

We are living in interesting times, worrying times. The lexicon is crowded with strange new phrases:

***Post-facts***

***Post-truth***

***Alternative facts***

***Different facts***

**Post-factual politics** frames debate in a way that disconnects it from FACTS. It reasserts ***talking points***, and factual rebuttals are ignored. **Post-truth** demotes truth to a rank of **secondary importance**. It doesn't matter that we lie. That's an unimportant detail in the argument.

If you are a habitually dishonest person alternative facts are **whatever you need them to be** at a given point. But the other seven billion people on the planet continue to use the former term [lies].

People are interested in this. Dictionary publishers report that lookups for the word "fact" spiked after the Trump staffers' interviews were aired.

In the 2015 P&R consultation, Council emphasised congestion and pollution. You preached to the converted on this, but even then 51% voted NO, because they knew that a "greenest ever P&R" is a contradiction in terms.

Meadows Campaigners worked tirelessly to discover FACTS, as the Council had been so derelict in this duty:

The FACTS reveal lack of success of P&R in general. The Facts demonstrate underuse of existing Bath P&Rs. The Facts reveal a Council that failed to ask whether this P&R would even be used.

Council now agree it won't improve congestion and pollution, and your own consultants say it will remove only 100 cars from the London Road morning rush hour by 2029.

So what does Council do – moves the goalposts, shifts the debate to enterprise and a regional transport policy, matters irrelevant to an east of Bath P&R. And still, at every opportunity, Council quotes inaccurate figures on usage levels of our existing P&Rs.

These are not NORMAL times, when DECEPTION is being normalised in every arena, including our local government, when **alt-facts** malignantly reach into every level of our society.

Credibility matters. A lack of credibility starts small and goes large.

Credibility is the **indelible ink of administrations**. We see you, hear you, your words are **permanently** recorded. You cannot take us for fools. We are voters, we are constituents.

My recently deceased father, Dan Brown, was a writer. Amongst other things, he wrote the speech President Kennedy never gave to the **Dallas Chamber of Commerce** (because he died en route). In that speech my father (through Jack Kennedy) says “it is our **DESTINY** rather than our **CHOICE**, as the holders of elected power, that we be **vigilant watchmen** on the walls of democracy, that we must be **worthy of our power**, and must use our **strength with wisdom**”

Councillors, don't resort to **Orwellian alt-facts**. Be wise, be vigilant watchmen.

Oh, and sack your graphics team – the amateurish CGI of the wooded meadows has made you a laughing stock.