

It is tempting to say, 'here we are again', waiting for a bus which may or may not turn up, whatever the live time board says at the bus stop (if you are lucky enough to be at a proper stop, with a shelter and a bench to meditate on, with a promise of a better future to come when everything had gone green.

I speak metaphorically, of course, because I have made the argument again and again for a budget provision for better public transport, but it is not just the 'little old ladies' who are being excluded by what is proposed. It is also the children and young people, who have no vote, no youth parliament any more, may be living in unsuitable, overcrowded homes and – believe it or not, very little access to social media. Indeed from my experiences in the last few weeks, I fear we are creating two different societies. Not the haves and the have nots, but the internet connected and those who for one reason or another cannot or will not use websites

Whether one can summon up smoke and mirrors on Amazon or not, this budget is full of disconnects and logical flaws, but the main problem, as both Cllr Moss and Cllr Hardman have pointed out, is the failure to base decisions on up to date data and surveys of residents. The disconnect includes a democratic deficit which the attempts to call in and dispute the Liveable Neighbourhood orders amply demonstrates. Surely petitions against particular schemes with thousands of signatures, or even our save the rural bus services petitions with hundreds of names, should be shown more respect. And if there is one thing which canvassing in five B&NES elections successfully has taught me, it is that our residents want a better deal for young people

To push back on 3S groups to pick up the slack with their charitable work, and yet cut the grants and contracts to them is like Pharoah requiring the children of Israel to make bricks without straw for his monuments. As I said before,

Do your homework, properly, administration, use your imagination, write clearly and legibly and don't blame others for a C+