

Christine Boyd; Statement to council 10.11.16.

Thank you to all those Councillors who contacted me following the launch of Becoming A Ghost Town, the film that shows the shocking truth about Odd Down park and ride.

I particularly liked this quote from one of the respondents;

"I've been up to Odd Down P&R a few times this year and late last, in fact I always drive in when I'm passing. I've seen the same, vast empty areas of weed and occasionally litter strewn. Lansdown is similar, spindly planting flapping in the wind. There seems difficulty maintaining what we've currently got!. It would seem the expansion of the P&Rs under the last administration might have been a step too far."

I won't reveal which Councillor sent this (from their private email account), I will only say that I appreciate the honesty and hope the rest of you are brave enough to come out once the Abbey by election is over.

Meanwhile I take comfort from the fact that you have not attacked my efforts. That job was left to an unnamed council 'spokesman'. who also made the frankly ludicrous claim that Odd Down is well used throughout the year and the area in question is 'overspill'

We all know those claims are rubbish.

- Odd Down is for life, not just Christmas.
- There is no overflow area in Odd Down.
- All areas are open - all year around

Clearly the council spokesman had not read the April 2106 CH2M report on park and ride expansion, which describes Odd Down in these terms;

- The data for the Odd Down Park and Ride site shows that, post-expansion, the average parking utilisation of the site is 53%
- the spare utilisation with the latter usage is still very high (>500 spaces).
- Examination of the maximum occupancy figures show that this only exceeded the former capacity of 1,022 spaces on 12 days in the period considered. (Jan 15 to Jan 16)
- These all occurred in the Christmas period.
- The 230 spaces added to this site by BTP has therefore only been beneficial in the 'peak' Christmas period to-date, and has not served to promote traffic reduction in a typical weekday over that which could have been achieved pre- expansion

It stands to reason that 'well used' parking bays do not need to be strimmed for Christmas. But now the council has wasted even more of our money to cover their embarrassment.

I nipped up there today – lovely job! It now at least looks the part.



But scratch beneath the surface and oh dear there is no surface.



Just lovely turf that will be spouting flowers in the spring once again. Maybe this is a trail run for the greenest park and ride ever at Bathampton meadows?