

Statement to Council re Entry Hill golf course – 21 February 2023

Bath and North East Somerset Council announced on 1 December 2022 that it would not be submitting a planning application for the **former landfill site** at Entry Hill. Councillor Mark Roper, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Regeneration and Growth cited rising costs and difficulties in obtaining external funding as the reason for the project not going ahead.

In a recent statement on Twitter, Councillor Alison Born, Ward Councillor for Widcombe and Lyncombe stated that:

I've always been clear that I thought the Pedal Progression bike park would have been great for local families. I'm really sad that it won't be going ahead

Councillor Born appears not to have read the Phase II Contamination Report published in December 2022 that was commissioned by the Council prior to submitting a planning application for the Entry Hill golf course site. This report states unequivocally that:

No evidence of an engineered or membrane capping system was observed over landfill soils in **any** of the 50-60 Number exploratory positions.

Integrale, the company employed to undertake the report, then goes on to observe:

...that it is likely there will be some increase in the risk to human health from the proposed end-use due to the increased potential for the disturbance of landfill soils compared with either the previous golfing end-use or the current limited recreational usage, e.g. dog walking.

It is clear from the report that Integrale believe that trail degradation should be kept to a minimum (highly unlikely for a mountain bike park) in order to prevent landfill soils from being exposed and thereby liberating airborne dust/soil particulates from those materials.

Finally, and perhaps even more importantly, given the absence of any formal capping system or widespread hardcore "the site has received rainfall for at least 40-50 years spanning the operational period and intervening period since the landfill closure, therefore significant infiltration into the waste material is likely to have taken place. It is unclear if there has been or continues to be any detrimental impact to the aquifer and/or surface water and springs." There has currently never been any testing of the Lyn Brook that runs under the site and out into Widcombe; the scope of the report was purely soil contamination.

The results of the soil testing prove that the following materials – **lead, PAHs, boron, copper and zinc** are all at concentrations that could pose a risk to human health. Also, the WRAS (Water Regulations Approval Scheme) Contaminant Threshold Concentrations are exceeded in most of the Topsoil and Made Ground.

In view of the above, does Councillor Born still think that a mountain bike park is the best use for this site? Especially bearing in mind, as stated in the report, the most likely potential receptors to contamination are:

Immediately adjacent residents – **critical receptor female child**.

For a local Ward Councillor she does seem to be particularly unconcerned about the health of those residents living closest to the site and indeed potential end-users who are also potentially at risk of being exposed to contamination. Does the Council intend to test the water in the Lyn Brook for contaminants?