

Presentation to BANES Council, 25th February 2025 – Jon Avent

Chair, I'm grateful for the opportunity to address Council members

I am Jon Avent, I am speaking as a Bathwick resident and a Bath business owner.

My comments concern LTNs across Bath but most specifically the Sydney Place LTN.

I've lived in Bath over 60 years, born here, went to school here, worked here, run my own business here and work on historic buildings across the uk and beyond. Despite all the wonderful cities I visit I've chosen Bath.... and specifically Bathwick to me, the most Liveable of Neighbourhoods imaginable.

Sydney Gardens opened in 1795 to provide an open space for amusements and relaxation for the residents of Bath..... the most beautiful place to walk, preambles...relax... all the things BANES believe didn't exist and will come from closing Sydney Place.

But all that has changed by the actions of this council.... Trying to solve a problem that didn't exist.

The mythical rat run..... creating dangerous roads....
Not true.... A FOI request showed no recorded accidents on the road..... why would BANES lie about this?

In fact the road where the traffic is displaced to, Beckford Road and Bathwick street did have recorded accidents.....

So BANES solution to safety?..... close the safer road.

BANES claimed they would consult local residents on the trial closure.

So I asked BANES what was the criteria on which a decision will be made? ...
SILENCE.

Never mind.... We have local ward councilors who will surely listen to residents.

Cllr Rigby... SILENCE.. NO RESPONSE and No engagement.

Monitoring data from the trial.... That would be useful to look at and form an opinion on what the trial revealed..... BANES refused to release the data, saying the trial was 'continuing' and the data hadn't been analyzed yet.... The

data was eventually released.... But only after the single member decision had been made.

The closure means I travel with other vehicles heading to the north of the city when I want to go south adding congestion..... or alternatively I now take the real 'rat runs' that BANES have created.

The extra traffic congestion around the Beckford Road and Bathwick street junction is causing impatient delayed drivers to jump the red lights. I witness this regularly. Such dangerous behavior occurring at the entrance to Sydney Gardens.... the Liveable oasis that was always there but is now more dangerous to access as a result of this scheme.

The majority of local residents are against the New Sydney Place Liveable neighborhood scheme and that is well documented.

I visited our MP Wera Hobhouse to express my views and objections to the New Sydney Place LTN and was reassured by her support. I commend her willingness to engage and discuss. Unfortunately she also informed me that the council would not engage with her.

We have an MP that listens but a council that does not.

The Nolan Principles require councils to adhere to standards of.....

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

We all reasonably expect councils to support their local residents and to take heed of expressed views..... that is democracy.

We expect councils to fix things that are broken.... not break things that are working perfectly well.

Bathwick used to be the most beautiful Liveable neighborhood..... until this council stopped listening to the people who live there.