



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council
Spring 2023



Skatepark hits funding target

Bradford on Avon has successfully raised £250,000 to build a new skatepark for the town.

A collaborative approach involving the Town Council, SkateBoA, individuals and local organisations, means that the fundraising goal has now been achieved.

Special thanks to everyone, especially Skate BoA, which organised several well attended community events and designed the brilliant merchandise seen around town every day. The Town Council also wishes to thank Derrick Hunt (who helped greatly in closing the funding gap) for volunteering his specialist expertise in fundraising for the skatepark.

A spokesperson for SkateBoA said: "We want to say a massive thank you to everyone from the Bradford on Avon community who helped support the small but mighty SkateBoA team and our efforts to raise funds for the town's much-needed new skatepark.

"Everyone who donated their money or time and skills, made a phone call, sent a letter, shared a post, bought a bag, a board or a tee, walked, painted or danced to raise money, and the businesses and trusts for their generosity. We thank you all!

"Props to the Town Council for listening



■ Skateboarders are celebrating their superb fundraising effort

to and supporting the local youth and wheeled sports community.

"We'll continue to work with them and Maverick Industries to convert this huge effort from all involved into the best facility we can make."

Maverick is designing the new skatepark - a key feature of the Poulton Park masterplan, which will be open to consultation later this year.

Bradford on Avon Mayor, Councillor Katie Vigar said: "It is tremendously exciting to have reached this stage in progressing towards a new skatepark as part of our project to revitalise Poulton Park for the benefit of skaters and the wider community too."



Talk of the town: news in brief

■ On Saturday 18 March, butterfly enthusiast and conservationist Neil Hulme will give a talk at St Margaret's Hall about rewilding. The Town Council has organised the event, which starts at 3.30pm, alongside Climate Friendly BoA. Refreshments will be provided by the Fairtrade Group, supported by the Co-op, and the event is free to attend

and suitable for all ages.

■ **This year marks the 20th anniversary of Fairtrade in Bradford on Avon. Throughout March the group will be hosting Fairtrade events. Keep an eye out for more details.**

■ Climate Friendly BoA has selected 6 winners to receive Town Council sponsored thermal heat trace surveys

of their homes. These will be added to existing case studies which can be used to provide very local advice to help you keep your home warm. The Town Council will organise an event as soon as the results are in and add those to the case study library. For more information: bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/domestic-heating-project/

Sign up to our e-newsletter at <https://bit.ly/3zkl6Rb>

Celebration for a coronation



Bradford on Avon Town Council is organising a series of exciting events this spring to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

Events will be taking place over the weekend and Bank Holiday Monday of 6, 7 and 8 May. Keep up to date with what's planned at the Explore BoA website: bradfordonavon.co.uk

Sharing the secret

Gardeners in Bradford on Avon will be opening their gates to visitors again this summer, after a three-year break due to the Covid pandemic and its after-effects.

Two Secret Gardens afternoons are planned: on Sunday 28 May and Sunday 25 June, from 2pm - 6pm, and the organisers are keen to involve as many garden owners as possible in this popular event.

If you would like to take part - however large or small your garden, and whether your style is big and bold or small and quirky, horticultural showpiece or wildlife haven - do get in touch at jocelinebury@mac.com or via the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BradfordonAvonSecretGardens

New faces at the Town Council

Changes are taking place at Bradford on Avon Town Council as we welcome new staff members and take on even more responsibilities in the town.

Firstly, we would like to introduce our Deputy Town Clerk, Chris Stringer, *pictured right*. Chris has previously worked for parish councils in Salisbury, Frome and Barnstaple, looking after parks and buildings. He will be taking on responsibilities across the Town Council.

Chris said: "I'm very excited to be here - and to be part of all the things happening in the town.

"I'm passionate about green spaces - especially what they offer people and communities - and I'm looking forward to being involved in projects, conversations and ideas going forward."

The Town Council has also added litter bins and grass cutting to its day-to-day services. In April 2022, the Town Council took over responsibility for litter bin collections and in December the contract was taken in house so the Town Council could take full charge of the services and standards.

A programme to replace litter bins

has already started, with the first replacements at the top of Silver Street - after it was badly damaged earlier this year - and on Culver Close.

Bradford on Avon Mayor, Councillor Katie Vigar, said: "Litter bins are one of those small things that can make a big difference. We all take pride in our beautiful town, and keeping it litter-free is an important part of that.

"I look forward to seeing the new bins as they are installed and am grateful to the staff and volunteers who make such an effort to keep the town clean and tidy for residents and visitors alike."

To help keep up the standard of services the town deserves, we have also taken on four new Town Wardens: Matthew Powell, Andy Martin, Mike Hayward and Stuart Hunt. You may have already seen them on the beat: we offer them a warm welcome to the Town Council team.



■ Town Warden Simon Sutton, left, with his new colleagues, Matthew Powell (back), Mike Hayward, Andy Martin and Stuart Hunt

Precept rise will help to fund increased responsibilities

At the Full Council meeting on Tuesday, 10 January, the Town Council voted to raise the precept (the Town Council's share of your council tax) by 6 per cent.

This means a Band D property in the town will pay £250.61 per year - an increase of £1.20 per month - as their share of the Town Council precept in 2023/2024.

When considering the budget for the next financial year, the cost of living crisis was at the forefront of the process.

The 2023/24 budget seeks to minimise the burden on personal finances while not ignoring the increased overheads the Town Council faces due to inflationary pressures.

One of the key areas of growth in the 2023/24 budget relates to the planned and much-needed improvements to play areas acquired during the asset transfer from Wiltshire Council.

The increase will help to fund other additional services and responsibilities

that the Town Council has taken on from Wiltshire Council, including the management and care of green spaces such as Barton Farm Country Park, and the maintenance and emptying of the town's litter bins.

A total of £15,000 of the Town Council's overall budget of £1,283,020 is being funded from reserves. This has been done to limit the precept rise, while still enabling the Town Council to deliver projects and work across the town.

Contact Bradford on Avon Town Council by phone on 01225 864240



Helping businesses to shine

■ Our festive lights stayed on until mid-February this year, bringing a welcome glow to the dark winter evenings

Over the winter months, the Town Council worked on a series of projects to support our town centre businesses during tough economic times.

Councillors heard from business owners before Christmas about the challenges they are facing at the moment - and came up with a series of ideas and initiatives to support them through the winter and into the first part of the new year.

The town's festive lights have stayed up longer than usual as part of our Bradford on Avon Shines On scheme - putting a spotlight on the town centre businesses, including our independent shops and restaurants - and welcoming people to the town during the darker winter evenings.

Adding to the cheerful atmosphere, buskers in The Shambles and Lamb Yard provided a variety of musical entertainment for shoppers and visitors.

Town Council officers revamped the popular Shop Local scheme and launched it to coincide with the Explore BoA Advent Calendar. The new and improved scheme is aimed

at providing increased support to businesses by promoting sales, special offers and more. With more people regularly shopping local, it is hoped that businesses can increase stock ranges and that new shopkeepers will be attracted to the town.

Two illustrated signage boards have been installed at the Town Bridge bus stops to help encourage visitors to discover all our town centre has to offer, whether they arrive by bus, train or having parked in the car parks. A similar flyer to households across the town and into surrounding villages was a further part of the Shop Local campaign.

Mayor, Councillor Katie Vigar, said: "Our wonderful independent town centre businesses are a huge part of what makes Bradford on Avon so special. But we need to back them if we are to keep them. Our aim is to raise the profile our town centre and we hope that visitors and residents enjoy spending time here - whether that's shopping local or meeting a friend for a coffee."

More about Shop Local at www.bradfordonavon.co.uk/boa-shop-local/

Volunteer group seeks cool and committed co-ordinator

Bradford on Avon Community Emergency Volunteers (CEVs) are looking to appoint a motivated and passionate person to co-ordinate the group. The CEVs are a group of people drawn from the local community who are trained to give assistance during times of severe weather, civil emergency, or at events in the town. The CEVs are supported by the Town Council.

The CEV Co-ordinator is a challenging but rewarding voluntary role, which will need someone who is cool under pressure, great at communicating and has bags of energy. For more information go to: <https://bit.ly/3Cra4uQ>

As an example of the kind of emergency the CEVs can be called on to deal with, earlier this year they came to the rescue of a resident whose home was badly flooded during January's heavy rainstorms.

The resident paid tribute to the commitment of the group. He said: "During the five days of the ingress, over 20 people bailed out over 6,000 gallons of water, and over half of the folk were Community Emergency Volunteers. Tim (Councillor Trimble) did a wonderful job of liaising with everybody, finding sandbags from nowhere, keeping me informed and helping to boost morale - and everybody offered support and quiet encouragement.

"I owe you a great debt of gratitude. You came to help me when I needed it most, and I am truly grateful."



Photo: Trevor Porter

Getting our Easter ducks in a row

Bradford on Avon Town Council is hosting its ever-popular Duck Race on Easter Monday (10 April). Before the main event at noon, there will be live music, food and entertainment on offer.

The Town Council has added a new race this year. The first ever Business Duck Race gives businesses a chance to compete against each other. To sponsor a

Business Duck costs only £10 but you are competing for something much more: bragging rights and a special Duck Race Trophy to proudly display. Main race ducks will cost £2 to sponsor.

For more information, including details of where to purchase your ducks, go to www.bradfordonavon.co.uk/events/event/duck-race-2023/

Contact the Town Council by email at office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Traffic modelling under discussion

In late November, the Town Council held a meeting with MP Michelle Donelan and the then Wiltshire Council cabinet member for highways, Councillor Mark McClelland, to discuss the progress on developing a new traffic solution for the town.

At the meeting, Wiltshire Council confirmed its request for a two-thirds contribution to traffic modelling costs from the Town Council. Modelling is necessary for any potential scheme in order to design a traffic system for the town which will best enhance pedestrian and cyclists' safety and comfort, help reduce traffic volume and improve air quality. All these were priorities identified in the transport consultation.

Since that meeting, Councillor McClelland has resigned from his cabinet position and Councillor Caroline Thomas has stepped in to the role.

At Full Council on Tuesday, 10 January, Town Councillors agreed to put aside up to £25,000 (half the total cost) for traffic modelling as an interim step while seeking further assurances about the nature of the modelling process before agreeing to pay.

As we went to print with this issue of *The News*, the Town Council was about to meet Councillor Thomas to show her around the town and explain first hand Bradford on Avon's traffic problems.

Save the date

Town council meetings

Full Council St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 7 March, 7pm

Environment & Green Spaces Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 14 March, 7pm

Town Development Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 28 March, 7pm

Events

Wednesday Matinee: See How They Run St Margaret's Hall, Wednesday 8 March, 1.30pm

Rewilding: An illustrated talk by Neil Hulme St Margaret's Hall, Saturday 18 March, 3.30pm

The Fleetwood Mac Songbook St Margaret's Hall, Saturday 25 March, 7.30pm

Duck Race 2023 Westbury Gardens, Monday 10 April, 12 noon

Wednesday Matinee: The Lost King St Margaret's Hall, Wednesday 12 April, 1.30pm

Coronation Celebrations 6, 7 & 8 May. Look out for more information nearer the time on the Explore BoA website at bradfordonavon.co.uk

Secret Gardens Sunday 28 May, 2-6pm

Secret Gardens Sunday 25 June, 2-6pm

Bradford on Avon Flower & Produce Show 2023 St Margaret's Hall, Sunday 3 September, 2-4 pm

Can thermal imaging help save on bills?

Worried about heating bills? Don't know what to do to reduce costs? That was me: but last year I invested in a CHEESE (Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Experts) survey to see how I could reduce heating costs.

The survey on my detached, stone-walled house (built before 1841) took 2 ½ hours. First the house was heated as high as it would go (21°C due to heat loss). A fan drew the warm air outside and a thermal imaging camera was used to survey the house, finding where cold air was being drawn in through cracks and gaps in the windows, doors, skirting boards etc. I was given a tablet on which I could also view the camera images and see where all the draughts were coming from.

Finally I was given a USB of the thermal imaging to keep, so I could decide what to do to save energy. The major source

of heat loss - three holes behind the fireplace and up into the chimney - have now been filled with bricks and mortar, as have other draught-emitting cracks, using insulating materials and sealants. The chimney has also been insulated. So the survey has definitely helped me to reduce heat loss through the gaps around the house and thus reduced my energy use.

The cost of the survey (£135 for me) depends on the size of your house. You can find out more about the CHEESE Project CIC at <https://cheeseproject.co.uk/>

Eunice Parker, Climate Friendly BoA

Climate Friendly
BRADFORD ON AVON

CONTACT your councillor

Councillor Sam Blackwell cllr.blackwell@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

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Councillor Alison Potter cllr.potter@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Tim Trimble cllr.trimble@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Katie Vigar (Mayor) cllr.vigar@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Kate Bessant cllr.bessant@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Emma Franklin cllr.franklin@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor David Garwood cllr.garwood@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Sarah Gibson cllr.gibson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Jennie Parker (Deputy Mayor) cllr.parker@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Jack Vittles cllr.vittles@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

North Ward

South Ward

Keep in touch

Are you interested in what your local Town Council is doing? Would you like to know about events happening around the town?

We have launched BoA Snippets, an email newsletter sent out fortnightly to keep residents up to date with everything we are doing and more.

To become a subscriber, please go to: <https://bit.ly/3zkl6Rb>

You can keep up to date with local news, and contact your Town Councillor by visiting our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk