

## **Statement from Kari Elizabeth Erickson**

As restrictions begin to lift and (hopefully) the weather improves, I urge Bath council to turn its urgent attention to the economic livelihood of our community. Coming out of lockdown we stand to benefit from domestic tourism and the natural boost our economy experiences when the weather is fine and people once again long to be out dining, shopping and having fun. Instead of making plans for a renewal of tourism and encouraging visitors, it seems the council is focused almost exclusively on agendas that run contrary to these ends. We need to encourage people to visit Bath to enjoy its beauty and all our wonderful restaurants, bars, shops and services. We need to support local businesses as they seek to scoop up trade after months of waiting; we need to actively engage in conversation with them to understand what they need and, where appropriate, look at their requests to expand seating or take other measures to boost trade with generous eyes. The council's green agenda is commendable but must not come at the expense of trade, commerce and the enjoyment of life coming out of lockdown. Finally, I urge the council to take pride in our city and renew initiatives to clean streets and parks, especially as we look to invite visitors.