



# MEADOWS NEWSLETTER

October 1, 2016

Hello,  
Fantastic turnout for the protest outside the Guildhall on 15<sup>th</sup> September followed by some excellent speeches by Fiona, Sian, Judy, Tim, Susanne, Annie, Christine, Andrew and Cllr Alison Millar. If you want to hear the speeches they are on the council website.

[https://bathnes.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/230605](https://bathnes.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/230605)



DOWN WITH THE  
PARK & RIDE  
UP WITH THE  
COUNTRYSIDE

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## BATH CHRONICLE

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/bathampton-meadows-park-and-ride-protesters-voice-their-opposition-at-council-meeting/story-29729284-detail/story.html>

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/east-of-bath-park-and-ride-opponents-to-protest-outside-guildhall-before-full-council-meeting/story-29718406-detail/story.html>

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## BATH GREEN DRINKS

A goodly number of people from Bath Green Drinks joined Meadows campaigners for a walk through sunshine and showers up Solsbury Hill last Sunday to admire the view of the meadows. They then walked along the increasingly busy Meadows path for a revitalizing lunch with a few bevies at Bathampton Mill. Good way to spend a Sunday afternoon ☺

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## INTERESTING ARTICLES IN THE GUARDIAN

Will car drivers ever learn to share the road with bikes?

[https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/sep/28/will-car-drivers-ever-learn-to-share-the-road-with-bikes?CMP=share\\_btn\\_link](https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/sep/28/will-car-drivers-ever-learn-to-share-the-road-with-bikes?CMP=share_btn_link)

Our roads are choked: We're on the verge of Carmageddon

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/20/roads-car-use-health-driving?CMP=share\\_btn\\_link](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/20/roads-car-use-health-driving?CMP=share_btn_link)

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## PLACEMAKING PLAN HEARING

*Last week, Caroline Kay of the Bath Preservation Trust, aided by Andrew and Annie and armed with a report pulled together by Christine, presented on our behalf at the hearing on infrastructure held by the national planning inspector, who was in town to review the place making plan. The National Trust were also there and spoke out strongly against the park and ride plans.*

*Let's not forget that the transport strategy promised that it would identify a site in the place making plan, but didn't bother and seems to prefer heading straight to planning...*

*The hearing gave us the chance to put across the arguments as to why the council's park and ride plans are flawed and that there has been no need proven to date. The*

case.

*The inspector is now away to write her report - expected in the next few months. Two of the speakers at full council pointed out to councillors that it would be wrong indeed to move forward to planning until her report is in as she can ask them to amend or alter the way the place making plan is worded. The Council need the place making plan in place to justify their plans. We must continue to make noise about them not moving forward until the report is back...*

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## SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU CHUCKLE

### **BATH FOR CONSUMPTION' [BFC] By C.Nield de Crespo**

The Setting:- Deep inside a B&NES Council 'Think Tank'.

The Players:- Two of the Council's brightest- Ralph,[ hopelessly naïve], and Brent, [a bit of a loose cannon].

The Brief:- To re-brand Bath - " ... ***to establish Bath as a world-class 21st century centre of imagination and inventiveness.***" [Dr Jo Farrar former Chief Executive Bath and North East Somerset Council.]

"Brent, Nice to see you."

"To see you nice Ralph."

"Good to touch base. Where are we on the strategic staircase?"

"Well Ralph, I've done some 360 degree thinking, and I think we can sprinkle our magic on this one. My 21<sup>st</sup> century concept for Bath going forward can be summarised in three words... SHOPPING, SHOPPING, SHOPPING."

"Isn't that a bit one-dimensional?"

"Not at all. It's retail therapy, CONSUMPTION; as conspicuous as possible. We attract the shoppers in their hordes- boutiques; Bath buns ; bratwurst, gluhwein and dodgy mince pies, and the city's future is assured- simple."

" But where are they all going to park?"

"Duh! The East of Bath Park and Ride on Bathampton Meadows of course."

"No can do. That's part of the UNESCO World Heritage City setting, and greenbelt. On our own website [www.bathworldheritage.org.uk](http://www.bathworldheritage.org.uk) it clearly says : '***...There are green views in every direction from the city centre. The countryside stretches right to Bath's doorstep...Open agricultural land on the edge of Bath is still used for grazing animals, just as it had been by the Georgians.***' The green setting is our USP. It's what differentiates us. We'll shoot ourselves in the foot, and score an own goal worse than Gareth Bales' 2012 one for Spurs . Anyway P&R is an outdated 1970s notion. It was introduced when demand management and traffic reduction were not on the agenda. It's totally outdated in the current context of congestion charging, demand management and restrictive parking. Colchester's P&R ran at a £600,000 loss in its first year. Even DEFRA have said it's got no legs. Forget it mate. "

"But it's not about solving congestion. We want MORE cars. Anyway chill out. We own the land- on one side of Mill Lane at least. We're only building it IN CASE we need extra parking at SOME POINT in the future...MAYBE...POSSIBLY.

"When?"

down 122, but we want a 1400 car park just to be on the safe side. If we build it They will come. It's even already drawn on the official A- Z map in anticipation, so we're ahead of the game. Anyway, I've got an angle on the 1970's P&R thing. It's Retro. It Was Alright In The '70's. Bath was being modernised until that Adam Fergusson put a stop to it with his book ' The Sack of Bath', 1973. I think we need to reboot that '70's concrete vision. In the words of Magnus Magnusson: '*I've started so I'll finish.*' We can't let the grass grow too long on this one. I've had an idea shower to promote the P&R when it opens."

"What?"

" We get a fleet of brown Cortinas down there; prawn vol-au-vents; Fab and Swizzel lollies for the kids, spacehoppers and pogo sticks. We can give away some kipper ties with the B&NES Council logo on, and do a fuzzy-felt mock-up in the Guildhall."

"What about mitigation? It will be a bit of a monstrosity. Light pollution for example is very worrying. It'll be like a neon radioactive glow, visible from anywhere in the city and surrounds. When Peter Gabriel was 'Climbing up on Solsbury Hill...' this was not the light he had in mind."

"More like a scene from Close Encounters of the Third Kind .We can make a bit of money on the side renting it out to Sci Fi movie producers."

"I'm not convinced Brent. The three existing P&R's are less than half full most of the time. And if this one's being built just on the offchance...then it's probably going to end up as a massive white elephant."

"Yeh, but with dereliction comes dystopia. Remember Clockwork Orange? We'll have a ready-made film set down there. Hey, let's contact Stanley Kubrick."

"Dead. 1999."

"Pity."

"We could always redevelop it as SHOPS or rediscover Bath's Georgian gambling tradition by building a casino called 'The Meadows', [Las Vegas translated into English.]

"Like....No way man."

"Failing that we could stick 'The Magic Roundabout' on it; better than that tired Christmas carousel. Two quid a head will top up the coffers."

"Dream on."

"Anyway, stop being like such a dork."

"Air quality."

"What about it?"

"It's rubbish already, and will only get worse with the P&R. On Batheaston High Street NO2 emissions are already at the EU legal limit, and by law we're not allowed to build anything that will tip them over this. Legally we're stuffed."

" Er...B.R.E.X.I.T. ? Forget all that fuzzy EU environmental protection red tape. We're Far Out Man."

" Vulnerable people will suffer breathing problems; respiratory diseases, like ' consumption.' "

" Dude, did you say CONSUMPTION? Genius! I've got it... the new slogan: 'BATH FOR CONSUMPTION' [ BFC]. We get them all SHOPPING, then when they can't breath we chuck 'em in the SPA - you know 'take the waters' to get cured. Win win. Can You Dig It?"

" People will confuse BFC with BFG."



"You're losing the plot Brent. Bathonians won't buy it. 13,000 people signed a petition against the P&R; took it to 10 Downing Street. Their numbers are growing, they're noisy, and they're not going away. "

" S'alright; we're gagging 'em. We changed the rules about how long the public can speak for in Council meetings. Eighty-odd of 'em kept us up beyond midnight back in November 2015. Never again. They've had their wings clipped. "

"They call us hypocrites. We forbid the New Leaf Farm owner to build two Shepherds huts on his land, [ P&R Site B];said it was 'inappropriate development in the greenbelt'. I can see their point."

"But we've got 'special circumstances'.

"What?"

" We need more SHOPPERS."

"But how do we justify the minimum £13m of taxpayers' money to be spent on the P&R at a huge opportunity cost to local public services or more sustainable transport solutions like subsidised school buses?"

" Sell it as 1,000 quid a head for every petition signature that will be invested in 'transport infrastructure'; keep it vague though; we have a reputation for opaqueness to maintain."

" What about Modal Shift?"

"Get down on it. What the hell's that?"

"You know changing the means by which we travel and transport goods; replacing a saturated means of transport with another to make the first less congested; switching from private vehicle road use to rail; cycling; walking; local public buses etc. being more sustainable ; reducing carbon emissions.... Blah.... It's the way forward; the ONLY way in the long run. Better do it sooner rather than later. The time is right. People say they want it. They all keep going on about making the buses cheaper; cycling safer etc... It's all they ever talk about. We are in danger of axing the cycle lane on the London Road, and some local bus services have already been cut. Parents pay £600 a year for a bus pass, so it's no wonder they drive their kids to school."

" Did you say bikes? Choppers are alright. Yawn."

"Wake up Brent! Shouldn't we be learning from the best global world practice, like your namesake the legendary Brent Toderian , former Vancouver chief planner, with 32.6k followers on Twitter? He's got some great ideas we could nick."

" Leave it out. I'm a '70's soul man."

" So, let me get this straight, our big idea for Bath's re-brand is: - SHOPPING, SHOPPING, SHOPPING. We are ignoring the overwhelming public demand for modal shift/ sustainable transport . We are building a P&R that nobody has said they want,[ because they weren't asked this question at 'consultation']; that has no proven need,[ because nobody has been asked], and is being built 'just on the off chance ' that we might need 100 spaces in 2029. We are concreting over the greenbelt UNESCO Bath World Heritage City setting, and thereby destroying our USP, and our unique city for future generations. We are adding to the NHS bill with more sick people. And we think that we can spin a Ripping Yarn, and pull Cotswold wool over the public's eyes?"

" That's it in a nutshell Ralph. Funky eh? I think my '70s retro spin establishes '... *Bath as a world-class 21st century centre of imagination and inventiveness.*'"

" I don't think the new Council Chief Executive Ashley Ayre will buy into it. He

plans, and a total lack of transparency I can't see any future in this. You're delusional mate. I think your days here are numbered."

"Mmm... Maybe I should go before I'm pushed. Gimme some skin man."

"Get down bro'. Take a trip to LA , [LA, LA Land], and May the Force Be With You."



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## ACTION!

Please continue writing letters to the Chronicle! There is plenty to write about given the Placemaking Plan, the fact that the Council have admitted that a park and ride won't ease congestion and pollution, points put forward in the Guardian articles about cars being the problem and so on. It is also really beneficial to keep on adding comments to articles and published letters on-line. Many of these comments appear in the next week's paper edition.

We also need to be thinking about more fundraising! Ideas are really welcome as is an army of volunteers to action them 😊 Ideas can only go so far ....

