

Chair, members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you this evening.

My successful farming and holiday business is under threat. After changes in agriculture, Brexit and the abolition of the Common Agricultural Policy we have been encouraged to diversify. We have done what has been asked of us and many people come to stay in our holiday cottages spending tens of thousands of pounds in the local economy every year.

A Park and Ride is completely incompatible with our holiday business. People do not want to go on holiday to a park and ride!

I have been denied any meeting with the council's agents to raise my many concerns about the car park's landscaping, noise, pollution, crime and other issues which would blight my business and destroy my livelihood.

The only thing we are met with is a wall of silence from council officers. Is it right that the future of my family farming business, involving generations of toil and investment, should be discussed here publicly tonight?

This park and ride won't, as our MP says, "Stop Bath stalling". If you vote "yes" tonight, by the council's own admission, you are voting for the same crawling traffic, congestion and pollution.

As the leader of the council rightly said to ITV news, "We need to take care of tomorrow and future proof". But what future is this? A future where the connection between city and countryside is lost? A future where car parking is valued more than food production? This is a strange use of the phrase 'future proofing'

The council talks about planning for the future yet this plan is backward looking – it's way back in the 1980s when park and rides were a fashionable solution to traffic problems.

At midday today, for example, there were over 2,000 spaces available in Bath's park and rides. They aren't the answer.

When personal car ownership is about to nosedive, Bath needs to embrace exciting developments of the future that can truly help a city to flourish.

I therefore urge you to reject these proposals and instruct council officers to find solutions to Bath's traffic issues that do not involve concreting over the countryside.

Thank you for your time