



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Winter 2022



Major upgrade for play areas

Bradford on Avon Town Council has agreed to a major play area refurbishment programme, taking play provision for the town's children into the next decade.

At the latest Environment & Green Spaces Committee meeting, Town Councillors unanimously approved nearly £400,000 of works to improve the town's play areas over the next 14 years. The first round of works - valued at £175,000 - is set to begin in 2023, with completion planned in 2025.

These initial works will focus on the play areas in Poulton Field, St Aldhelm's, Bearfield, Spencers Orchard and Sladesbrook.

A spokesperson for Bradford on Avon Town Council said: "On 1 April 2022, the Town Council took over management of most play areas in the town. Previously, Wiltshire Council managed the play areas.

"Following the asset transfer, the Town Council formed a working party to agree on priorities moving forward.

"The Town Council understands the recent concerns over the play areas,



■ The St Aldhelm's play area is to be improved and upgraded as part of the planned programme of works but it is hoped this announcement will assure residents that action is being taken."

A contractor regularly inspects the play

areas and alerts the Town Council to maintenance issues and priorities. The team of Town Wardens can then undertake the necessary repairs.

Views sought on affordable access to electric vehicles



People in Bradford on Avon and the surrounding area are being asked for their views on an electric vehicle hire scheme that could start up in the town.

Wiltshire Council and Bradford on Avon Town Council are asking the town's residents, businesses and community organisations for their thoughts on an electric car club, an electric bike club and bike hanger storage facilities.

The two councils are working in

partnership with electric car provider Co-Cars to assess local demand. If enough people are interested it could enable affordable access to electric cars for everyone in Bradford on Avon, while also supporting the shift to zero-carbon transport.

To take part in the survey, please go to <https://bit.ly/ElectricBoA> - the closing date is Sunday, 11 December 2022.

You can find out more about Co-Cars, at www.co-cars.co.uk



Season's greetings to all our readers



Don't miss the bus

Would you like to see a community owned, zero-emission, solar-powered electric bus service operating in and around the town?

Bradford on Avon Area Board, the Town Council, The Big Lemon – which operates a fleet of zero-emission buses in Brighton – and Option 247 – official partners of Wiltshire Council representing bus user groups across the county – are working together to gauge the potential for this exciting idea.

The purpose would be both to reduce carbon emissions in the town to help reach zero-carbon, and also to provide better bus links for local residents to reduce isolation and loneliness.

Interested? Then please take a few minutes to complete the survey at: <https://forms.gle/Drby8q4zMnjTVnYa6> Alternatively, contact the Town Council for a paper copy of the survey. Closing date is Sunday, 8 January 2023.

The end of an era



Bradford on Avon Town Council paid tribute to the long reign and service of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II following her death in early September, and made physical and online Books of Condolence available for residents. The local Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III was organised by the Town Council and attended by the Mayor of Bradford on Avon, Cllr Katie Vigar (pictured), Deputy Mayor Cllr Jennie Parker and Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Amanda Burnside.

Stay warm this winter

The Town Council is co-ordinating voluntary efforts by local organisations to provide warm spaces where residents can get together this winter. The project recognises the impact on the whole community of the current economic climate, particularly rising fuel bills, and the lockdowns of previous winters.

An online directory can be viewed on the Town Council website – www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk – and will be regularly updated. Opportunities we are already aware of are listed below.

We are grateful to all the groups who have worked with us to produce the directory and support activities, including the local Co-Op, Sainsbury's, Churches Together and LINK.

The Town Council has also organised an exciting programme of films which will run at St Margaret's Hall this winter, enabling it to reprise its former role as the town cinema.

- The **Quaker Meeting House** will be open to all every Saturday between 10am and 2pm to provide a warm space, as well as soup and a roll.
- On the first and third Monday of every month **Avon Stitchers meet in the United Church Hall** between 2pm and 4.30pm. Attendance is £5.
- Every third Wednesday of the month from 12.30pm-2pm the **Zion Church** is offering free soup and roll lunches; every second Saturday of the month it hosts a coffee morning from 10.30am-12.30pm.
- The **Community Church in St Margaret's Street** is open as a warm space Monday 11am-1pm, Tuesday to Thursday 9.30-1pm. Note: there is a Ladies' Gathering 10.30am-12pm on Wednesday, and a Men's Gathering 10.30am-12pm on Friday. On Fridays it also opens from 12.30pm offering free soup and a roll.

● Every second Friday of the month, **The Hub** holds a coffee morning between 10am and 12pm. The Hub also hosts hot lunches every Thursday. Booking required.

● On the first and third Wednesday of the month, **St Nicholas Church, Winsley**, hosts a Kettle's On social get together, with refreshments, between 10am and 12 noon.

The **Men's Shed** meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-1pm at Bradford Town Football Club ground, Trowbridge Road.

● **Bradford on Avon Library** is open at the following times: Monday: 10am-7pm; Wednesday: 9.30am-5pm; Thursday: 9.30am-7pm; Friday: 9.30am-5pm; Saturday: 9.30am-4pm. Closed Sunday and Tuesday.

● Keep warm and have fun at our **weekly Tea Dance** – every Thursday in St Margaret's Hall from 2pm-4.30pm. £5 a head, to include tea and cake; no booking required.

Films at St Margaret's Hall

- The next **Dementia Friendly Matinee** will be **The Railway Children Return** on Wednesday 14 December at 1.30pm. Admission is £5 including refreshments; carers free.
- A programme of **family-friendly films** will be showing on Sunday afternoons throughout December and January. Doors will open from 1.30pm with the film starting at 2pm. Admission is £2 per person, £5 for a family of four, or free for those in receipt of benefits. The films are: Sunday, 27 November – *Dumbo*; Sunday, 11 December – *The Muppet Christmas Carol*; Sunday, 8 January – *Beauty & the Beast*; Sunday, 15 January – *Downton Abbey: A New Era*; Sunday, 22 January – *The Railway Children Return*.

Talk of the town: news in brief

■ **Traffic consultation update:** the Town Council continues to liaise with Wiltshire Council following the traffic consultation last winter. The Full Council meeting on 7 November, which takes place after this newsletter has gone to print, was due to discuss the latest situation. See the Town Council website for updates, or sign up for our new

email newsletter (see below).

■ Bradford on Avon Town Council is producing a regular email newsletter to keep residents informed and up to date with news and events. Sign up at bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

■ During Great Big Green Week, the Town Council organised several well-attended events including the premiere

of acclaimed documentary, *The Ants & The Grasshopper*, an eco-fair and the second domestic heating event.

■ Over the summer holidays the Town Council subsidised a children's club run by BoA Youth to help local families and new Ukrainian residents seeking affordable childcare. The Council hopes to repeat the initiative next year.

Contact the Town Council by phone on 01225 864240

Goodbye ... and hello



■ Saying goodbye: Sandra Bartlett, centre front, with incoming Chief Executive/Town Clerk Ian Brown, left, and the Town Council staff team

Bradford on Avon Town Council has said thank you and goodbye to its long-serving Town Clerk Sandra Bartlett, who retired at the end of September after more than two decades of dedicated service.

Sandra has been with the Town Council since 1999 and has worked tirelessly to shape Bradford on Avon into the town it is today.

Her leadership has resulted in the Town Council achieving the refurbishment of St Margaret's Hall, saving the Youth & Community Centre, bringing back the Tourist Information Centre, saving the public toilets, overseeing the transfer of assets from Wiltshire Council and the achievement of the Gold Quality standard from the Local Council Award Scheme.

Sandra, along with the then Mayor John Potter, also led the charge to bring back the Flower & Produce Show, with the help of her father.

Sandra said: "The Town Council has grown so much since I started and it has been a pleasure to see

its journey. I want to thank all of my colleagues and I hope they have learned something from me, as I have learned so much from them.

"I've always been proud of how the Town Council has worked with community groups to achieve the best for the town. I've enjoyed working with the Town Mayors over the years and I'm proud of all the good we have achieved as a council."

Sandra will be succeeded by former Director of Operations, Ian Brown.

Since joining the Town Council in 2018, Ian has provided councillors with guidance on important projects working alongside Sandra. He brings to his new role extensive knowledge gained from a long career in local government at both district and unitary levels.

Ian said: "I am absolutely delighted to be given the opportunity to lead such a forward thinking Town Council. I hope to follow in Sandra's illustrious footsteps and continue to develop the Town Council in supporting the town."

Let there be lights

This year's Christmas lights switch-on, sponsored by Cobb Farr, will take place on Friday, 25 November. The switch-on, accompanied by Christmas carols, is at 6pm in Westbury Gardens. There will also be a host of entertainment and activities for all, including live music in Lamb Yard and The Shambles, food, a gift fair in St Margaret's Hall and Santa's grotto. There will be no car parking in St Margaret's car park on 25 November, and space elsewhere in the town is limited, so take the stress away by walking, cycling or using public transport.

Memorial refurbished in centenary year



■ The newly repaired and conserved war memorial in Westbury Gardens

Bradford on Avon's war memorial has benefited from a grant from The War Memorials scheme, supported by Historic England. The 2022/23 grant funding has allowed the memorial to be repaired and conserved during its 100th anniversary year.

Standing proud in Westbury Gardens, the war memorial was installed to commemorate World War I and was unveiled by Walter Hume Long, 1st Viscount Long of Wraxall, on Thursday, 3 August, 1922.

Stepping out for town's skatepark

Young skateboarders with their families have raised more than £2,100 towards the cost of Bradford on Avon's planned skatepark by taking part in a four-mile sponsored walk from the Tithe Barn in October.

Find out how you can support the group's fundraising efforts at <https://skateboa.org/>

Photo: Trevor Porter





Climate Friendly BRADFORD ON AVON

Keep Warm this Winter with some low-cost fuel-saving tips: Save Fuel, Save the Planet

The Town Council has been working on a domestic heating study, with Climate Friendly and thermal survey companies CHEESE and AsBuilt, to find ways to help save fuel and costs in our homes. Some measures are expensive, but here are some 'quick fixes' that might help:

Insulation: Improving insulation in your roof and walls is the most important first step, before embarking on more expensive installations. You might be eligible for grants for this and other energy-saving measures: you can get free advice and support from www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk or call 0800 038 5722.

Draughts: A thermal survey can show where heat is lost. Use draught excluders around doors, insulating tape or caulking around draughty windows, cover letterboxes and keyholes, and use plumber's putty to block holes around pipes under sinks.

Chimneys: Insert a 'chimney sheep' or an old pillow in a plastic bag into unused chimneys; remember to remove in spring to dry out.

Radiators: Install reflective panels behind your radiators, and ensure your radiators are not obstructed by clutter or furniture.

Thermostats: Turning the dial down by even 0.5 degrees can save a lot of fuel. If you don't have good heating controls you may be eligible for help.

Dehumidifiers: A damp home is bad for your health and for the fabric of your home. It also takes more fuel to heat damp air.

Curtains and rugs: Thick curtains at windows and doors help reduce heat-loss, as do rugs.

Dress warmly: Insulate yourself to stay cosy - thick socks, extra sweater, heated gilet.

Cooking: Only boil the water you need in the kettle, and consider low-energy options: microwave, slow-cooker or pressure cooker.

Everything in the garden's lovely

The 2022 Bradford on Avon Flower and Produce Show was a great success, with a record number of entries across all classes, and an encouraging number of first-time entrants.

The popular show, supported by the Town Council, attracted 83 entrants -

very slightly down on last year. But the total number of entries was almost 100 up on last year, despite the very difficult growing conditions over the hot, dry summer.

The winners' trophies were presented by Mayor Katie Vigar, and tea and cakes were served by the team from Save the Children.

The 2023 show will be on Sunday 3 September, at St Margaret's Hall: look out for schedules and entry forms in the spring.

■ In more good news for gardeners, the town's wonderful Secret Gardens events are set to make a comeback in 2023 - watch this space for more information.

■ We are delighted to report that Bradford on Avon won a Silver Gilt award at South West in Bloom 2022. The town was competing against the best in the region, in the Champion of Champions League, having won Gold in the 2021 contest.

Business survey

Bradford on Avon Town Council is interested in understanding the economic outlook of businesses in the town. This is especially important given the impact of the current cost of living crisis, as well as the on-going effects of the pandemic. The survey asks questions about barriers to and opportunities for growth, and data will be used to lobby Wiltshire Council to support recovery efforts. Take part at: bit.ly/3RXOhjj

CONTACT your councillor

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- CLlr Katie Vigar (Mayor) cldr.vigar@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

- CLlr Kate Bessant cldr.bessant@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk
- CLlr Emma Franklin cldr.franklin@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk
- CLlr David Garwood cldr.garwood@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk
- CLlr Sarah Gibson cldr.gibson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk
- CLlr Jennie Parker (Deputy Mayor) cldr.parker@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk
- CLlr Jack Vittles cldr.vittles@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

North Ward

South Ward

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