking capacity you will undoubtedly get a very different result than asking them if they support measures to reduce congestion.

I urge the council members to scrutinize the evidence and ask themselves why this has been linked and why alternative plans are not being given serious consideration?

I ask the council to consider why a Park and Ride has been debated for so long without resolution and suggest it is because there is no suitable site for a single large facility. This delay is not an argument for bulldozing this through as your cabinet colleagues appear determined to do.

Whatever you feel the benefits might be, they do not come close to outweighing the enormous costs involved. If you support this proposal on the basis it is an enabler for development elsewhere you are engaging in short term thinking at the long term cost to the unique character of our city.

I urge members not to support this proposal.

---

Derek Redding  
School Lane  
Batheaston