

M Baldwin - STATEMENT TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY  
PANEL: 23rd February 2026.

Good morning,

politics can too often be littered with broken promises.

Quotation: "We will continue to work with residents on designing and delivering meaningful improvements, such as [to] rat-running and speeding, through our Liveable Neighbourhood programme." ( B&NES Liberal Democrat Election Manifesto - May 2023 ).

So voters responded with an overwhelming majority for a political ethos in which the concept of the introduction of LNs into our city was entirely implicit and proved to be part of a thorough and ongoing consultation process. [Well endorsable within the context of the Gunning Principles].

Two definitions:

A referendum: is a general vote by the electorate on a single question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.

A consultation: is defined and should be understood as being the act of exchanging information and opinions about a subject, in order to reach a better understanding of it ..... to assist in making a decision about it.

Anyone, including Independent councillors and others, who initiated this call-in and who may have thought this whole process was a referendum, perhaps have not been paying attention.

I do not believe that there are any robust quantifiable issues to substantiate rejection of the Lower Lansdown and Circus Area traffic management interventions. Taken together, they reflect a key element of B&NES's LN policy to keep unnecessary through traffic off minor residential streets and also enhance dramatically our local environments in so many other ways.

In particular, the Gay Street and Catharine Place interventions provide the unique opportunity to link an important heritage and tourist area of our city with the originally implemented liveable neighbourhood of the Royal Crescent, together with the parkland areas which surround both its and our own catchment areas.

Thus we create a benign, much safer and significant green swathe combining and enhancing some of our city's most important heritage features, represented by a seldom recognised very mixed residential demographic.

Members of the panel, as I have said, politics can all too often be littered with broken promises, but today this need not be the case.

Manifesto commitments should not be mere fictional devices. Let's support the immense effort and work undertaken by officers and also those two Cabinet members who have correctly made this LN decision one of permanency.

I urge you to completely reject this call-in and fully support the permanency of the Lower Lansdown and Circus Area Liveable Neighbourhood.

Thank you.

Malcolm Baldwin.

Chair - Circus Area Residents Association (CARA).