

I would like to talk about plans to demolish Parkside Children's Center and replace it with 100 car parking spaces.

I have two key concerns, firstly that we are destroying a historically important community asset and secondly that we are replacing it with car parking spaces - bringing more pollution to an already congested area.

The center provides a huge range of children's health services and parental support and is a social hub for the area. It is proposed that it will move to space approximately half its current size on Charlotte Street.

In his Dec 2018 assessment Adrian Neilson, the council's own Conservation Officer objects saying "The building is a potential heritage asset and of local, community interest". "No demolition of the building shall commence until a detailed heritage assessment of it has been undertaken".

Historic England says "the building is of considerable local interest as a rare surviving example of a purpose-built structure for civilian use in wartime Bath." "Complete demolition of the structure is not supported by an appropriately robust heritage assessment"

Even Highways and traffic says in its consolation response "there appears to be limited justification for the provision of additional parking spaces at the charlotte street car park."

Secondly there is huge concern about the traffic and pollution this move will bring. The proposed area will be short-stay so the 100 spaces will generate a constant flow of traffic. The Charlotte Street Car Park already has capacity for 1056 cars making it the largest car park in central Bath.

And remember that the public consultation on Parkside happened during the clean air zone consultation. At the Parkside consultation I was assured that any extra pollution caused by the spaces would be mitigated by the clean air zone reducing the number of higher emission cars.

But we now no this is not the case as Bath has opted for a watered-down version of the proposed act. From 2020 we will have a class C clean air zone which will see charges for all higher emission vehicles, except cars, driving in the center of Bath.

With this in mind and the fact that Bath must reduce high levels of nitrogen dioxide in the city to within legal limits by 2021 more car parking spaces in its center seems illogical.

If the Parkside Children's Centre is going to be moved (if it has to be moved at all) why not build an electric bike share station in the vacated space, or use it as a food bank as requested by Tim Harris Chair of Bath Foodbank - who is desperately searching for a suitable distribution center? Can we not do something to decrease pollution and benefit our community?

I would like to ask the following questions:

Has a detailed the heritage assessment as requested by Adrian Neilson taken place?

Have another uses been considered for space if the children's center is to move?

Thank you for your time.