

## **Approach Golf course February 2021**

I am Sally Parkes and I live adjacent to and have access to the Golf Course. I represent Sion Hill & Summerhill Road RA.

Nearly all of our members use the Golf Course to walk to and from the city. Hundreds of people a day, of all ages walk, exercise, jog, walk dogs, play golf, and generally enjoy the park setting, in harmony. It gives a sense of freedom, being in the fresh air and relieves mental stress. It also alleviates the use of cars. It is the lung of the city, accessible by all.

Freedom of pedestrian access contributes to the CleanAir Zone and Lowers traffic.

Golf has become more popular during the pandemic, and Clubs report that memberships are over subscribed, where better than an affordable place for young people to begin and carry on their golf. People have come from all over Bath and beyond to use the golf facility.

We want to be able to walk on our Common, to roam freely.

We do not want to see gates, nets or fences, or blobs of concrete on which to erect disc goals. The local feeling to keep the status quo has been strongly demonstrated.

There is also a very successful petition to Save the Approach Golf Course on [change.org](https://www.change.org), which has thousands of signatures.

We want the Council to defer their decision to change anything on the Approach Golf course until market forces normalise and we are out of pandemic measures.

A deferment would allow the opportunity to obtain more than one tender. It would also allow for the Public Consultation we have NOT had.

It would then show that the Council can be open, honest and fair in their dealings. There has been a lack of transparency in keeping us informed about the bids. How can a decision be made when information is withheld ?

At the last Cabinet meeting we were told there would be no change of use. We hear that disc golf is to be introduced. We see no resemblance to golf - no holes, no flags, no clubs, no balls. Golf does not destroy the present environment. This is a change of use of this space as we know it.

We have just heard that now one of the options to the Cabinet is not to proceed to the preferred bidder process. We urge the Cabinet to listen to our local Ward Councillors Lucy Hodge and Mark Elliott, and to also hear the Bath residents' wishes.

This UNESCO city is known for its buildings nestled amongst green spaces. At the very least we would wish this space to be maintained as a park.

Regards

Sally Parkes.