

Cabinet 6-Dec 2017 CATE Le Glice - Mirell

No one can deny the problems of extreme traffic congestion in the World Heritage City

Very poor air quality for residents and visitors
Serious delays on the bus network
Increasing challenges and conflicts for people accessing shops and services

Bath needs an access network that meets the needs of the City and its surrounding countryside.

A city that depends for its economy on a combination of heritage and history, tourism, education and high value business and so provides better alternatives and opportunities for all residents

Local residents who wish to walk, cycle or use buses to reduce congestion suffer from access that has been designed mainly for the car not for people

crossing points that favour the car,
badly planned and maintained routes, from pavement surfaces to cycling alternatives
poor reliability for buses due to congestion,
aggressive driving and parking all over pavements

A modern City of 110,000 + residents in the 21st century depends upon service vehicles and deliveries

But look at your own leaflet: highlighting the problems on the London road, and showing a local bus surrounded by cars and local service vehicles but few if any HGVs

There are thousands of private cars being used daily to access to schools and work.

You only have to look at Google's congestion maps to see when the congestion is: 7.45 – 9 am and 3.15 – 6pm daily, but not in the school holidays

There is a clear correlation between these numbers and poor air quality that needs to be tested by some independent origin and destination work

The old expectations of being able to allow people free access into the city in any vehicle, regardless of size or emissions are simply not deliverable today

We the rate payers are paying the price in our health and from our pockets.

A new approach is needed to managing this World Heritage City and its surroundings:

*Identify the essential access needs for people who make the City function

*Look at the ideal approach that delivers clean air and a vibrant, accessible and pleasant City and work your way towards it,

In the long run this will be much cheaper than pursuing the current “predict and provide” approach to congestion

*Provide efficient, total coverage public transport from the hinterland into the City

This will no doubt require priority access for some vehicles and restriction of others.

SO Make the case with government – don't just cave in when someone says you don't have the powers: stand by our needs as citizens. Show some leadership

And certainly don't waste our money doing the "feasibility" work for a Highways England bypass scheme that is planning to bring a supremely expensive N-S expressway through two AONBs, and sundry other designated landscapes, and which was turned down by a previous public enquiry in 1992.

The link between roads and wealth was well debunked in the late 1990s: don't fall for it again, and certainly not at the cost of us, the residents.

Recent research carried out by Transport for Quality of Life (TfQL) shows that new roads simply encourage new traffic, more congestion and more pollution.

In this context the idea of an E of Bath bypass bringing "economic benefits", that benefit ~~us~~ has to be questioned by you, our elected members.

What we need from councillors and officers is imagination, learning from other cities that have bitten the traffic bullet and turned their cities into places that people are pleased to live and work

Please, for our sakes, show some vision and leadership

Cate Le Grice-Mack
Bear Flat resident