**BRA Bulletin – Joint Spatial Plan – Aug 2nd 2019**

Dear Member

**Good News!!**

We heard yesterday that the Inspectors confirm that, following the first round of hearings at Bath in July, the JSP authorities have failed to address the fundamental concerns raised by them over 12 months ago. Members will no doubt recall that BRA, Backwell Parish Council and Backwell Resistance were highly critical of the JSP proposals, and hundreds of households commented to this effect. Thankfully, the inspectors have reached a similar conclusion in terms of the technical aspects of the process. Whilst there could be scope to revisit the spatial strategy through the examination process, they are urging the authorities to withdraw the plan and start again.

The hearing sessions planned for September/October have been cancelled.

The 3-page report from the Inspectors is attached. Apparently, it is rare for such a document to be as critical of a planning process.

**Next Steps**

We will have to wait for the responses from the 4 Councils that created the JSP as to whether they accept the Inspectors’ recommendations, but this is exceptionally good news. The Inspectors concluded that the approach which included the selection of Backwell to take 700 houses (as one of the 10 Strategic Development Locations) is fundamentally flawed. It should be made clear that this does not mean that Backwell will not be allocated housing in the future, but the immediate threat is removed.

**Thank You**

We are most grateful for the professional efforts of our consultants, particularly Lucy White in making our case so clearly, and the support provided for her by the Working Party, which included representatives from Backwell Parish Council, BRA, and Backwell Resistance. Also, many thanks to our residents for sending their comments on the JSP, and for being members of BRA, which enables us to give financial support to our Parish Council in funding our consultants and the technical responses.

Enjoy the summer!

From your BRA Committee 2nd August 2019

Visit our website on [www.backwellresidents.org.uk](http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk)

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