

I, Robert Sumner, make the following representations in my capacity as a local resident of the area (I live on Park Street) with a direct view onto the High Common / Approach Golf Course. I am also treasurer of The Cavendish Road Society and a local art gallery in Margaret's Buildings.

My own house overlooks the Approach Golf Course/High Common and my three children, myself and my wife make extensive use of this beautiful and natural space for relaxation as well as the golf course. My children are able to connect with nature and the space is an incredibly important part of our wellbeing.

I also urge the Cabinet to reject the only bid which has been made for the Approach Golf Course and to pause the whole process of finding a solution / operator for the Course, at least until the pandemic has come to an end and we can return to normal life and in full and transparent consultation with those individuals whose lives it directly affects. As a local businessman with an art gallery in Margaret's Buildings I am also aware of the abundance of local passion for the High Common and recent discussions with individuals and locals concerning its future have always come to the same conclusion; to leave this beautiful space alone.

I am worried at the Council's plan to change the character of the Approach Golf Course and strongly object to proposals for change. In 1830 the Grade I listed Royal Victoria Park was laid out as a "Landscape Garden" in the tradition of Capability Brown and Repton with appropriate tree planting and Garden Buildings, which included the Band Stand, the Gothic Farm House, the Victoria Monument and the many garden ornaments, some of which were added later.

The High Common (i.e. the "Approach Golf Course") was clearly part of this scheme as can be witnessed by the lay out and tree planting, by the opposing gates of the Golf course and The Park and indeed plans. It is particularly important as it incorporates the Landscape Garden Tradition in an urban setting for the enjoyment of the local people of Bath, bringing into reality the concept of *Rus in Urbe*.

The Royal Victoria Park and the Golf Course are within the Bath World Heritage Site. In the light of this the original historic landscape design of what is now the Golf Course needs to be kept in place undisturbed and its importance as an integral part of the Royal Victoria Park recognised and protected.

