

B&NES Cabinet Meeting 2Dec15

My name is Sian James, I am an accountant, I am highly experienced in building financial business cases for strategic decisions in the private sector. I am normally described as a rational, pragmatic, reasonable person.

However – I am used to working with facts and data, and not having to distinguish them from spin.

I am new to Bathampton so I do not have the benefit of having lived through this last time so I personally spent many hours, days, weeks diligently reviewing the council papers on the P&R proposal – and I came up with many questions, that I thought that I would get answers to.

So then yesterday, others were contacted by Democratic Services to let them know that answers had now been posted on the website. So I eagerly went looking – and was very disappointed by what I found.

Of the 242 questions asked at the full council meeting on 12th November, as of last night (1 Dec) there were 182 with a response (75%). However, when you look at the detail, most of these responses were, at best, incomplete - a first look suggests that only 20 questions were actually answered (so really only 8% complete). Also there were 9 valid questions that have apparently been removed from the list, with no reference as to why.

I do not understand why it has taken you 16 working days to produce answers with so little content or accuracy.

Councilor Clarke - your name is against all of these answers - I trust that you have personally read all the questions and approved all of these 'answers'? Please can you confirm that this is the case?

Please can we have proper answers to our questions?

- Many questions just needed a 'Yes or No' response – but instead we got a response of meaningless 'blah blah blah' in generic Q&A's
- Some questions ask 'why',
- Some questions I know you have the answers to but you have chosen not to share the answer.

In fact, your answers to our questions read as though you are sitting there going 'lalalala'.

I'm sorry – but Bath deserves much much better than this.

We pay for you to represent us as Councillors.

You are currently misleading all of B&NES, with the lack of clarity around your proposals. We have taken the time and effort to document our questions – now please give us our answers.