

Statement to the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 October 2016 from Cllr Eleanor Jackson

## Joint Spatial Plan/Joint Transport Plan

There is a good word in India English in use in the former Bengal presidency areas mofussil bet translated as 'out in the sticks' It has an onomatopoeic quality which describes very well the feelings of Westfield Parish Council and the residents it represents when confronted with the kind of planning policies enshrined in the documents on the table before you. It is not that we object to strategic planning, but we want to be consulted properly , and heard! Important industrial sites urgently need for employment are calmly designated for housing developments because they are 'brownfield' and the greenbelt must be protected at all costs. In fact protecting the greenbelt is the modern theological mantra, constantly repeated, yet the Waterside valley in west field, and the fields stretching down to Kilmersdon and the White Post have no protection at all. The housing development boundaries are not sacrosanct, as they should be, and it seems to us that dormitory suburbs for Bristol and Bath can be created even when there is a two hour commute for the new residents.

At one LDF meeting I was told 'Bath is full'. – well sorry, Westfield is, too! On page 22 we read 'improvements to the strategic transport corridors could make locations more attractive for employment.' Well, yes, but how?

Residents feel strongly that there should be no more developments until there are substantial improvements to the A367 , the Fosseway. It may have been functional for the Roman legions who built it in AD43, to march slaves to the mines, and to keep the natives in order, but now it is too narrow and dangerous, especially outside bath College (Somer Valley Campus) There are not even continuous pavements at this point.

Turning top50, pathetically little space is given to the potential for rail apart from the main GWR line. So I would urge you to work towards bringing back the Radstock-Westbury-Frome line which would give all those who commute to London once or twice a week a way to get there without motoring to Bath first.

We read also 'more walking, cycling and public transport within urban areas ' will be provided. With the cuts to bus services in rural areas, I wonder how. We need a better deal for rural areas like ours. You will be hearing more from the mofussil and I urge all residents in the Somer Valley to respond to the consultation.