

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Planning, Transport and Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Meeting to be held in The Guildhall on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 2.00pm

Agenda Item No 6

Statement from a member of the public

Bath Transport Package – Agenda Item No 7

Madam Chairman, Councillors.

My name is John Weston and I live at Old Newbridge Hill Bath and have done so for nearly 50 years.

I am one of a group of residents known as 'Newbridge Matters' which was set up to look after the interests of Newbridge residents and visitors to the area, working with our Ward Councillors.

We very much appreciate the work that has been carried out by our Ward Councillors, Councillor Caroline Roberts and Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst and, the efforts they have made on our behalf to establish the site of the proposed 250 space Car Park in Newbridge, which we understand will form part of the revised Bath Transport Package.

So far we do not know where the site will be located but we assume that the Council must have a site in mind, if they are to submit details of the revised 'Package' including the Newbridge Car Park, to the Department for Transport by 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

We are being approached by Newbridge residents and those interested in Newbridge, on an almost hourly basis, seeking information on the proposed site and, we respectfully request this Committee to advise us of this information or, to advise the Council of our concerns and for us to be advised accordingly, so adhering to the promise of consultation.

All Councillors including Councillors Caroline and Loraine are well acquainted with our concerns regarding the Car Park site proposed in the original 'Package' close to adjoining private properties, including those of pollution,

flooding, noise, potential for undesirables gaining easy access to and egress from private properties, disturbance to wildlife and the curtailment of recreational activities carried out on the Newbridge Meadows Village Green.

This site, being scheduled as a Nature Conservation Area, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and being within the Green Belt, must be retained for the scheduled purposes.

The construction of any Car Park on any part of this site would be much more expensive than on virgin land, due to the nature of the ground, it being heavily contaminated due to its early life as a refuse disposal site and, the many special construction methods that would need to be adopted and maintained, in order to protect the adjoining Nature Conservation Area.

After taking all these matters into consideration, we sincerely hope that the Council will arrange for a site which takes account of our concerns and, we look forward to being informed of its location as soon as possible.

#### Green Spaces Strategy Update – Agenda Item No 8

We note that the Green Spaces Strategy is to be reviewed and we request that the Newbridge Meadows Village Green be specifically included within the review, so as to ensure the permanent provision of recreational open space for the residents of and visitors to Newbridge.

Madam Chairman and Councillors, thank you for allowing me to address you.

John Weston

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20<sup>th</sup> July 2011

