

Paul May

Speech to special Cabinet meeting 31st March 2022

Chair,

I wish to record my full support for this special cabinet meeting to discuss an approach to the yet to be released SDS by WECA.

Previously my area of Whitchurch Village was inappropriately chosen as a strategic development area together with a major road from South Bristol through to the A4 at Keynsham.

Quite clearly this was to take housing needs of Bristol rather than Banes and this is an unsustainable location for further development as the village has already been increased by 50% due to the core strategy.

Despite local anger at these proposals Banes consulted at every stage and I find it appalling that now the strategic function has been transferred to WECA they still blatantly refuse to consult as they prepare their plans and I note the plans proposed before Christmas are still not available for comment today.

The South Bristol Wrong Road Group were set up as a direct result of Bristol failing to consult with their residents about the road.

JLTP4 retained the road as a transportation corridor which does not show a positive cost benefit for a vastly expensive construction through a vital area of green belt.

WECA refuse to provide any information re their alleged green belt review linked to the SDS.

I have been told that both Mayors want the road reinstated despite Banes and the Government stopping funding for "new" roads. Why not remove the route NOW!

Banes must demand that the SDS should only be progressed when JLTP5 is prepared. I argue that the cabinet should take a harder line than your recommendation unless the proposed addendum removes the corridor.

In addition strategic development in Whitchurch Village cannot be justified on the back of demand management.

Indeed as an ordinary councillor I still have no idea what is going to be in the SDS....Why? The 92000 houses quotes in the report has no context nor justification? What is proposed?

Banes must defend its own communities from inappropriate City of Bristol overspill development.

Our LPPU after approval protects Banes for 5 years re housing development so WECA must be responsible or we stop the SDS.

The horseworld developments had 40% affordable housing and it has attracted many families from Bristol so Banes need affordable housing for its own residents NOT on the edge of Bristol.

At every stage Banes have worked with me and my community and we have appreciated that so please take a hard line in protecting Whitchurch Village and Keynsham to keep the Banes separation from Bristol.

Its easy for planners sat in Bristol to draw lines on maps but the consequences need politicians to judge the consequences for communities. Please!