

The Future – 25 Jan 2017 Cabinet Meeting – Sian James

You started by selling P&R to Bath as removing congestion & pollution now – which we need NOW. Ben's corridor of death is not a joke – and you need to sort it now - not at some undefined point in the FUTURE.

You finally admit that P&R will NOT reduce pollution – so now you drop that banner and instead its 'all about the future'.

The future – which you have been so poor at predicting in the past. When you modelled the P&R expansion at Odd Down – you got that wrong. Built the expansion – but numbers didn't increase. What's different this time?

I've always been taught that the only thing guaranteed about a forecast is that it is guaranteed to be WRONG!

You are building forecasts with zero EVIDENCE to base them on, and ignoring future changes that are staring us in the face.

The world is changing at an ever increasing pace – 2029 (*and your 100 cars from the morning rush hour*) is 13 years away – just think of the changes that have happened in the last 13 years – they are mindboggling – and the changes in the next decade will be equally so I'm sure.

13 years ago there was no facebook, twitter, smartphones, electric cars – it was a completely different world in the way that we work, we interact, we shop.

What are going to be the next big changes?

- The car manufacturers think it will be in the way we drive: Electric cars, driverless cars – other cities are testing them NOW – what is BANES doing? You appear to be ignoring the future – assuming that life will carry on – as it did in the 1980's and..... building car parks.
- Climate Change means that exceptional floods will be more common. The Environment Agency is predicting that the number of Bath homes at risk of flooding will quadruple with Climate Change – we should be protecting our floodplains not damaging them.
- Buses - funding changes and franchising – Ben Howlett says that the Bus Bill will have huge impact on bus prices and therefore services. You will be killing the bus services from West Wilts to Bath before they have a chance to benefit.
- Retail – its already changing – its going online.
- Hospitals – centralising or decentralising? GP's & pharmacists, less trips to hospital? Change!

- New jobs in the EA – what will they be? where will they be? Jobs are being automated, jobs are not 9 to 5, remote working is accepted. Change!

You do not need an East P&R now (or in the future), you have no evidence that anyone will use it, you do not understand why people are in their cars – and by the time that you will have built it – the world will have changed again – and it won't be returned to fields will it.....

'VHS tapes in the age of Netflix' indeed.

Read the brilliant blog by Jim Morrison. He discusses the future in a much better way than I can ever do in 3 minutes.