



B&NES Local Plan Engagement

Stakeholder Workshop – Stage A BATH & ENVIRONS

30 January 2023

**Final Report
27 Feb 2023**

One workshop for community representatives and key stakeholders in Bath and its Environs was held at Bath Cricket Ground on January 30th.

The workshop was attended by approximately 33 people. It was introduced with a short presentation on the process of developing the Local Plan and the workshop themes developed from the [West of England Placemaking Charter](#).

The first half of the workshop explored what community representatives and key stakeholders valued about their places and their aspirations for the future of these places. The second part explored responses to two prompt questions under the six themes. The questions were identified by B&NES officers at a workshop on the 5th of January 2023.

Stakeholders discussed their views in groups of 4 to 7 people with the support of B&NES officers. At least four themes were considered by each group with stakeholders being invited to gradually highlight key points and feed these back to the room.

This initial response from B&NES Stakeholders will inform the development of policy and spatial options that will be the subject of a second stage of engagement in Summer 2023.

DRAFT SUMMARY

The following highlights some of the emerging values, aims and priorities identified by stakeholders. This should form the basis for feedback at Stage B in the summer. See the whole report for more place specific and detailed observations.

ZERO CARBON AND CLIMATE RESLIENCE

- A strategic approach is needed to neighbourhood scale, building and energy retrofit. Where community energy could speed delivery of renewable energy sources.
- Adaptation to climate change should be integrated in design approaches – contributing to city wide flood mitigation and summer shade in streets.

- Decarbonising the city could be made visible through the greening of the city with a stronger connection to nature and through the transition of its movement systems to create a more walkable place with cleaner air.
- Wish to continue to see high energy and zero carbon standards for new builds.

MOVING AROUND

- Streets need to be adapted and designed to prioritise walking and cycling with better storage/parking for cycles.
- The impact of traffic needs to be reduced over a wider area than the city centre.
- Neighbourhoods need more tangible connections between them and to the city centre – walking and night walking maps could develop this.
- Better, cheaper more responsive public transport is needed – with more incentives/rewards for changing behaviour.
- A mix and diversity of activities in neighbourhoods is valued and this can be contributed to by creating multi-functional neighbourhood hubs.
- There is a need to work more strategically enabling systems of movement for visitors, hospital and hospitality staff late at night, last mile deliveries and children travelling to school.

NATURAL SPACES AND BIODIVERSITY

- There is an opportunity to link greener spaces in the city centre to green fingers reaching out into the countryside.
- Public spaces and parks are seen as important for bringing different communities and age groups together – and for providing for children and young people.
- Communities could be involved in the rewilding of underused Council owned spaces, increasing interaction with nature.
- More community gardens, fruit orchards and allotments should be created.
- Food growing, peri urban market gardens and urban agriculture should be encouraged.

IDENTITY AND BELONGING

- There is ambition for ‘a city better than the one we have inherited’ and support for high quality design that is of its time, supported by clear guidance.
- There is an opportunity to push design standards for the integration of cycling, recycling and other facilities in new development and reduce the impact of parking decoupling this from the street.
- There is a role in the design of buildings and public spaces to shape safe places for women, with good natural surveillance and lighting.
- There are opportunities to provide more shared assets or resources alongside homes such as laundry rooms or garden sheds.

HOUSING AND SHARED PROSPERITY

- Well located affordable and key worker housing, and more family housing are important.
- A proactive approach to providing homes for an ageing demographic is highlighted with more provision of Lifetime Homes that are attractive to downsize to and support independence for longer.
- More attractive and purposeful community spaces – are needed including co-working spaces.
- Need to consider climate resilience and access to affordable warm spaces and cool spaces in summer.
- Using land efficiently is necessary because space is limited. Concern about impact of too many Airbnbs.
- Economically consider different business models that foster sharing, caring and cooperating.

HEALTHY & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

- Synergies can be found in a diverse offering that is attractive to visitors and residents.
- To develop/support a vibrant cultural offer and activities that build on the city’s reputation as a place of health and wellbeing.
- Need to consider access to healthcare and the need perhaps for walk in centres and clinics to take pressure off GPs and A&E.

- New and existing neighbourhood community hubs should be developed that are multi-functional, intergenerational and offer indoor and outdoor spaces.
- The aim should be that everyone can feel engaged and connected with their community.
- Here community ownership and management of places is also considered to be important.

ZERO CARBON & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Development contributes to B&NES's net zero 2030 ambition and to climate resilience. More local, clean energy is generated. The transition to greener low carbon lifestyles is supported for all. Resources are used efficiently, and buildings and materials are low carbon and/or are re-used creatively. *(Aims throughout adapted from the Placemaking Charter with reference to B&NES local plan ambitions and priorities and B&NES draft economic strategy and officer workshop 05/01/23).*

When initially considering the future of their places Stakeholders highlighted the following:

Cleaner environment – **healthier air – more tangible nature**. Sewage network that copes. Sustainable **zero carbon retrofit**. Maintaining **dark skies**.

What changes would you like to see to support you to live a low carbon lifestyle?

- **Community energy schemes** - solar and wind (technical enabling re grid connection and/or storage)
- **Neighbourhood scale building and energy retrofit** – and ground source heat pumps or local energy plant.
- **Grants to support low-income families to retrofit and support retrofit of heritage buildings**. Encourage landlords to retrofit HMO and take responsibility for gardens.
- New development zero carbon and renewable. Zonal heating as standard for new builds to maximise heating efficiency.
- More sustainable travel options for staff working at the RUH – particularly at night time.
- Better public transport – affordable, green – i.e., tram etc.
- **City wide flood mitigation strategy**. Good quality SUDS in all new development. Sewage system fit for purpose.
- **Adaptable streetscapes** – hotter summers need shade and cooling and less paving to mitigate flooding.
- More allotments and opportunities for local growing.
- EV charging hidden in street furniture. [Invisible solar in Pompeii](#).

What do you imagine a decarbonised Bath would be like to experience, what are the opportunities for businesses and communities?

- **Greener appearance of city centre with green walls and green roofs**.
- Better air quality, reduced dominance of cars, rationalised HGV and **last mile delivery access**.
- **A walkable city**.
- Sustainable energy production a lot of solar panels and wind – community energy opportunities.
- **More locally grown food available**.
- Encourage business to reduce carbon before offsetting.

MOVING AROUND

A network of safe, attractive and direct walking, wheeling and cycling routes and frequent, affordable, accessible, high quality public transport connects communities to key destinations. Neighbourhoods are liveable meeting every day needs.

When initially considering the future of their places Stakeholders highlighted the following:

Become Europe's most walkable city Sustainable way of bringing in **visitors** – operation of **deliveries**. '**Reduced car dominance across whole of city not just the tiny city centre core.**' Traffic reduction/ management/CAZ. **Walking map of Bath** – the green corridors and active travel routes. **Night walking map** – design lighting to keep active through winter (when dark at 4/5pm) – create 'rivers of light'. Use of our rivers a lost opportunity. **Maintain safeguard, promote and connect local centres**. Start with Bath spa city regeneration? Connect Snow Hill residents to the centre and other areas. Two tunnels extension into the centre. Traffic solutions that slow movement but don't close streets. Signage for skyline walk.

What would encourage you to walk, wheel or cycle and use public transport more? (Assuming that buses become more frequent and reliable).

- **Bike hangars/secure cycle storage.** Cycling storage – public and safe.
- **Rebalancing street spaces – make safer for cycling.** Availability of cycle routes for cycling, ebikes and scooters only. Incorporate the local cycling and walking infrastructure plans. Easier to walk, wheel and cycle x2.
- **Better cheaper more responsive public transport x2.** Fantastic public transport, fewer cars. Improvements in public transport infrastructure – cost, options and frequency x2. Small electric buses.
- **Reflect pedestrian priority in design of infrastructure.** Dropped kerbs everywhere (or raised tables). More pedestrian and cycle bridges.
- **Incentives** - Bus passes at 60 like London. Free public transport to under 22s. Cycle training and confidence classes.
- No new car parking. Work place charging. Motor offences given strong deterrents.
- Better school buses.
- Stop over benches when walking up a hill.

What activities can you access withing 15 minutes of walking, wheeling or cycling from your home – how could this be improved?

- River and canal footpaths.
- Kensington Gardens, river, Morrisons, petrol garage.
- Cricket club, rugby club, swimming.
- Two Tunnels.
- Tattoo parlour, Cleveland Street, Refillable eco shop, antiques, Burdall's Yard.
- Walcot Street, Centre of Bath, Guildhall etc.
- Country walks and village pubs.
- Sainsbury's (Odd Down).
- University and its facilities.
- Doctors' surgery, primary school.
- Post office, community library and chemists.
- **See mix and diversity of activities highlighted above.**
- **Schools can organise better to encourage children to walk or get the bus.** Travel planning with schools – enabling less kit to be carried – making it easier to cycle and walk.

NATURAL SPACES & BIODIVERSITY

All communities have ready access to nature and high-quality, biodiverse green and blue spaces supporting health and wellbeing. To reverse habitat and species loss transformational nature recovery ambitions are embedded within developments and created for existing landscapes. Regenerative local food growing is supported.

When initially considering the future of their places Stakeholders highlighted the following:

More green trees, biodiversity and wildlife connectivity x2. Access for everyone to greenspaces. **Greener streets and connections between green spaces** (Moorlands). Green spaces for people to have a pleasant healthy experience. Protect the Green Belt, plant more trees. New development should have **good open or public space for communities to get together**. Opportunity for a Bath climbing wall?

How could we improve our landscapes, parks and open spaces to meet our own needs and for the next generation?

- **Landscape planting plan to connect Bath centre to the Green Belt – ‘green fingers’ reaching out (as in Copenhagen and Hamburg).** No building on green ring around city.
- **Map potential spaces for nature on council owned land and support local community to take it on.**
- **Encourage more child centred design in public parks and public spaces.**
- **Consider how the public realm can facilitate connection between different demographics and groups.**
- **Heritage designation – protect in perpetuity.**
- **Preserve residents front gardens – keep them green and tarmac free.**
- Better access and use of river/canal – use more in the city.
- Better soil management.

What are good examples of interactions between communities and nature – how can the Council support this?

- **Community gardens, fruit orchards and allotments.**
- **Encourage establishment of market gardens on outskirts of Bath.**
- Chemical free management of green spaces.
- *Good examples:*
- Alice Park Community Garden.
- Urban agriculture and grazing. Horses in Alexandra Park, Lansdown Crescent sheep field, Smallcombe cows, Camden Crescent goats.

IDENTITY & BELONGING

The diverse built, landscape and social identity of B&NES's urban and rural areas are understood, reflected and enhanced in new developments. These are distinctive, respectful of context, innovative and creative - contributing to places culturally, socially, economically and environmentally.

When initially considering the future of their places Stakeholders highlighted the following:

A city better than the one we have inherited. Having a **pride in local area's history, culture.** Investment over all areas not just most 'visible' central areas. No gated communities stitch into existing neighbourhoods. Bathwick – more of the same. **Design code – high quality, no erosion. Award winning design excellence.**

What qualities should new buildings and spaces have to be inclusive and complement Bath's heritage context?

- **Don't use pastiche be bold with design – of its time.**
- **Create safe spaces** – braille signed routes for visually impaired, women's, safety well lit public spaces, queer people's safety.
- **Design in - cycling, recycling and other facilities** into new developments – make shared or hidden?
- **Separate parking and housing** (provide parking if needed off street). Prioritise street space for cycle storage, car clubs, EV charging, greening, community cargo bikes.
- Include spaces and activities attractive to younger people (teenagers/young adults).
- Make more accessible step free public spaces – e.g., access to the river.

Our needs for homes are changing - how would you like to see the approach to delivering homes change and evolve?

- **Local, dispersed co-working spaces** – e.g., people in shared housing can work near home if they can't work from home.
- **Think carefully about definition of affordable homes** – the squeezed middle. **Key workers homes.**
- **Incentives for downsizing.** To bungalows, homes where people can retain independence and Lifetime Homes x2?
- And/or design all/or a higher percentage of all new build homes as fully accessible and flexible (for different stages of life).
- **Design in space into developments for shared assets and resources such as laundry rooms and gardening equipment.**
- Progressive living spaces for students and wider population – LGBTQ+ student halls - joined room for student and carer.
- Sustainable development = shops, schools, GPs as well as houses.
- Ask the next generation this question.

HOUSING & SHARED PROSPERITY

There is fair access to a diverse range of homes. Alongside homes - enterprises and communities have space to thrive. The delivery of affordable housing to responds to the district's demographic, social and economic needs - including homes for older people, students, key workers, gypsies, travellers, and boat dwellers, supported accommodation for residents with health and social care needs, and provision of self-build dwellings.

Opportunities are created for sustainable economic development, the types of jobs that are needed in our communities and ensuring that there is the right type of space available for businesses to grow. Vibrant town and city centres are created.

When initially considering the future of their places Stakeholders highlighted the following:

More **mixed residential development including different sized homes** including affordable and family housing x2. **Social/affordable housing** – rent and buy x4. Affordability of housing and beyond. Affordable housing for local residents. **Better buses or housing for retail and hospitality workers** on lower paid jobs as struggle to recruit post Covid. Diverse economy.

What are the housing needs in Bath? What types of housing are needed for people at different stages of life? How can this best be delivered?

- **Supported housing for aging people, keeping them independent – facilities nearby.**
- **Lack of affordable family homes (market).**
- **Social housing, less traffic – better public transport.**
- **Office and workshop sites.**
- Using upstairs of high street properties for homes (also generates income/vitality).
- Land value capture.
- More restrictions on student housing.
- City has limited space or space is not being used properly/efficiently?
- More restrictions on Airbnb to restore balance x2.
- Housing over garages and opportunity?

How best can economic development wellbeing and community engagement be fostered/created?

- **More attractive charming and purposeful community spaces in neighbourhoods e.g., for co working shared facilities.**
- Make climate resilient - **access to warm and cool spaces.**
- **Consider new business models which foster sharing caring and cooperating e.g., co-housing, agri-food co-operatives.**
- Non tangible benefits to be articulated and valued in the local plan and economic strategy.
- Goodbye – web TAG – evaluation of impacts of transport benefits should not be based on journey time savings.
- Meanwhile uses or housing maybe on Weston Island – like Bristol.

HEALTHY & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Communities are involved creatively in the development of proposals. There is fair access to a diverse range of homes. Alongside homes - enterprises and communities have space to thrive. Buildings and places support strong communities and people's health and wellbeing.

When initially considering the future of their places Stakeholders highlighted the following:

Everyone is locally engaged, abundantly connecting in their community to lead fulfilling lives (power of economic inequalities). Welcoming for people of all ages, abilities and identities – inclusive and accessible. Local to them, inclusive and multigenerational - more 'natural' ways of meeting. Relaunch Moorland Road Community Groups. Strategy for activating empty shop spaces – e.g., Milsom Street. City centre shopping. **15-minute neighbourhoods using data driven approach** to supporting high streets – choosing where to invest well – equity of social support and time/distance to connect to city.

How can we make the city more inclusive and engaging for everyone?

- **A diverse offering for locals and tourists alike.**
- **More non-competitive low-cost sports activities using existing green spaces.**
- **Making spaces safe and welcoming for LGBTQ+ and disabled people.**
- Access to GPs and **health facilities, walk in centres/clinics** – consider what could take the pressure off GPs and A&E.
- **Community ownership and/or management of shared spaces.** Facilitate community building – giving physical spaces to meet and organise and give/receive support.
- **Consider younger people.** Local youth clubs to have affordable youth activities. Safe public spaces and community areas for young people. Support closer interaction between student and permanent residents x2. Acknowledge student and graduate contribution to the city.
- **Spa City related health and wellbeing** – [Re-balance Bath](#) project.
- Spaces for **growing food, enjoying eating healthy locally grown food** that is accessible to all.
- **Support vibrant cultural offer.** Variety of activities/events - [Bath Arts Depot](#), [Bath Spa Creative Hub](#) – joint working with both universities – access to student cultural shows.
- Diverse offer – uses, price point, audiences
- Free public transport.

And what kinds of places and spaces are important for reducing isolation and improving people's mental health?

- **Better and more community hubs - multi-use, flexible, intergenerational - indoor and outdoor.** Community spaces and public toilets for elderly and mums and babies. Active uses e.g., cafes in open spaces/parks. More allotments and community growing spaces walkable from home. Better more diverse use of community spaces.
- **Accessible green spaces** – Sydney Gardens an excellent exemplar.
- **20mph city** that is monitored/enforced – drop kerbs on every street. Walkable city.
- **Sensory spaces.**
- Better integration of Council and social housing providers to deliver public realm improvements (inc. accessibility).
- Safe places with good natural surveillance.
- City Centre – pedestrian access only.
- Dog and cat friendly places.

AGENDA

B&NES Local Plan Engagement Stakeholder Workshops

Bath and Environs

30 January 2023

Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, Bathwick, Bath BA2 4EX

The Local Plan Launch set out the role of the Local Plan in establishing the vision, strategy and policies to guide development over the next 20 years. This workshop is the first stage of stakeholder engagement. The aims are to explore what you value and what legacy you would like to see for the future of places in the region, to work collaboratively to identify your priorities for a connected region of vibrant and sustainable places - testing these against the councils aims to address the climate emergency and improve people's lives.

- 16.30 **B&NES 2042** - Workshop Introduction (15)
- 16.45 **In three words – what do you value about your place?** (15)
What legacy would you like to see for your place? (30)
- 15.30 Break (15)
- 15.45 **Six Themes - Reflection on some key questions?**
How do you see the evolution of places taking shape? (60)
- 18.45 **Feedback** (25)
- 19.00 END

Design West are the centre of excellence for architecture, design & placemaking in the West of England.

Group A

Name	Ward / Parish / Organisation
Ruth Malloy	Ward Cllr: Weston
Alex Sherman	Bath Preservation Trust
Ian Tomlinson	Bath Mencap
Kaoru Jacques	B&NES Planning Policy
Sarah Heathcoate	B&NES Public Health

Group B

Name	Ward / Parish / Organisation
Rachael Hushon	FOBRA
Amy Mc Culloch	B&NES Public Health
Simon de Beer	B&NES Planning Policy
Hayden Foster	B&NES Planning Policy

Group C

Name	Ward / Parish / Organisation
Martin Mitchell	Cotswolds National Landscapes (AONB)
Marjory Hatvany	Sustrans
Richard Daone	B&NES Planning Policy
Rebecca Robinson	B&NES Planning Policy
Rob Burdett	Coombe Hay Parish Council

Group D

Name	Ward / Parish / Organisation
Theresa Mc Dermott	Bath Tourism Advisory Group
Robin Kerr	Bath Alliance for Transport and Public Realm
Becky Brooks	3SG (B&NES Third Sector Group)
Sarah Shore	Claverton Parish Council
Stephen George	B&NES Planning Policy
Georgi Tyler	B&NES Regeneration

Group E

Name	Ward / Parish / Organisation
Lin Kin	Bathampton Parish Council
Marianne Evans	Bath Spa Students Union
Jess David	Ward Cllr: Moorlands
Ronald Lungu	Avon & Somerset Police
Alice Nunn	B&NES Planning Policy
Penny Jenkins	B&NES Heritage Services
Vanessa Rubery	NHS

Group F

Name	Ward / Parish / Organisation
Joanna Wright	Ward Cllr: Lambridge
Nicolette Boater	Bath Area Forum
Julie Barr	South Stoke Parish Council
Jackie Ayres	Integrated Care Board (NHS)
George Edwards	B&NES Transport
Jackie Clayton	B&NES Economics
Hazel Thorp	B&NES Regeneration