

Dear Councillor Romero,

## **Protecting Bathampton Meadows**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Bathampton Meadows Alliance. We were very glad of the support the Liberal Democrat Group gave prior to the recent Council elections for measures to protect the distinctive natural environment of Bathampton Meadows. Thank you, and congratulations on becoming Council Leader.

Our purpose in writing now is to encourage and support you in reaching early agreement on ownership and governance arrangements for the Meadows with the National Trust as the body with the authority and capacity to protect and support the Meadows in perpetuity.

We understand the National Trust are very interested in concluding an agreement with the Council and with others, in the interests of the Meadows. For this reason we have written similarly to Tom Boden, General Manager of the National Trust, Bath who has been involved in previous discussions about this opportunity, including with his senior colleagues.

Given our track record in protecting the Meadows, and the skills and capacity we have developed, the Meadows Alliance would like to assist the Council and the National Trust by:

- committing to: preparing the draft Vision & Aims for the Meadows; professional mapping of existing natural and physical features; envisaging and mapping better, sensitive access and connections with communities for walkers & cyclists - whilst protecting and supporting their distinctive natural environment
- committing to facilitating early public consultation by engaging and gaining the contributions and support of local Bath communities in adopting and pursuing a clear Vision, Aims and Plan for the Protected Meadows. This would pave the way for later consultation that either the Council and/or National Trust undertake.
- setting-out the benefits to local communities of the Council using public policies which enable the transfer of its landholding in the Meadows to the National Trust, namely:
  - ...ensures the preservation of the historical context and its use as meadows
  - ...preserves the green setting of the World Heritage Site as recognised by UNESCO
  - ...protects and supports its natural features, habitats and wildlife
  - ...improve access and breathes life into the river setting
  - ...improves the safety and health of children travelling to school
  - ...contributes further to the physical and mental health & well-being of local people
  - ...reduces the use of cars, especially for journeys into the City, and to schools
  - ...assists in slowing and managing Climate Change, and improving air quality.

Bathampton and Batheaston Parish Councils support our undertaking this kind of work, and we have approached Bathford PC to seek their endorsement too. We do recognise that it would be for the Council and the National Trust to decide how best we can assist. Before writing to you we have completed preliminary work and have thought through how we would

organise to meet an agreed timetable for our work. We would be pleased to share this with you and/or with a person you nominate.

We do hope you will accept our offer and that discussions could take place on what assistance from the Meadows Alliance you would value most.

Yours faithfully,

**Annie Kilvington**

On behalf of

**Bathampton Meadows Alliance**