

**VPA meeting in Bathford
Thursday 22nd May 2014
Minutes**

Present: Simon Coombe (Chair- Limpley Stoke), Steve Mackerness (Bathford), Tony McCann (Bathampton), Nick Stevens/ Hugh Delap (Freshford), Geoff Edwards (Westwood), Des Wighton (Monkton Combe), Anna Beria/ Chris Jenson (Claverton).

1. Apologies:

Allan Parker (Westwood), Vito Pecchia (Batheaston), Robin Davies (Winsley)

2. Variable Message Sign

The proposal to support Freshford's objections by sending the proposed letter from the VPA was passed unanimously.

3. Bath Transport Strategy: Getting around Bath

It was noted that the strategy:

- said that further assessment of an eastern Park and Ride was required
- suggested opportunities for rail services development as part of the electrification plan but NO mention of Park and Rail

It was agreed that the VPA should continue to maintain a 'watching brief' and await the opportunity for formal consultation.

4. Park and Rail & Link Road proposal

Following a short adjournment to an upstairs room overlooking proposed site, it was noted that:

- Peter Dawson has said this proposal is not part of the Bath Transport Strategy and is not BANES policy, although this might change if LibDems remain in the majority in 2015.
- The Highways Agency is working on Route Based Strategy and prefer A350 and have stated the section of the A36 between Bathampton and Limpley Stoke is not suitable for a trunk road.
- The proposal is complex and involves three tunnels and a bridge for dual carriage-way traffic. The combined project has been quoted as around £90 million, which everyone thought was excessively expensive.
- Concerns were also raised about the visibility and environmental impact of the scheme
- Given the scale and cost of the proposal, it was felt that the two proposals were not mutually independent
- Dorian Baker is an experienced civil engineer with a professional outlook and has had lots of work done in preparing detailed plans of the scheme. It was suggested this proposal might not be taken further by the Lib Dems should Dorian not be elected to the seat for Bathavon North (it has been subsequently reported that Dorian was not elected)
- It was agreed that a letter be written from the VPA to Paul Crossley clearly articulating the VPA's view on this proposal (see attached draft)

Action: Suggest amendments to VPA letter by 25th May - all

5. Finance

The audited VPA accounts for 2013/14 were approved.