

My name is Susanne Hagen and I represent Batheaston Parish Council. In 2015 I together with 13 other residents formed Batheaston Forward, listened to the many complaints about the former Parish Council, their lack of communication and unwillingness to modernise, to think laterally and above all to listen.

As a result 14 out of 15 councillors lost their post and we took over. Since then communication has been at the forefront of everything we do. When we receive a planning application to consider for approval or amendment, the responsibility lies on us to make sure we can make an informed decision. We visit the site in question and often communicate with the applicant to fully understand what he or she is aiming to do. We are elected but not paid and do this because we see the value in improving the area as a whole for us, visitors and future generations to come.

You are elected as we are but receive a salary for that purpose. Whether from Bath or further afield, it is your responsibility to inform yourselves so that you can make one of the most important decisions ever made for the villages of Batheaston, Bathampton, Bathford and for the city of Bath. This is far from a party political issue but one which will change lives forever for people and future electors. You have to be able to justify to yourself, you make the decision, not the officer who has pulled this 30 year old ill conceived scheme of concreting over one of Bath's largest tourist attractions out of a drawer.

You will also take the consequence. We keep hearing you have stacks of evidence, where is it? You refute valid official evidence as true and then provide none of your own as was again exemplified on Tuesday evening at our Parish Council meeting. From the start there has been a determination to go for site F without any dialogue, evidence or justification. With one post hoc rationalisation after another and no willingness to engage with the electors, who reside within the boundaries of the new constituency of Bath post 2018 and with over 13 000 opposing signatures so far, Batheaston Parish Council has invited you to come on a tour of the sites.

You all received an email from me on Monday and so far only a quarter have responded. Only by evaluating the different sites close at hand will you

understand the impact on people's lives, and especially the Bathampton primary school children, who will be subjected to the noxious gases.

A little learning is indeed a dangerous thing.

I look forward to hearing from the rest of you, confirming you in truth know the area or to book up an appointment. What is about to happen is nothing short of an environmental crime, damaging the status of Bath forever. Under your auspices I hope you don't allow this. You have the chance to stop this act of vandalism and to make a modern difference and be forerunners.