

Presentation to BathNES Council, 25 Feb 2025.

'Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to address Council.

My name is Alasdair Barron, and I'm speaking as a Bathwick Estate resident.

My comments concern the Sydney Place LTN and LTNs more widely.

It is hard to understand why this LTN was built out in final form, before the start of the trial. Why was it not trialled with temporary planters – which would have been low cost, easy to install and easy to remove. Surely, in a genuine trial this would have been the norm? Your action seems to presuppose that the trial would be made permanent, otherwise why would you spend £306,000 before the trial started?

The displacement of 4,000 traffic movements a day onto the A36 is significant. So surely the concerns of Bathwick Estate residents who live adjacent to it, should have been a priority?

Another hard thing to swallow is that the LTN benefits a small number of residents when many more object. To me this is simply favouritism.

The Council's own press announcement just before making it permanent, recognised that only 24% of respondents to the public consultation survey supported it, demonstrating its unpopularity.

Regarding trialling: the A36 has been closed at Limpley Stoke for long periods. That means traffic flows are not representative and so making decisions based on them must be unreliable.

When multiple communities and interest groups are involved, a Single Member Decision is not appropriate. Surely the whole Council, with Councillors representing many different groups, would want to consider those many interests and to make that decision as a whole Council?

More widely, the LTN issue is extremely divisive and will continue to be so – just look at the multiple opposition groups across Bath who oppose or feel under represented in the decision making process.

One reason for that is that the Council's power is massive compared to that of busy individuals. It's simply unrealistic to expect individuals to read numerous documents, but why even bother when there's a widespread feeling that nothing will alter the Council's mind!

My plea to every Councillor is to get engaged, because the injustices built into the system won't go away and need urgent resolution.

Thank you. I'd be happy to answer any questions.'

25/2/25 Alasdair Barron