

Update for Annual Parish Meeting – April 16th, 2007

Road-Related Matters

(Lambridge Park and Ride & A36/A46 Link Road)

During the past 12 months, there has been little progress on either of the road-related matters of interest to Bathford residents.

The final version of the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP), a plan covering the needs of the Unitary Authorities of Bristol, B&NES, North Somerset, and South Gloucester), was published in December 2006. This Plan covers the period 2006-2011. It includes a commitment for a new Park and Ride site at Lambridge (the current Bath Rugby training ground), and a reference to a link road between the A36 and A46.

Lambridge Park and Ride

The construction costs of the Lambridge Park and Ride site were included in a bid for £65m of Government funding for a 'Bath Package' which includes many other features (such as HGV restrictions, improved bus services and infrastructure, and road improvements). The Government's reaction to this funding bid is imminent. The only locally relevant items are the P&R itself, and new electronic information systems on the No 13 bus route. Bathford Parish Council opposes the siting of the P&R carpark at Lambridge and, instead, favours an alternative scheme proposed by Batheaston Parish Council on a small part of Charmy Down. The reasons for our objections include:

- a) the site will not relieve congestion on the London Road (according to B&NES' own projections);
- b) it is too small for the required capacity (according to three independent calculation methodologies);
- c) it is in the wrong location (after the roundabout at which all of the congestion occurs);
- d) it will not improve air quality (according to B&NES own figures);
- e) it comes with completely unacceptable side effects for Bathampton Meadows, ie. Unsightly unnatural earthworks to provide for flood compensation, and noisy obtrusive floodlit rugby activities in a much expanded facility in the middle of the Meadows.
- f) It is monstrously expensive. At over £9,000 per car parking space it will be the most expensive in the country.

We have made our views known to the various parties involved, viz. Bath Council, the West of England Partnership, the Government Office of the South West, and the Department of Transport. We continue to work closely with our neighbouring Parish Councils on this matter.

The current situation is that:

- a) Planning permission has been granted (in May 2005) for the P&R at Lambridge but subject to:
 - i. Flood Compensation being provided (since the construction of the car park requires the ground locally to be raised to avoid its flooding). This application has been rejected twice. A third scheme is expected to be made public shortly but not for review by B&NES Planning Committee until after the elections in May.....and
 - ii. A new home is found for Bath Rugby training facilities. A Planning Application which proposed a new site on Bathampton Meadows, just to the East of Mill Lane, has not yet been considered by B&NES Planning Committee - although it has been on the agenda three times and withdrawn each time.
- b) An alternative scheme on Charmy Down proposed by Batheaston Parish Council was withdrawn from consideration in October 2006, due to an embargo being placed on it being 'permitted' by the Highways Authority. It is considered that the objections can be overcome, and a revised submission is planned.

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Proposed Link Road from the A36 (Warminster Road) to A46 across Bathampton Meadows

The Joint Local Transport Plan made scant reference to a possible future link road being constructed. The scheme was included in a list of 'Regional and sub-regional priorities requiring further work'. The period 2011-2015 was identified as the 'potential year of Major Scheme bid submission subject to further development work'. The Parish Council strongly opposes such a link road.

In previous studies various routing options were documented, but no conclusions were made. Since a list of 21 projects were identified in the JLTP (the link road being one), it appears that the link road will not be reconsidered in the near future, and if/when reconsidered will be competing for funding with many other schemes within the South-West.

If residents would like further information on either of these projects, Steve Mackerness, who is co-opted as a non-voting member of our Planning Sub-committee, in order to represent our interests in the various bodies, is happy to discuss. He can be contacted at Lower House Farm, 36 Church Street, on telephone 859467, mobile 07776-314702, or on eMail via the parish council website at www.bathford.net/contact.php