

FEDERATION OF BATH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS (FoBRA)

Comments on B&NES Plans to Improve Queen Square (12/00012/REG04)

The Federation of Bath Residents' Associations (FoBRA) welcomes Bath & North East Somerset Council's initiative to rejuvenate Queen Square, an important and iconic area of the city of Bath.

FoBRA supports the restoration of the internal paths and landscape, the refurbishment of benches, the enhancement of boules squares, the re-instatement of the historic east and west gateways and the improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.

Queen Square is the nexus of traffic in Bath, and there is much concern about increased congestion and pollution in the city centre and large swathes of the AQMA when temporary road closures are made in the square to allow for special events. FoBRA would hope that these are infrequent and would welcome information on how many additional events the Council envisages after the square has been restored, whether traffic surveys have considered their likely impact, and what traffic management plans will be put in place to minimise congestion in the city.

One of the unique characteristics of Bath is the number of people who live in the city centre. Queen Square is a well-used amenity by local residents, as well as by tourists, other visitors and the commercial community and more events in this area could deny them access to the square. FoBRA believes that it is important that it remains easily accessible to the residents who live nearby. They need reassurance that additional events, while of course welcome in principle, will not adversely impact on their use of the square. Good consultation when planning events will be essential.

The planned re-instatement of the east and west gateways and the widening of the pavement at these gates could result in the loss of some parking bays. FoBRA appreciates that the re-configuration of parking bays in the square will be considered as part of future wider improvements to the square, but it would welcome reassurance that no bays will be lost without consultation with the local residents.