

CLlr Winston Duguid address to cabinet on the future of Entry Hill golf club, 22/7/20

Thank you Dine. The site is in our ward.

I think the process has been very helpful; it has stimulated discussion and debate and particularly for the bikers, a lot of out of area support. Of the 3200 respondents, 2500 have never been to Entry Hill or have rarely been -that's 78%. **I am particularly interested in the 960 who live in South West Bath.**

I support the proposal before you to go out to tender as ASAP and reach a decision based on the four criteria mentioned.

I share concerns of locals, who are now very keen to reduce traffic on Entry Hill that both the mountain bike option and that of the Sculpture wild life park are full blown visitor centres and to be successful, will create substantial extra footfall and considerably more car and even coach traffic. . Their scale on this site will be a radical transformation on what is there at present. **There are other better and more suitable sites in Banes for both, if it is still the desire of cabinet to extend the visitor economy into new areas.**

However neither do I see the existing rather sad run down golf operation, starved in the last six years of investment and marketing, and using outdated and harmful fertilisers and pesticides, being able to offer the community what it wants going forward.

Instead I am impressed by the new dialogue of those seeking a park with a café with local events, a forest school, an outdoor education and some sort of sports activity who are **talking** with those that want a reinvigorated golf offering aimed at a younger demographic, using sustainable grass species that both bring down course maintenance and will give an enhanced grassland and woodland biodiversity net gain.

It looks a robust proposal and I commend the newly formed Entry Hill residents association in bringing together these parties and forming a powerful coalition of local support.

Couple that prospect with a cycle and pedestrian path on the southern end of the site that links Hawthorn Grove to Wellsway, then we have an easier route for local residents to get to and from buses and a safer cycling route for

students at Ralph Allen and the University of Bath ,as well as cycling commuters. **Some have christened this Scholars ‘Way.**

This would be a win win for the site. **But there is a prospect of another win win.** I also believe it is feasible to consider a smaller mountain bike experience on the Odd down sports ground in the woodland area that the council owns. **I am not pretending that It would be Longleat in scale or black runs ,** but it would offer a future of a three in one experience of mountain biking with the existing facilities of road biking and BMX. Combine that with a cycle lane down Bloomfield Road and a pedestrian crossing across Wellsway and we create a safe passage for cyclists from the twin tunnels going up to the University of Bath at relatively low cost. **Now we are talking joined up thinking—pedestrian and cycling routes linking to a cycling centre of excellence at Odd Down, a mouth watering prospect worthy of a Lib Dem manifesto!**

