

### **3 Minute Vision- Transition Bath/Larkhall Transport Workshop Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**

Good morning. My name is Fiona Powell. I am a campaigner with the Bathampton Meadows Alliance and Chair of the Safer Routes to School Group at an East of Bath Primary school. It is fair to say that I try to walk the walk as well as talk the talk.

I give this Vision as someone who stopped formal education in maths at age 16 as soon as I could. I have, however, really come to appreciate the value of data and management information as I have gone through my working career.

My vision for Bath is that it builds a culture around decision-taking on transport that is underpinned by evidence. I give you three varied examples of where this has not been the case to illustrate the cultural change that is needed:

1. As a Council, we stopped collecting data about travel to school patterns when it ceased to be a statutory requirement in 2011. An estimated 20 to 25,000 young people 0-18 need to reach an institution of some kind each day in Bath – many of those by car. How can we create modal shift out of cars if we don't know the underpinning data? Why has no-one insisted that we, schools and the Council, start collecting and using it again?
2. The written report back on the air quality consultation workshops last year included a suggestion from the public that there was a thorough investigation into through traffic. This was considered to be highly deliverable, but would have a 'low impact' on air quality. Why is there so little value placed on evidence-gathering as a pre-requisite to delivering effective solutions?
3. The recent Cabinet paper on Parking Charges contained no statistics about car volumes or parking data – neither users today nor the likely impact of the change. The proposal was agreed without a word of challenge from Cabinet members. How can this be acceptable and how can the public scrutinise the potential effectiveness of decisions if they are put forward without a quantified case for change?

We need a cultural shift - to really understand and articulate how people actually travel, when and why, as well as what would motivate them to change their habits and behaviours. And no longer see the centre of Bath as a hub that must be accessed en route. There is much traffic for example that passes from Batheaston/Larkhall to Bathampton/the University and vice versa for all manner of activities which isn't serviced by safe walking and cycle routes or direct public transport.

If quantitative and qualitative evidence is valued and invested in upfront and monitored ongoing then the outcome for the city will surely be meaningful transport interventions that are based on people's actual behaviours and are far more likely to create the city we all want to live, work and play in.

Taking a long-term approach to transport would also be a significant advantage to us as a city, but that would need to be the subject of another whole 3 minute vision...

Thank you.