

## **Andrew Mercer, Statement to Cabinet 19.10.2016**

I am here today to congratulate you for not rushing a decision on P&R. If you had of taken a decision last November it would have been a grave mistake.

Not only would you not have had a proper process in place but, you would have done so believing;

- that P&R would improve traffic and air quality in the city
- that it would reduce traffic on the London Road
- that existing park and rides were well used and popular
- that there was an urgent need for 1600 more spaces

You now know, from your own consultant's reports that none of this is correct.

P&R wont do anything for the environment and you have more than 1000 spare P&R at the busiest time of day – so what's the hurry?

It's a very good thing not rush into a bad decision.... especially when you don't have the evidence to support it.

This is not just about getting the process right, or about fudging the emissions numbers, or spinning reports to pick out the best bits.

It's about reviewing the need for P&R in the light of this new evidence.

If you can't demonstrate a benefit that is capable of overcoming the substantial harm of loosing Bathampton Meadows, then you can never get planning approval for this site.

This is not 2009 and you can't just dust off the old plans and push this through like the council did before.

- The evidence has changed
- The planning framework has changed

So please, don't listen to those who say 'just make a decision'

It's not about making a quick decision; it's about making the right decision.