

A statement to full Council from Radstock Action Group 14.07.11

Earlier this year, we heard BANES Councillors issue all sorts of veiled threats to the future of Bath if the Bath Transport Package was not adopted in full. Today we are witnessing the amendment of this package to remove its most contentious elements.

Meanwhile, a parallel situation is continuing without change in Radstock. Radstock Action Group suggests that if cancellation is good enough for Bath, it's good enough for Radstock.

At present most through traffic by-passes the centre of Radstock, but the new scheme would bring the traffic through the major shopping area of the town centre.

The result will be the destruction of our town centre, increased threat to the health and safety of those using Radstock Town Centre, the end of the current retail offer.

1. Air pollution levels which are already very high owing to the fact that Radstock is in a dip, would increase.
2. Through traffic would include 40+ tonne articulated trucks, coaches and buses, and, of course cars.
3. Anyone travelling from Bath to Wells would be brought to a standstill as traffic tries to negotiate roundabouts and traffic lights, it wouldn't just be Radstock people who suffer.
4. A few years ago, one of our supporters did a traffic survey of her own and recorded 500 vehicles per hour during peak periods – all this would come through our historic town centre.
5. In 2009, BANES undertook a full traffic survey, the results of which have never been published. David Trigwell, BANES Divisional Director of Planning & Transport Development tells us that there are insufficient staff to do the analysis but there are unsubstantiated rumours that it has proved impossible to plot the data onto the model which is at the base of the new proposed road.
6. No-one has yet been able to answer the questions, 'What are the benefits of this for the people of Radstock?', 'Where is the business case for this road?'
7. The Norton Radstock Regeneration Company, the agency charged with overseeing and channeling funds for these proposals, is, we suggest not a fit organization to do so. After

taking receipt of in excess of £8m over its lifetime of ten years, there is little to show for the money. For some time, it has had only a mobile phone and a Post Office Box Number for contact and this week we have been told that they cannot afford to have a website.

8. On Monday night, the latest building developer to be taken on publicly announced that the housing scheme, which it is claimed needs the road, is not viable owing to lack of funds, and yet, the road is going ahead.
9. Local people have a better solution to the matter, sort out the double roundabout, move the electricity sub-station and straighten out the kink in the current road – this would avoid all the troubles of the current proposals.

We urge you to take immediate steps to save our historic town. This means, in the first instance, stopping the road proposals.

Amanda Leon
Radstock Action Group