

## PRIORITIES - DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING POLICY

FoBRA monitors planning policies that affect the city of Bath and reviews building applications that have an impact wider than the immediate locality of the development, such as Foxhill regeneration and the Pickford's site.

We encourage B&NES to persuade developers to use 'Brownfield' and 'Windfall' sites for much needed housing in the city.

## HOUSING

Our concerns include:

- The severe shortage of affordable homes to buy or to rent in Bath, considering causes and proposing solutions
- Encouraging B&NES to establish a student housing policy
- Encouraging B&NES to control the numbers of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)
- Unoccupied domestic housing
- The proliferation of 'party houses'.

## ENGAGEMENT

We monitor and engage with many other matters that affect residents, including:

- Encouraging and supporting the formation of new residents' associations
- Shortcomings in public consultation processes
- Refuse collection
- Gulls
- Graffiti
- Potholes
- Bus stops
- Signage and 'Public Realm', including freedom of movement and access for people with disabilities
- The river and green spaces.



[www.bathresidents.org.uk](http://www.bathresidents.org.uk)



**BATH RESIDENTS**  
Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

## WHAT IS FoBRA?

- The Federation of Bath Residents' Associations (FoBRA) is the main representative voice for residents in Bath.
- A grouping of 30 member residents' associations and Associates including the two University students' unions, The Bath Bus Users' Group and Cycle Bath
- Represents 5,000 residents in central and outer areas
- Fills a role played elsewhere by parish and town councils, which Bath doesn't have
- Priorities set by consultation with members
- We meet regularly with Council leaders, elected members, officers, the Police and the business community.

## OUR AIMS

- Represent residents' views to the Council and other organisations
- Protect and enhance the environment and amenities
- Exchange information and help member Associations
- Communicate information affecting residents
- Develop a strong and effective residents' movement in Bath

## OUR PRIORITIES

- Traffic congestion and air pollution
- Development and Planning Policy
- Housing
- Engagement

**Contact:**

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## PRIORITIES - TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND AIR POLLUTION

Our top priority. Traffic has a major impact on the appearance and amenity of Bath. Queen Square is little more than a roundabout on the A4, while the Circus is a busy rat-run. Except in a tiny central area, vehicles have priority over pedestrians and there is little provision for cyclists. Pollution and vibration from vehicles damages the historic buildings.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels along most of the main road network are well above the legal limit at which pollution is considered to be a health risk, and show no sign of reducing. 10,000 people live within the worst affected area. These levels of air pollution are known to cause serious health effects, including early deaths (perhaps 30 a year in Bath).

The Government has recently listed B&NES among the most polluted authorities in the country, and the Authority is now required to develop and implement a plan to reduce pollution below the legal limit in the shortest possible time.

We want B&NES Council to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by traffic management and reduced visitor parking in the centre, both of which are parts of the Bath Transport Strategy which was adopted with all-party support in 2014.

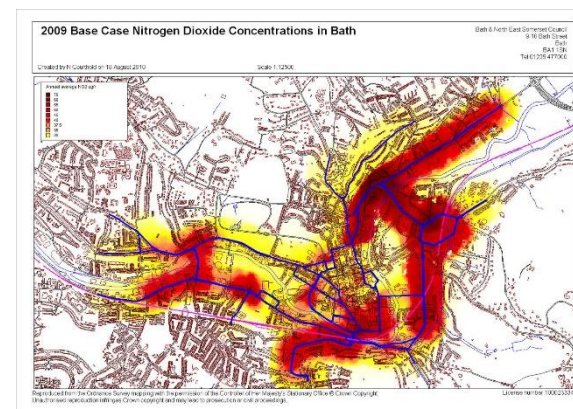
Through traffic must be removed from the city centre and the city as a whole. An alternative route for HGVs which currently use the A36-A46 route through Bath is essential.

There should be a Clean Air Zone covering the whole of central Bath. The CAZ should include diesel cars, which are the major pollution source in parts of the centre. Effective traffic management should be used to prevent 'rat-running' through the surrounding residential areas.

FOBRA is a member of the Bath Alliance for Transport and Public Realm, which now has 21 members including leading business, resident, heritage and other organisations and urges B&NES to develop a comprehensive transport plan, based on a Vision of Bath as:

'A beautiful city in a green setting, with vibrant public spaces, a historic centre free of all but essential traffic\*, clean air, good mobility and excellent transport infrastructure'.

\* eg. Deliveries, cleansing, buses, taxis, key business needs, disabled, and access for residents to their homes



B&NES's official air pollution map. Red or darker is unhealthy and illegal. 10,000 people live in these areas. For years, B&NES has been reluctant to implement measures to reduce traffic and pollution but the Government now requires B&NES to reduce air pollution below the legal limit



The degraded public realm of our World Heritage city. Continuous heavy traffic in George Street divides the city centre



HGVs passing through Bath on the A36-A46 route create congestion and pollution throughout the city, but especially London Road and here in Bathwick Street