

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

## Bradford on Avon Town Council Residents' Panel

### Report on survey three: Events

The purpose of the Residents' Panel is to help the Town Council hear views from across the community. The panel is formed of 100 residents selected to complete surveys a few times a year on Town Council activities, policies and services.

Panellists were sent (either via email or post) the Residents' Panel survey for Friday, 7 October. Panellists were given until Friday, 22 October to complete the survey. Of the 100 panellists, 86 panellists responded to the survey — this represents a 24.6 per cent rise from the initial survey.

This report will detail the questions (in bold and italicised) and the responses either specific or groups given by the panellists. Where individual answers are highlighted, they appear as they were written by panellists. Some questions allowed for panellists to select multiple options. In others, panellists were given open text options where multiple answers could be given within a single text answer.

#### Section One: Warm Spaces and the Winter Energy Crisis

##### ***Do you feel that you have enough information to be able to cope with the winter energy crisis?***

Panellists were given "yes" and "no" options for this question.

- Yes — 70
- No — 16

##### ***What Kind of Information would be useful to you to enable you to cope with the winter energy crisis?***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- None — 20
- Ways to save energy tips — 10
- Help for disadvantaged — 8



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- Prior notice/ information around power cuts — 5
- Awareness/ understanding/ conserve domestic energy usage — 5
- Not Sure — 4
- Info on local companies who can help with alternative energy schemes — 4
- Town Council to supply info on grants/funding for home improvements — 3
- Don't know what help is available — 2
- Not sure what help is available — 2
- Blame/ remove the government — 2
- Not the Town Council's concern — 2
- Irrelevant - I don't pay the bills — 1
- Could Town Council relax listed building consent rules — 1
- Provide warm space — 1
- Advance notice of severe weather — 1

### Standout Comments

"In the short term, looking at just this winter and not the longer term possibility of continuing high energy costs, a major concern is the potential for power cuts and gas rationing. If this were to last for more than a few hours at a time then information of alternatives which are practical for residents would be helpful. We don't all have log burners or open fires and other options are limited."

"Energy crisis' is a term invented by the media and political opposition. National/International financial issues are not the responsibility of regional councils."

***If Bradford on Avon Town Council were to offer St Margaret's Hall and the Youth & Community Centre to provide a warm space during the winter energy crisis what would encourage you to use them?***

Panellists were given multiple options to select, as well as a free text space for individual suggestions.

- Film afternoons — 45
- Cake and coffee/ tea — 40
- Work spaces — 32
- Talks — 32
- Family friendly events — 32



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- Lunches — 17
- Would not use — 7
- Board/ card games — 3
- Live music — 3
- Youth events — 2
- Social space — 2
- Food hub/ repairs — 1
- Evening films — 1

***What might make it difficult for you to attend the events referenced in the previous question?***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Work — 24
- Other commitments, kids, hobbies, pets — 13
- Time of day — 11
- Nothing — 10
- Travel issues — 5
- Financial concerns — 5
- N/A — 3
- Fear of spread of infection, flu, covid — 3
- Confusion over service offered (working space/Wi-Fi provision, entertainments) — 3
- Disability concerns — 2
- Weather concerns — 2

***Would you be willing to pay a small fee to go towards the running of these events?***

Panellists were given “yes” and “no” options for this question.

- Yes — 71
- No — 15

***Are you aware of any events in Bradford on Avon organised by the Town Council?***



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Panellists were given “yes” and “no” options for this question.

- Yes — 42
- No — 44

***If yes to the previous question; please specify which events.***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Fireworks 2022 — 15
- Great Big Green week — 10
- Christmas Lights Switch On — 9
- Market — 8
- Town Council business related events — 5
- Wednesday Matinee films — 5
- Walking Festival — 4
- Craft fair — 4
- Duck Race — 4
- Hear about it afterwards — 3
- Tea dance — 3
- Want newsletter/ posters to cover what’s on — 3
- See advertising — 2
- Concerts St Margaret’s Hall — 2
- Jubilee events — 2
- Pancake race — 2
- Antiques fair — 1
- Food event — 2
- Exercise classes — 1
- Holiday club for children — 1
- Lock up open days — 1
- Green wall — 1
- May day event — 1



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- Can't remember — 1

## Standout Comments

"Tribute bands, theatrical performances. Various heating/travel/Green week events in conjunction with Climate Friendly BoA, matinee films, jubilee history exhibition."

"NO because I do not use Facebook nor do I get emails from the TC to advertise events. I usually find out about the events when it has been and gone or if I happen to go into town. Events could be advertised along any of the roads or lanes leading into town. TC newsletter doesn't advertise most things that are on. TC meetings should be listed too. Website doesn't mention all events in St Margaret's Hall."

"I often find out about events after they have happened. I found it impossible to find out if St Mary's Church were going to have mid morning services."

## ***Have you ever attended an event in St Margaret's Hall?***

Panellists were given "yes" and "no" options for this question.

- Yes — 71
- No — 15

***If yes to the previous question; please tell us which event(s) you attended. If you have booked the venue for a party or event, please add the details below.***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Craft fairs — 22
- Drama/music performances — 19
- Talks/info events — 17
- Health related events (flu jab etc.) — 11
- Films — 10
- Town Council meetings and business — 10
- Flower & Produce Show — 8
- Private parties — 8
- Exercise/dance classes — 6
- Awards ceremonies — 4
- Comedy evening — 3
- Charity fairs — 3



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- Community Church — 3
- Tea Dance — 2
- Children's holiday club — 1
- Meet MP — 1
- Christmas market — 1

***Have you ever attended an event at the Youth & Community Centre?***

Panellists were given "yes" and "no" options for this question.

- Yes — 29
- No — 57

***If yes to the previous question; please tell us which event(s) you attended. If you have booked the venue for a party or event, please add the details below.***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

Exercise classes — 8

Children's birthday parties — 7

Youth/young people groups — 5

Medical/NCT — 5

Town Council public meetings — 4

Toddler groups — 3

Women's Institute — 2

Holiday club — 2

Polling station — 2

U3A groups — 1

Dog training — 1

Music events — 2

Twinning event — 1

West Wilts radio — 1

NA — 1



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### ***How do you find out about events organised by Bradford on Avon Town Council?***

Panellists were given multiple options to select.

- Posters/ banners — 53
- Social media — 47
- Word of mouth — 41
- Bradford on Avon Town Council newsletter — 38
- Bradford on Avon Town Council website — 30
- Having previously attended — 5

### ***What other events/ types of events do you attend in Bradford on Avon?***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Live music/ Wiltshire Music Centre — 27
- Lions fayre — 12
- Christmas Lights Switch On — 11
- Exercise — 8
- Church — 8
- Markets — 8
- Food Fair — 7
- None — 7
- Fun social family events — 6
- Duck Race — 5
- Exhibitions/Art — 4
- Coffee mornings — 4
- Fireworks — 4
- Climate friendly events — 4
- Jumble/bric-a-brac sales — 4
- Jubilee events — 4
- Play groups/Toddler groups — 3



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- Drama/Theatre — 3
- Lunch/friendship club over 60s — 3
- Not sure — 2
- Remembrance Sunday — 2
- Volunteering — 2
- Events at Moulton Hall — 2
- Green Man Festival — 2
- Beer festival — 2
- Quizzes — 2
- Gardening group — 2
- Spiritual groups — 2
- U3A — 2
- Proclamation — 1
- Secret Gardens — 1
- Wine Society — 1
- Rowing Club — 1
- Repair Café — 1
- Film Society — 1
- Preservation Trust — 1
- Pancake Race — 1
- Wassailing — 1

***Are there any types of events you would like to see Bradford on Avon Town Council organise and/ or promote?***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- No/ plenty going on/ can't think of anything else — 20
- Family events/ theatre — 11
- Comedy/ bands/ live music/ drama/ arts festivals — 11
- Talks/ demos — 7



Matthew McLaughlin | Communications Officer



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- Sports activities including Petanque — 3
- Classes language/ bridge and similar — 3
- Councillor surgeries — 3
- Charity events (skate park) — 3
- Conservation/Wildlife events — 3
- Close mason's lane for a market — 2
- Car free day across town — 2
- Council should focus on meeting its obligations better — 2
- Film nights — 2
- Community volunteering for town upkeep — 2
- Community Farm/kitchen/repair shop — 2
- Not sure — 2
- Literary festival — 1
- Singles night — 1
- Old fashioned fete —1
- Events for disabled residents — 1
- Vaccination facilities — 1
- Food/beer/whole town markets — 1
- One way system through town — 1
- Exhibition of traffic plans — 1
- Work with local businesses to create apprenticeships/recruitment seminars — 1

### **Standout Comments**

"I think the council should focus on doing a small number of events really well rather than trying to do too many events."

"No-plenty going on."

"More regular surgeries with Councillors."

***What types of facilities would you like to see in St Margaret's Hall to improve it as a venue?***



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Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Not sure — 19
- Fine as it is — 17
- Costs reduced for community/ charity groups — 7
- Workspace — 5
- Bar — 4
- Café — 3
- Nicer décor/ lighting — 3
- PA system upgrade — 3
- Better porch — 2
- Better/ comfier seating — 2
- More available for private parties/ kids parties — 2
- Better kitchen/wheelchair friendly hatch — 2
- Projector/screen — 2
- Better toilets — 1
- Gym equipment — 1
- Staging — 1
- Opportunity for schools to come together — 1
- More natural light — 1
- Better soundproofing — 1

***Have you ever recommended St Margaret’s Hall as a venue for parties/ personal events/ work functions etc?***

Panellists were given “yes” and “no” options for this question.

- Yes — 13
- No — 73

***If yes to the previous question; please describe the event.***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Birthday parties — 4



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- Wedding reception — 2
- N/A — 2
- Exercise class — 1
- Dance classes — 1
- Meeting — 1
- Church event — 1
- Quiz — 1

***Do you believe that Bradford on Avon Town Council events are accessible for those with disabilities?***

Panellists were given “yes” and “no” options for this question.

- Yes — 77
- No — 8

***Do you believe that Bradford on Avon Town Council events are accessible for older people?***

Panellists were given “yes” and “no” options for this question.

- Yes — 77
- No — 9

***How could Bradford on Avon Town Council or other organisers improve accessibility?***

Panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Not sure - 15
- Town bus/shuttle in use to help – 5
- Publicise events more suitably for the disabled social media/online/physically – 4
- Transport to help – 3
- Disabled/better parking options – 3
- Use of hearing loop – 3
- New town bridge – 3
- Disabled toilets - 2



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- Neurodiversity considerations – 2
- Decent handrails/ ramps/ smoother surfaces throughout town - 2
- Fine as it is – 2
- Timing an issue – 1
- Improve appeal for ethnic minorities - 1
- More offline information — 1
- N/A - 1

### **Standout Comments**

“I have noticed that the advertising for events from the Town Council is sporadic. Some events are advertised properly, using different media and then others will only appear one online. For events to be accessible for all, all sectors of the Town’s population need to know about them. This means events need to be advertised on posters, leaflets, online, on websites and on social media. For example, my 75 yr Mother had no knowledge of a recent event and when she asked me where I had heard about it, I realized it was on Facebook Group page.”

