

Statement to B&NES Cabinet 25th January 2017 by Cllr. Derek Redding, Batheaston Parish Council.

So, here we are...decision made...

You want to rip up a large part of Bathampton Meadows to concrete it over for nothing more than a...car park.

These are meadows in the middle of the green belt of our World Heritage City – a beautiful city in beautiful surroundings.

Why? There surely must be special and overriding reasons for this?

Of course there are. Bath's residents have spoken (in a survey) and therefore it MUST be built.

Ask a resident if they want to reduce congestion it is no surprise what their answer will be – mine is the same.

However, the congestion question has been thoroughly de-bunked ...and yet it MUST still be built.

No, now it's about the "future". We must plan for the long term, we must create jobs for our city to thrive. We must do deals to build mini-Trump Towers and attract "quality jobs".

The Council is both creating demand and simultaneously cutting supply – forcing at least some into P&Rs. I say "some"...it won't be the new "quality" workers...it'll be shoppers and day-trippers.

Bath's businesses support it. Of course they do. If P&Rs do anything it is clear they attract an element of NEW traffic...some useful additional shoppers no doubt. I wonder who will picking up at least some of the price tag?

I appeal to the cabinet, please can we have a large warehouse store or two instead? There's plenty of demand, local jobs and useful revenue. Would the council consider this alternative??? Serious question...No, I don't think even you would contemplate this...**so why is a car park acceptable development?**

On my travels I have made a point of visiting many P&Rs. Not one has been built on what anyone would describe as a highly visible beauty spot, far from it.

SO, in conclusion, you say you are planning for the long term...you are

not, you are looking purely to the short term; what could be longer term than securing the future of Bathampton meadows for future generations?

Whatever you think of the merits of P&Rs, the fact is there is NO suitable site for your large P&R in the east.

What a terrible legacy you will be leaving behind.