

BaNES Cabinet Meeting Thursday 9th November 6:30pm Bath Guildhall

Good evening, I am here on behalf of Farrington Gurney Parish Council and all who object to Somer Valley Enterprise Zone or SVEZ.

1. Currently there are almost **600 objections** and importantly objections from Farrington Gurney, Ston Easton & Clapton Parish Councils and Midsomer Norton Town Council. Paulton Parish Council in whose ward the plans reside object specifically to the proposed LDO.
2. The SVEZ is being sold as an “employment led enterprise zone” but **where is the demand for employment**?

*In North East Somerset, there were fewer than 1,000 people claiming job seekers allowance in August which is only 1.7% of the working population. The equivalent UK rate was 3.7%.

3. Having spoken to senior people in tech businesses, they confirmed **Bristol is the main tech hub** and while it is great to see growth for tech in Bath, tech will not relocate to a site like the SVEZ.

Tech businesses have relocated **from** the area into Bath -- and that is not because of a lack of space, it is due to **accessibility**. The SVEZ doesn't offer the social or transportation facilities that tech employees expect.

4. Even TODAY, the **infrastructure** cannot cope with the current high volume of traffic let alone significantly increasing it.
5. The **travel plans** make false assumptions of people in our area. We **have** to drive to any medical appointment, to the gym, school, nursery, shops, the post office/bank. Expecting over 300 people per day will **WALK** to the site is just wrong.
6. There are many **environmental concerns**. The report predicts a
 - a. a **25%** net **loss** of Biodiversity,
 - b. removal of a small woodland,
 - c. the loss of 7 individual mature trees,
 - d. 3 full hedgerows at least 75 years in age
 - e. and a further 13 hedgerows with sections of up to 88% planned to be removed.

Why are you planning to destroy **PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND** to build this industrial estate? There are brownfield sites in the area that could be developed. Why isn't Wansdyke business centre being investigated further?

Ancient fields, hedgerows, woods and trees which are non-designated heritage sites are as important a part of our history as the Royal Crescent is to you in Bath. Imagine if an Enterprise Zone was planned for the green area in front of the Crescent.