## Response to Curo’s Cable Car proposal

(Cllr) Ian Gilchrist, 3 April 2017

Based on the following sources

1. the briefing given by Curo to councillors on March 28;
2. extensive views expressed by Widcombe residents, and also my own efforts in seeking out views;
3. sight of the Arup document, ‘Foxhil – People Mover Assessment’.

I have come to the view that I cannot support the proposal even in its current ‘concept consultation’ phase.

The reason for this is based principally on the reliance for financial viability such a scheme would place on the tourism trade as opposed to being simply and straightforwardly a mass transit option moving people who need to move between the two end locations (Bath centre and Foxhill). If it were the latter then the case for would be much stronger. However, as soon as the need for tourism becomes a significant factor then it becomes important to ask the question, ‘who, then, is paying for this tourist attraction?’ In this case, the environmental impact would be borne largely by the residents of Widcombe over whose properties the eventual line would pass either directly or close by. Quite rightly they have cited the visual impact a cable car would have, on what for those living in the area between city centre and Foxhill, would be considerable. Even for those not directly affected by the line of the cable car, there is the considerable visual intrusion it would have on what is now effectively a haven of rural peace and quiet, not to mention an important component of Bath’s World Heritage Status

It is worth pointing out that councillors currently have no formal place in the consultations, and we are not (contrary to some beliefs) being asked to make a decision. More information may come to light if the proposal gets beyond the consultation stage, but for me, at this stage, the cable car concept fails on its dependence on tourism money, and that the people paying the amenity cost of the proposed facility would be Widcombe residents. For this reason I cannot support it.