

11.7.19.

Mr. Grixoni
re. CAZ,

Why have I taken the trouble to come here today?

The main reason is I believe the people and businesses of Bath and North East Somerset deserve clarity over the CAZ and traffic management direction of the new Council.

They need to be held to account for the decisions they have or have not taken, might or maybe should take in the future. On behalf of those concerned locals, we would like some answers!

It is proposed to spend a £100,000 of Council tax payers money on a new study, and yet we have virtually nothing to work with or discuss. You asked that we appreciate you need time - as I might put it: to 'put your mark on it', and whilst we're appreciating that, the council coffers are surely depreciating for a little needed study.

You claimed that the previous administrations' plans were only a half-hearted attempt to solve the problem, and that you would introduce a wide range of measures, yet give little clue as to what they might be. Are you deriding the previous models that indicated compliance was possible by 2021 with a cat C CAZ? What are the terms of reference for the new study? How are the public going to be involved in it?

Your spokesman for 'Clean Air' Richard Samuel also stated that you will publish your proposals for Cabinet approval by late summer, and that you overall will definitely not be charging cars, despite previously saying the sensible proposals already agreed 'do not go far enough'. There has been a lot of people wondering what you meant by that, and they surely have a right to know. Might it be greater charges for all the other vehicles? This could adversely affect business – some large, but also many small. What on earth else could 'not going far enough' mean?

Surely it should be incumbent to include the people of Bath that have concerns and indeed fears over what you might propose. You claimed that you will 'work with local residents', and yet there has been nothing concrete to work with, and little interaction. This can hardly instil confidence, and I have met many folk that are wary of your intentions and are wanting greater transparency, plus a clear way forward that they can discuss and input to. What they do not want is a bunch of Liberal elites from the Meadows deciding what's best for them, not providing information in good time, then foisting something ill thought through and under-discussed on to the hard working people of BANES.

There are enough difficulties in the world that need clarity; surely with openness and discussion, followed by sensible and workable solutions such as that which we already had, we can stand a far better chance of getting what is best for the people of BANES. We should surely work together on this, as it should be above party politics and not risking the livelihoods and businesses that make Bath such a prosperous and sought after place for both business and living. There was a lot of hard work put in to get Bath to this point, so let's not damage it by over-extending ourselves. Let's have an open and constructive debate.

Can you take the trouble to be careful of ALL those you represent?