

Faye Dicker statement

Thank you for calling this special meeting.

My name is Faye Dicker. I'm the founder of the South Bristol Wrong Road Group, which represents thousands of frustrated residents, affected by the housing proposals in Whitchurch Village and the accompanying South Bristol Ring Road.

I was born and brought up in Whitchurch, Bristol. I now live in Whitchurch Village, BANES, where I am now bringing up my own young family. I know the area well.

The JSP proposals for the housing for Whitchurch Village and the accompanying ring road, came to my attention in November 2018, following a public meeting called by my local Cllr Paul May.

As a result of the meeting, I formed the South Bristol Wrong Road group and engaged with the community, local councilors and MPs, on these shortsighted plans. We are well supported.

We had a seat at the JSP hearings and were delighted with the inspectors report. However, we are very concerned that Whitchurch still remains an SDL site and that the proposed ring road, remains on the table.

Whitchurch Village can not take more housing. Just a short distance away on the Whitchurch/Hengrove boarder, there are already another 2000 houses being built. South Bristol – regardless of being in Bristol or BANES can not take any more.

My children attend Bridge Farm junior school, in Whitchurch, Bristol. I cycle them to school every day in our family cargo bike. This is a route I will be unable to use, if the plans for the South Bristol Ring Road go ahead. This is a backwards step at the time of a climate emergency.

The City of Bristol have fully accepted modern cycling and walking plans from South Bristol into the centre of the city. They are currently spending £1.9 m on the final link, which reduces the demand for a road from South Bristol to Keynsham. The South Bristol Wrong Road group has had several public and closed meetings with the Mayor Marvin Rees and his transport team.

Before Christmas we issued a joint statement. I would like to quote from the statement issued by ourselves and the Mayor's office:

It was appreciated that BANES are the lead authority for much of this work and the conversation highlighted that the Mayor of Bristol and Bristol City Council has only limited decision-making power over this regional, strategic infrastructure project. As a result, the Mayor and residents agreed to request further engagement from WECA and BANES.

The South Bristol Wrong Road Group are continuing to work together with the Mayor of Bristol to talk about the future of sustainable transport in the area.

We would like to have the same positive dialogue with BANES as well.

The majority of the proposed ring road route, passes through BANES and yet you haven't afforded us the same time and conversations as we have had with Bristol City Council.

Please talk to us. Please work with us. Please listen to us. Please make the right decisions for us and the next generation.

Thank you for listening.