

# SEPTEMBER STATEMENT TO CABINET

## Cllr Alison Millar

We are slowly but surely edging ever closer to that fateful day where the future of the environment to the east of our beautiful city will be decided. Local residents await that day with much trepidation as it is clear which way the wind is blowing.

Whilst I commend this cabinet for having delayed the process and for taking the time for a review of various options on sites open to them, please consider the following points before you make a disastrous decision that will blight the eastern green valley approaches to Bath forever:

- The Council has stated in its transport strategy that we need 2,889 park and ride spaces by 2029 - but that we already have 2,777. That means in fact we only need 122 further spaces over the next 13 years! Within that time frame car use will certainly change
- How can it be that as recently as 2013 in the Bath Echo, Cllr Warren robustly defended the green belt concept and stated (and I quote) “The Council must ..... make it clear that we will absolutely not accept any further threat to our area’s Greenbelt. Government policy is clear on the issue of protecting Greenbelt, and the Inspector must abide by it.” The Meadows is in the greenbelt – any development will TOTALLY affect the openness of the green belt and it will be inappropriate. How you can justify building on the greenbelt for the sake of 122 spaces.?

- We all know that the plan would negatively affect air pollution levels to the east – without bringing benefits to offset it. Should we not as a council be spending this public money on taking measures that will improve the health of ALL of our residents? We should as a city be at the forefront and demonstrate innovation in our transport systems in and around our city. We should not use outdated methods which although held so dear within the Council's transport department, are not of this century.
- Buses are a major issue - people are going to be driven to their cars by the lack of support for eastern bus routes such as the number 4 from Bathampton which has had its service recently curtailed. The answer to this is to find other measures which will tackle the problems we are dealing with and not resort to tarmac.

To justify this development on the basis of some vague need that officers feel *might possibly* arise because of Bath and North East Somerset's future economic development is woeful. That is the way it comes across currently.

In closing, The Sunday Telegraph has this year named the meadows as one of the top 10 beauty spots in the country which is threatened by development. Cabinet members, do you want your legacy to be the destruction of these meadows to build a car park when the evidence genuinely does not support it and when there is such continued vehement opposition from residents in Bath and beyond Please reread all the materials you have been given once again, do the right thing and - and don't let this be viewed by history as a project comparable to the Sack of Bath.

The meadows truly are no place for a park and ride - especially one that cannot be justified as a solution to Bath's traffic problem. It will be a catastrophe if one is built there - and it will be down to you.