

**STATEMENT TO CABINET MEETING 23RD JUNE 2021 RE LIVEABLE
NEIGHBOURHOODS**

BY LYNDA LLOYD

During the pandemic we have heard the term bubbles a lot in relation to how we mix with others. Whilst this was a welcome strategy for many, enabling people access to loved ones it was temporary restrictive measure to cope with a desperate situation. People want to live in freedom, go where they want and mix with people they want.

I am concerned the creation of Liveable Neighbourhoods seems to be on a Bubble principle. Here we are in our cosy neighbourhood, with only our own vehicles imposing on our streets and we will live happily ever after.

BUT..that's not how the real world lives. Outsiders need and want to enter these artificially created bubbles..to work/visit friends/attend church/the doctors/dentists/museums and shops and by restricting access it makes life difficult for outsiders who have legitimate and legal reasons to visit an area. So, the impact is far wider than the immediate community who live within a proposed Liveable Neighbourhood.

Chelsea road is before you tonight to be approved to go to the next stage and this is a good example of an area that has a wide range of users from outside the immediate area.

How does the council propose to consult that set of people, who bring valued and vital trade into that area? I am fearful of the ways the council will consult people as the ability of the council to engage its population in sufficient numbers in recent consultations is woeful.

The figures of levels of engagement in 3 major consultations are between 500 and 2375 .

As Bath's population is 80,00 and Banes 192,000 these numbers are extremely low and the problem is exacerbated when looking at the numbers of disabled people who responded, around 4.5%, when the figure for residents with long term health problems or disability is 16% and who are disproportionately impacted by a LN scheme .

Jacobs document on Liveable Neighbourhoods stresses the importance of engagement with "harder to reach" groups ...older people, unemployed people, families with young children, those with disabilities and those for whom English is not their first language. Even so, I have so far failed to find reference to consultation with those OUTSIDE a proposed Liveable Neighbourhood.

Residents have consultation fatigue from the number of consultations over the last 9 months. Its not good enough to assume that if people are interested they will engage..they need to know what is going on!

Perhaps we can learn from Charles Booth who surveyed EVERY household in London to find out the levels of poverty. Even in 1889 the population of London was greater than the entire population of Banes so properly surveying people MUST be possible, given sufficient will. Cost is a factor but, the cost of removing such infrastructure is huge.

Please consider a mailshot to all addresses as was done advising of the start of the Clean Air Zone to ensure people are informed directly rather than expecting residents to read the Banes website or the local paper.

The Local authority has a clear responsibility to ensure the information is brought TO the public rather than expecting them to fetch it themselves.