

Clive Humphries statement

Having students in Bath is beneficial as they bring youth, vitality and income to the city. Therefore making Bath a more diverse and welcoming City to live in which is healthy for all.

However each time a house is converted to a HMO it reduces the housing stock that is available for people, families to buy or rent in Bath. This then pushes up the cost of buying or renting houses so pushing people out of Bath. This will increase housing demands in BANES, and will increase travelling to and from Bath, so increasing the vehicle volumes therefore extra pollution and parking needs.

The key reason why houses are converted is to generate income for the landlord as it is easy money with very little issues once the HMO is in place together with the council having virtually no powers to intervene with issues that may be caused. The landlords in my immediate area do not look after their gardens, they are just left to become over grown. An HMO rule states the gardens should be tidy well they are not!!

Parking in residential areas become challenging just within 100yards of where I live there are 11 students so when they and their friends or family visit parking can become a bun fight. Parking on the pavement is normal.

From figures I have obtained there are 2600 student HMO's in Bath and non of these pay council tax and nor does the landlord. So the council loses income of around £5.2M of revenue. This loss of revenue must increase the amount the rate payers in Bath pay and restrict the council on projects for the City.

The universities are in financial debt and are increasing student numbers to resolve this, however students need somewhere to live!

Students take over local supermarkets and coffee shops which push out the resident and tourists.

Bath is a world heritage site and we need to look after it!

Action is required:-

- No more HMO's in Bath!
- All HMO's to be licenced regardless of the student numbers living there.
- Each HMO to have a holding bond that the council can access.
- Charge the landlords an annual fee which is capped so the extra cost cannot be passed onto the students.
- Stop universities from building any more student accommodation in Bath unless its on there own campus.
- Have our MP put a private members bill into parliament to have these powers granted.
- So action is required to be seen to be done, as I don't wish to be deafened by silence or inactivity because its difficult for the council.