

17th Dec 17

The Editor,
Bath Chronicle

Dear Editor,

To Park or Not To Park?

Your online story "City parking spaces 'will be lost' to make way for new development" on 14th Dec 17, seeks views only from people who drive their cars into Bath (and so create traffic), when actually reduction of city centre off street parking is Council Policy, clearly set out in its Transport Strategy, approved by all Councillors (with one or two abstentions) in Nov 14. Thus, instead of lamenting reduction of city centre parking, you should surely be celebrating it as evidence that Bath is finally following the lessons learnt by most historic towns across this continent. The more parking in the city, and the more short-term parking, the more traffic there is. The Council's new Parking Strategy recognises the need to use parking control to reduce traffic, which is to be applauded. Moreover, air pollution is already well over the legal limit across the city and must be reduced, so traffic volumes have to be lowered to achieve this. Reducing traffic and pollution will contribute to the vitality and viability of Bath, not detract from it. These objectives aren't in conflict, as the many historic cities across Europe that have removed traffic from their centres have shown. Of course, this can be done only in concert with much better, and cheaper, public transport, so this is what we should be insisting upon, not moaning about some reduction of parking, especially as this project in Avon Street has the aim of creating extensive commercial space, and hence jobs.

Yours sincerely

Robin Kerr, Chairman