

Response2route

Residents Forum
Tuesday
1 July 2008
7.30pm
The Dolphin Inn

Join our Wildlife
Survey starting
Wednesday 2 July
Details will follow

Protest March
Saturday
13 September
10h00
Details to be
announced

We oppose the BRT because it is wrong for Bath and wrong for Newbridge and Lower Weston. We support a positive long term vision for our community which puts people first.

Response2route is a campaign by residents to oppose plans for a dedicated Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) route through Newbridge and Lower Weston. We are against a dedicated bus route because it would have a hugely negative impact on our community. There is no real need for a dedicated bus route and it would not solve congestion problems on this side of Bath. We want a genuine and independent review of the BRT proposals before more public money is spent.

Bogus Alternatives & Bullying Tactics

Proponents of the BRT are promoting a route which would destroy the linear green space running west to east across our neighbourhood.

We have highlighted the unacceptable negative impacts of the route and have challenged the business case. We have identified serious feasibility issues, financial risks and uncertainty of outcome. Faced with reasoned argument and strong opposition the pro route lobby has resorted to threatening us with bogus alternatives.

A recent pamphlet distributed by proponents of the BRT at B&NES Council claimed that the only

alternatives to the route involve loss of homes and businesses, removal of parking spaces and higher cost. We believe most residents see through this cynical attempt to bully and divide our community.

The real alternative is to improve bus services, without a dedicated route, and would include a programme of signal adjustments and adaptations to road design. The location of new stores and other landuses also need serious consideration as part of an integrated and sustained approach.

People and communities should come first.

Our Response - Do What is Right for Bath

- We will keep fighting the BRT proposals because they are wrong for our community and wrong for Bath.
- Proposals which involve loss of homes, businesses and parking spaces should be ruled out.
- There is no convincing business case for a dedicated bus route from Newbridge Park and Ride into town.
- The future growth and prosperity of Bath does not depend on the BRT being implemented.
- Many Councillors believe Bath can only secure national funding for the *Bath Package* by including a dedicated bus route in their plans. It would be a serious mistake to pursue a scheme which is inappropriate to local needs simply to secure funding.
- We want independent and fair scrutiny of the proposals.
- We are also calling for a fully funded, genuine and balanced assessment of the business case, including full consideration of financial risk, feasibility and justification for the scheme.

Contact Us

Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved in the campaign. To contact us please attend our next meeting or use the email address below.

E-Mail:

response2route@fsmail.net

Our petition is receiving strong support. We will keep collecting signatures in the lead up to our protest in September

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.response2route.co.uk

The Proposed Route

The BRT is part of the "Bath Package" proposed by B&NES Council. It would run diesel "bendy buses" from Newbridge Park and Ride (with 500 new places), along Newbridge Rd, into Brassmill Lane (Westfield Park South) and then onto a new 11 metre wide roadway which would destroy the green space running from Brassmill Lane to Locksbrook Road VW dealer. The route would cross the river, cross Windsor Bridge Road, run through Western Riverside, through the centre of Bath, down London Road to a proposed new Park and Ride on the eastern side of Bath.

Balanced Public Communications

Public resources are currently going into developing the BRT proposal and communicating aggressively in favour of the proposal. We don't think this allows for genuine and informed consideration of counter arguments by the Council.

Many feel the recent Council leaflet and the communications exercise around it was inappropriate for a

publicly funded body. It presented a number of highly questionable figures as fact and presented alternatives which are not credible.

Appropriate publicly funded communications should be balanced and enable informed public debate. We will be asking Councillors to closely scrutinise future conduct of communications around this scheme.

Talking to Councillors

- Our impression is that many Councillors are not well informed about the route or the impact it will have on our community.
- We want to convince Councillors and other decision makers that the right thing to do is to stop and think again.
- We will be inviting all Councillors to come and walk the proposed route with members of our community so that they can see the impacts first hand.
- We are asking Councillors to support an independent, public and properly resourced scrutiny process. This should include a balanced and full assessment of the business case for the route.

People to Write To

Please write to key decision makers and inform them of your concerns.

Minister Responsible

The Transport Minister
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

Responsible Council Official

Peter Dawson
Group Manager
Strategic Planning
B&NES Council
Riverside
Temple Street
Keynsham, BS31 1LA

peter_dawson@bathnes.gov.uk

Main Responsible Councillor

Councillor Charles Gerrish
Park House
Station Road
Keynsham
Bristol, BS31 2BN

charles_gerrish@bathnes.gov.uk

You may also wish to contact Councillors representing affected areas.

Councillors for Kingsmead

Carol Paradise
285 Kelston Road
Bath
BA1 9AB
carol.paradise@btinternet.com

Andrew Furse
25 Tennison Road
Bath
BA1 3BG
andrew_furse@bathnes.gov.uk

Councillors for Newbridge

Caroline Roberts
11 Old Newbridge Hill
Newbridge
Bath
BA1 3LX
cmroberts@clara.co.uk

Loraine Brinkhurst
155 Newbridge Road
Bath
BA1 3HQ
loraine_brinkhurst@bathnes.gov.uk