



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council
Spring 2022



Great response to traffic survey

Town councillors are delighted to report that the recent Future of Transport consultation saw a remarkable number of responses from Bradford on Avon residents. The consultation, which was open for almost six weeks, drew more than 2,700 responses to the questionnaire and accompanying interactive map.

In addition, three very well attended events were held at St Margaret's Hall, where residents could chat with town councillors and see the maps and consultation materials on large display boards. More than 600 residents passed through the doors and it was great to see the breadth of ideas and passion on this subject from across our community.

The consultation was the first phase of the process, which aims to improve the decades-long traffic and travel problems in and around the town.

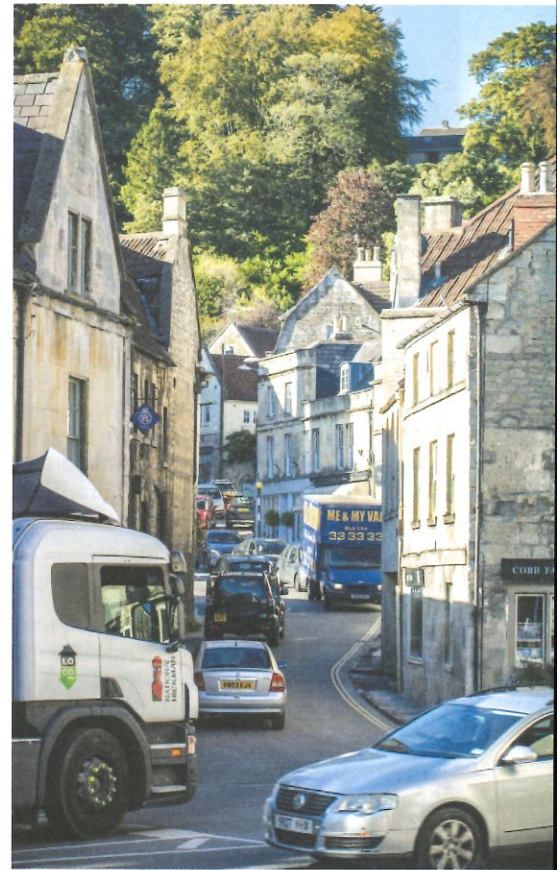
Cllr Tim Trimble, chair of the Sustainable Travel committee, said: "The scale of the response has been truly phenomenal and gives us confidence that we have a sound representation of views from across the town. This gives us a great mandate on which to base our

discussions with Wiltshire Council Highways."

The reporting on this phase of the consultation is now taking place, with the results and comments on both the questionnaire and interactive map being analysed by an independent consultant. Due to the excellent level of response in our town, the results will take a little while to be formally presented and made publicly available.

The report and the associated data will be made available to all residents at our next Sustainable Travel committee meeting, which will take place in St Margaret's Hall at 7pm on 29 March. Throughout the consultation the Town Council is working closely with Wiltshire Council as the highways authority to make sure we can provide realistic solutions to our traffic issues.

The engagement with the consultation from a real cross-section of our community in the past few months has been incredibly heartening to see, and we are confident that this has given the best possible start in trying to ease the town's traffic and transport problems.



Talk of the town: news in brief

■ Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 will run from 21 February - 6 March. This year's event will represent a show of solidarity with communities overseas on the frontline of the climate crisis. Numerous shops and businesses in Bradford on Avon will be supporting the event. To find out more about how to take part locally, visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight

■ The 'no-dig' flower and vegetable beds on Riverside Walk have been flourishing over the past few months, but would benefit from some fresh planting. If you have spare plants to

share, please drop them off at the GrowBoA plant swap locations at the top of Whitehill or at the St Laurence Road/Trowbridge Road junction.

■ After two years of cancelled plans, some popular events are back on the town's entertainments agenda - starting with the **Pancake Race** at 11am on Shrove Tuesday, 1 March. Come along to the Town Bridge and cheer on the runners as they compete for the fabulous Frying Pan Trophy.

■ St Margaret's Hall will be hosting a

varied programme of events in 2022, including The Bradfordians' latest production from 24-26 February, a comedy night on 12 March and The Fleetwood Mac Songbook on 1 April.

■ If you are planning on cutting hedges in the next week or so, the RSPB recommends avoiding the main breeding season for nesting birds, which usually runs throughout March to August each year. Some birds nest outside this period, so it is important to always check carefully for active nests prior to cutting.

Visit our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Pleased to meet you ...

Introducing Bradford on Avon Town Council's Events & Tourism Officer, Katie Ponsford



My name is Katie Ponsford, the Events & Tourism Officer for Bradford on Avon Town Council. I began my role in September 2021, and my first big project was organising the Christmas Lights Switch on and Gift Fair which turned out a great success.

I am also responsible for the day-to-day running of the Tourist Information Centre and, being a resident of Bradford on Avon myself, I truly enjoy organising events in the town and sharing its qualities with residents as well as tourists visiting from further afield.

Next up on my events calendar is to plan for the annual Pancake Race, getting local businesspeople dressed up to race across the Town Bridge while performing their best pancake flips! At Easter, I plan to hold the best ever annual duck race, with fantastic prizes to be won - and then let's not forget the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June: four days packed full of activities going on around Bradford on Avon.

I can be contacted at katie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk or on 01225 864240.

Bin there, done that

Wiltshire Council is changing some of its household waste collection days from the end of February. You will be notified by letter if and when this is happening in your street. The change also serves as a reminder to bring your bins in as soon as possible after collection to avoid obstructing pavements.

Conservation plan aims to protect woodland

■ Trees affected by ash dieback in Becky Addy Wood

Bradford on Avon Town Council will be carrying out work to address a tree disease that has been spreading across the UK and is now present in the local area. The disease, known as ash dieback, is carried by airborne spores of a fungus - *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* - and causes the decline and death of ash trees. Severely affected trees can become unstable, drop branches or fall.

The disease has taken hold in Wiltshire and in Becky Addy Wood, severely affecting many trees. The Town Council is taking an innovative approach to make Becky Addy Wood a safe place to visit, by closing areas of the woodland apart from the public footpath.

Doing this will avoid more extensive tree felling. In these closed areas, diseased trees can decline and decay naturally over years, while providing valuable wildlife habitat. It is hoped that some of the trees will be monitored as part of a scientific study to identify

those that have some resistance to the disease.

A leading scientist researching ash dieback in woodlands commented on the Town Council's plans, saying: "I've read your plan with interest - it's a great plan, and a credit to Bradford on Avon Town Council. It's what I would do, if [Becky Addy Wood] was in my hands."

Following a professional survey of individual trees near the road and public footpath, work to reduce or fell some trees near the footpath and road will need to be carried out, for safety purposes only. This affects about 10 per cent of the canopy cover of the woodland. No pre-emptive work on trees is planned and healthy trees will be unaffected.

Precautionary surveys will check for bat roosts in the trees, and the work is being carefully planned to minimise damage and to maximise the biodiversity and ongoing recovery of the woodland.

Residents' panel starts work

A residents' panel made up of 100 members of the town community has been formed following the application process carried out at the end of last year.

The Bradford on Avon Residents' Panel is a new initiative designed to help the Town Council listen to views from across the whole community.

Selected by an independent company, the panel is broadly representative of the town based on census information. Members will be asked to complete surveys answering questions on issues relating to Town Council activities and services.

The work of the panel is beginning on

a pilot basis, with the first survey due in February.

A follow-up report from the survey will be presented to the Full Council meeting on 8 March and published on the Town Council website - www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.org.uk

The council meeting will review the project at this stage.

The panel is designed to complement long-standing methods of hearing residents' views, such as direct contact from individual residents, with local groups and organisations, and through specific consultations. These methods of collecting information will all continue.

Contact the Town Council by phone on 01225 864240

Council tax precept set for 2022

Every year the Town Council sets a budget for the following financial year and makes sure that its income is sufficient to cover spending.

The council has to decide how much money it needs from residents. This amount is known as the precept - the Town Council's share of your council tax.

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the precept was not increased last year. Unfortunately, although council officers have endeavoured to maintain a tight budget this year, inflation is set to rise and it is necessary to increase the precept. This will equate to an increase of 38p per

week for a Band D household.

In addition, the Town Council will be taking over ownership from Wiltshire Council of more assets, including Barton Farm Country Park, Poulton Field and additional play areas. These asset transfers will be taken on by the town with no funding attached.

Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson, said: "We are very conscious of ever-increasing household expenses and were reluctant to increase the precept, but this income is vital for maintaining services and facilities that we all appreciate - such as the youth service, parks, play areas and public toilets."



■ Barton Farm Country Park is one of the areas that will in future be managed by the town council

Jubilee weekend plans take shape

People all over the UK will be celebrating this summer, in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Her Majesty will be the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, representing 70 years of service.

The Town Council is organising various events for the four-day bank holiday weekend, starting on Thursday 2 June.

Bradford on Avon Lions are holding their Family Fun Day and car boot sale on Friday 3 June - as always, this will be a fun day out for all the family, with children's rides, a bouncy castle, lots of hot and cold food as well as plenty of ice cream.

The following day, Saturday 4 June, is when the town's Preservation Trust is

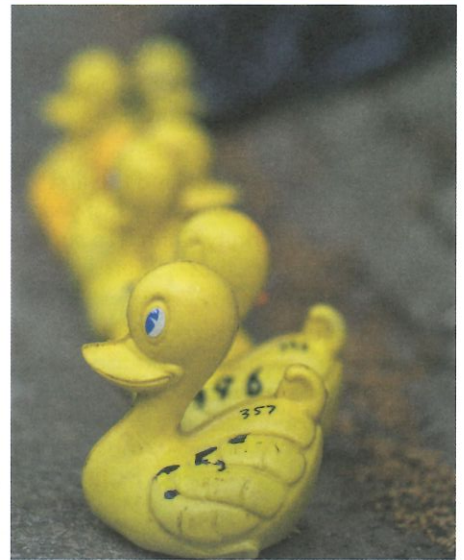
planning to hold a celebratory tea party outside the Tithe Barn.

The Town Council is looking at organising an exhibition in St Margaret's Hall focusing on life in Bradford on Avon throughout the Queen's reign. We would welcome any stories and photos from residents to help build up a personal view of the story of Bradford on Avon (see our Quick Question on the back page for details).

A number of music events are also being planned, to be held across the town over the weekend.

Keep checking in on our Explore BOA website - www.bradfordonavon.co.uk - more information will be available as plans are firmed up.

Easter event makes a welcome return



■ This year's Duck Race will take place on Easter Monday - 18 April

Back on the town's events calendar this spring is the ever-popular **Duck Race**, with hundreds of ducks being launched from the Town Bridge on Easter Monday, 18 April.

The fun starts at noon in Westbury Gardens - and there are prizes to be won. Town Council Events & Tourism Officer Katie Ponsford would like some help with selling ducks; if you can spare some time, you can get in touch with her at katie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk or on 01225 864240.

Skatepark funding bid turned down

Plans for a new skatepark at Poulton have been delayed by the National Lottery Community Fund's decision to turn down the Town Council's bid for funding.

The Lottery decision was based partly on the sheer number of proposals received, but it was also noted that young people in Bradford "have access to other skateparks, ie Trowbridge skatepark is not far and very accessible on public transport."

Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson, said: "This is very sad and disappointing news, but we are determined that the skatepark will be built at Poulton. We are now exploring other ways of raising the finance needed to embark on Phase I of the project, which will be of great benefit to young people in Bradford on Avon."

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

Abbey visit for tireless volunteer

Bradford on Avon boasts a remarkably active and dedicated community of volunteers, involved in a wide range of activities - from support services at The Hub to the CluB and gardening groups who keep the town looking beautiful, our Community Service Volunteers and many more.

One of these volunteers is Jane Jones, pictured right, who organised the first Bradford on Avon Sewing Bee last year and helped Holy Trinity Church to success in the national Eco Church awards in 2018.

Her contribution was recognised when she was nominated by the Bridge Yard Co-op to attend a special carol service hosted by Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, at Westminster Abbey.

The event, televised on Christmas Eve, honoured the spirit of community volunteers across the UK. Jane attended the service with the Co-op's local Member Pioneer for Bradford and Trowbridge, Maureen Breeze.

Jane is also the treasurer of Fairtrade BoA, has trained to become a volunteer at Wiltshire Heights Care Home, and is one of the team who look after the 'no-dig' riverside flower and vegetable beds.



■ Jane Jones pictured at Westminster Abbey in December

Quick Question

Have you lived in the town throughout the Queen's reign? As part of our preparations for the Platinum Jubilee we want to hear from you!

Email townclerk@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01225 864240

Just one thing Climate Friendly BRADFORD ON AVON

Our regular column looks at some small steps we can take to help reduce energy use and keep those rising bills under control

- Ditch the ironing. But if you can't bear to do this, do it all in one go: an iron uses most of its energy when heating up.
 - If you can, ditch your energy-hungry tumble dryer too and dry your clothes outside or on racks in the house (not on radiators).
 - Wash your clothes at 30°C and fully load your machine.
 - Boil only the amount of water you need in the kettle (but enough to cover the element). It's cheaper to use an electric kettle than boiling water on an electric hob.
 - When using the oven, try to cook several things at once.
 - If you wear thermals and plenty of warm clothes on top, you may find you can turn down your heating a degree or two. Don't go below 18°C if you are elderly, ill, or have small children.
 - Draw the curtains when it's getting dark and tuck them behind any radiators to keep out draughts.
 - Don't keep appliances on standby
 - Take shorter showers!
 - Use your central heating controls to program your heating and hot water, and turn down radiators in rooms you don't use. If you have Economy 7 and a hot water cylinder, make sure your water is heating up at night.
 - Move furniture away from radiators so that the room gets warm, not your furniture
 - If you need just one room to be warm for a few hours, an efficient electric oil-filled radiator can be cheaper than central heating.
- There are some grants available, usually if you are on a low income. To find out more, contact Warm and Safe Wiltshire on 0800 038 5722, warmandsafe@cse.org.uk or via www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk
- Some helpful advice sheets are available here: www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/energy-advice

CONTACT your councillor

North Ward

ClIrr Sam Blackwell (Chair, Resources Committee) cllr.blackwell@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

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

ClIrr Tim Trimble (Chair, Sustainable Travel Committee) cllr.trimble@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

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

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

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

ClIrr Sarah Gibson (Mayor) cllr.gibson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

ClIrr Jennie Parker (Chair, Community & Wellbeing Committee) cllr.parker@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

ClIrr Jack Vittles (Chair, Town Development Committee) cllr.vittles@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

You can keep up to date with local news, and contact your town councillor, via our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk