

"The importance of Liveable Neighbourhoods to communities within our heritage environment".

Good morning,

to some of us the rationale for Liveable Neighbourhoods (LNs) was never about mere traffic interventions.

For those who viewed the earliest implementations of LNs in our city as, to quote a phrase, "low hanging fruit" were wrong then and would remain wrong if we don't press a 're-set button' and grasp a larger vision. That vision should be to pursue those Liveable Neighbourhoods, where champions already exist a Liveable Neighbourhood which will deliver real value not just to a particular local neighbourhood but to our Bath city-wide community as a whole.

A new Administration of any political persuasion, pressing the 're-set button', should not lack ambition but come out 'swinging'!

The media and other propagandists are guilty of creating narratives that divide communities instead of bringing them together.

That errors may have been made in early LN implementations is less important than the fact that key councillors and appropriate officers have listened and are now actively adjusting some of the introduced measures accordingly.

[No one has a monopoly on wisdom.....and certainly not myself, but now it's vitally important that meaningful LNs are implemented, on a phased basis if that is more appropriate and cost effective,LNs that will prove the case and deliver that real value!]

A meaningful LN should deliver not just necessary and desirable traffic interventions but improve and underpin as many aspects as possible of the public realm in which they are introduced encouraging and enhancing the health and general condition of that local community as well as, in the case of key heritage areas in our city, its visitor and tourist economy.

LNs, introduced and targeted with real vision and imagination, could significantly assist key heritage zones such as my own CARA catchment area in creating better management of the fast increasing pedestrian tourist/visitor footfall that we are certainly experiencing. This, in addition to improving the overall environmental condition for local residents and businesses. This is where the REAL added value lies of introducing in any next phase a meaningful Liveable Neighbourhood.

'Over-tourism' is already becoming manifest in some of our key heritage areas.

The difficulties, fast increasing for many Bath heritage areas such as our own, which are vitally important to our overall city economy, now require imaginative intervention and significantly improved resolution of the current toxic mix of vastly increased local and visitor footfall and the continued and dangerous culture of motor vehicle rat-running.

Let's use a sensitively introduced but meaningful LN to pro-actively, not just enhance and support work undertaken by a local community to improve its own public realm, but to forward-think and better manage the important attributes of a key and valuable heritage areavaluable by its nature to our entire city and its economy as a whole.

A relatively low-cost, and if necessary from a financial point of view, phased but sensitively introduced Liveable Neighbourhood could easily over-shadow any 'hiccups' experienced in earlier implementations and become an exemplar for other areas of Bath and indeed for other cities.

Let's remember, success is judged by results not intentions.

Malcolm Baldwin.

Circus Area Residents Association.