

Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Bradford on Avon Town Council Residents' Panel

Report on survey two: Environment

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, 13 May. Panellists were given until Friday, 27 May to complete the survey. Of the 100 panellists, 79 panellists responded to the survey — a rise of more than 14 per cent on the previous 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: environment questions

Are you aware that Bradford on Avon Town Council has declared climate and ecological emergencies?

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

- Yes—56
- No—23

Are there any aspects of the climate or ecological emergencies you would like to see more information and/ or events on?

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

- Yes—46
- No—33



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

If so, what types of events and/ or information would you like to see on the climate and ecological emergencies?

Panellists were given an open text option for this question.

- Explanations (info/ events including what the Town Council is doing)—12
- Transport (including ‘car free days’, electric transport, traffic and public transport)—10
- Do not know/ NA—7
- Green space/ wildlife information and events – 8
- Information/ events on what residents can do—6
- What can residents do in their homes (energy saving and heat)—5
- Do not want more events or information—4
- Children/ family events—2
- Recycling—2
- Pollution—2
- Newsletter—1
- Q&A sessions—1
- Litter picking—1

Two panellists specifically commented that “if so” questions should not be mandatory. One panellist said they would support car share scheme.

Are there any areas of Bradford on Avon where you want the Town Council to plant trees?

Panellists were given an open text option for this question.

- Anywhere/ everywhere—13
- Poulton—11
- No planting—7
- Barton Farm—6
- Old Golf Course—6
- Do not know—6
- On/ on the edges of green spaces—5



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

- Around housing estates—3
- Victory Field—3
- Holt Road—3
- River bank—3
- Where other trees have been cut down—3
- Churches—1
- Sladesbrook—1
- Ashley Road—1
- St Laurence Road—1
- St Laurence playing field—1
- School fields—1
- Woolley Street—1
- New Road—1
- Town Square (???) — 1
- Market Street—1
- Ashfield Road—1
- Arable Fields—1
- Opposite Tithe Cote Manor —1

Standout comments

“I support the principle of tree planting but I have nowhere specific to suggest. One thought - how about planting fruiting trees such as crab apple and allow residents to collect the fruit for jam making?”

“Yes -'Churches ' Near St. Laurence school. Plant small fruit trees and shrubs to boost biodiversity and provide fruit and berries for the community including young persons and children en route to school. I am thinking of the grassy area by old phone box (Winsley Road end) and the grass next to parkign area outside Churches entrance to St Laurence.”

“Any available spaces! However, in the interests of biodiversity, perhaps a shrub layer could also be considered? The roundabout onto the Kingston Farm Estate and surrounding verges could certainly benefit from some trees/ shrubs.”



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Bradford on Avon Town Council has recently taken on the management of green spaces in the town, including grassed areas close to residential housing. Many councils are now rewilding more of their green spaces to allow longer grass and more wildflowers. Are you aware of the practice of rewilding?

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

- Yes—75
- No—4

Would you like to see a mixture of rewilding and mowed areas in the town? If so, where would you like to see rewilding and where would you like to see mown?

Panellists were given an open text option for this question. The answers for this question have been separated into areas where panellists want to see rewilding and into areas they want to see mown.

- As many areas as possible—18
- Barton Farm—12
- Areas of mixed rewilding and mowing—11
- Poulton—4
- Sladesbrook—3
- Moulton Drive—3
- Do not know—3
- Verges—3
- Old Golf Course—2
- Edges of fields—2
- Ashley Road field—2
- Springfield—1
- Less used areas—1
- Tithe Barn picnic area—1
- Hedgerows—1
- Fields—1

Where panellists answered, “as much as possible”, it mostly came with the caveat that recreational areas i.e.



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Tuesday, 28 June 2022

playing fields, should be mown. Panellists added that mowing and maintenance should extend to areas which impact visibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

- Recreational areas (children’s play areas, sports areas etc) —16
- Public pathways—4
- All areas mowed—3
- Westbury Garden—3
- Town Centre—3
- Victory Field—2
- No mowing—1
- Residential areas—1
- Where needed —1

Standout comments

“There should be a patchwork of wild areas which connect to local woodland.”

“Rewilding is great in principle, I find it also collects rubbish and encourages dog walkers not to pick up their pets mess as it's in the long grass! So my suggestion would be small area's for rewilding and mown the rest.”

“It's hard to pin point specific areas but I would like some thought about areas where children are most likely to run around. Unfortunately rewilding seems to mean that dog owners are less likely to pick up mess in these areas so it's not very pleasant and a bit of a health hazard if done where children are likely to be running/crawling about”

“Rewilding needs to be where the seeds cannot destroy years of private gardening with invasive weeds. There are enough problems already with road edges no longer being cleaned”

“As many rewilded areas as possible, especially large areas of Barton Farm Country Parks. Consult with the nearest residents about particular patches of green areas. Rewild the grassy areas in 'Chruches'. Rewild road verges in line with Plant Life road verge guidance. Rewild the old golf course if you can (or encourage the owner to do so). Rewild bus shelter roofs with green roofs for pollinators. Rewild traffic islands with small wild flowers or herbs to improve the urban environment.”



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Are you aware that the Town Council has a Terracycle facility at the youth centre where many items such as cheese packaging, dental care items and much more can be recycled?

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

- Yes—43
- No—36

Bradford on Avon Town Council has worked with Climate Friendly BoA on a domestic heating questionnaire to help address your carbon footprint and fuel bills, are you interested in completing this? If yes, the questionnaire details are in the email.

Panellists were given “yes”, “no”, “maybe” and “already completed” options for this question. Additionally, panellists were emailed a link to complete the survey alongside this Residents’ Panel survey.

- Yes—43
- Maybe—25
- No—7
- Already completed—4

What more do you think the Town Council could do to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies?

Panellists were given an open text option for this question.

- Address traffic issues—26
- Do not know—14
- Community fridge/ food waste projects/ recycling centres and Terracycle—7
- Encourage active travel (including electric bikes)—7
- Better public transport—6
- Manage green spaces—4
- More education—3
- More electric vehicle charging points—3
- Collect and use local data—3
- Encourage solar panels—2



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

- Nothing—2
- Tree planting—1
- Encourage gardening—1
- Create roof gardens/ living walls—1
- Establish an eco-hub in the town—1
- The Town Council is going a good job—1
- Review skate park plans—1
- Encourage people to shop local—1
- Clear drains—1

Unfortunately, there are a number of answers which require powers which Bradford on Avon Town Council does not hold. For example, the Town Council cannot ban local businesses from using/ selling single-use plastic or impose no car days in the town centre.

Standout comments

“Increasing the options at the Terracycle centre, for example we can't find anywhere to recycle Pet food sachets and this would be a great option (sure many others would use). Hoping the one way system introduction (please!!) will have the biggest impact on the climate issue directly in BOA with less idle traffic pollution and far superior pedestrianisation options making it a much cleaner, safer and pleasant town to walk and cycle around, rather than as is now, which would encourage in turn more footfall than car use.”

“A 'Library of Things' would be useful. We do not all need (nor can many people afford) to own household items like a drill, lawnmower, sander, tall stepladder, power washer that gather dust for most of the year and only get used occasionally. If there was a resource in every town where you could book an item and then collect from a central point for a set amount of time, it would help reduce a lot of unnecessary manufacturing. People could also donate unwanted items like TVs and Microwaves here for people to take and keep. So often, perfectly serviceable items like this end up in landfill when a household decides to upgrade, because they cannot be donated to charity shops.”

“I also think that more needs to be done to formally bring groups together to deal with specific issues, especially if this could encourage generational mixing. This town is half populated with time-poor families struggling to fit their myriad responsibilities into the week who for example would have little opportunity to grow their own vegetables; and half populated by people at a later stage of life who are more time rich, many of whom are very community minded/proactive about addressing ecological issues. How can we formally bring these groups of people together to help each other to do skills swops and take positive, practical action that would benefit us all? Are there people in the community who are very well informed about how to live in a greener way that could help to run how to



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

courses in the town?"

What other comments do you have on the climate and ecological emergencies?

Panellists were given an open text option for this question.

To allow for all of the individual responses to this question to be read, they have been compiled into a spreadsheet: [What other comments do you have on the climate and ecological emergencies?](#)

Section two: general questions

Bradford on Avon Town Council has recently taken over management of the Town Market. Are you aware that there is a regular weekly market on Thursday?

Panellists were given "aware" and "unaware" options for this question.

- Aware—78
- Unaware—1

How often do you visit the market?

Panellists were given "every week", "once per month", "once every three months", "once per year" and "never" for this question.

- Once every three months—15
- Every week—13
- Once per month—11
- Never—10
- Once per year—9
- Once every six months—7

Additionally, panellists were given an open text option for this question.

- Occasionally—7
- Rarely—4
- Regularly—2

Some panellists cited the day (Thursdays) as a difficulty in attending the Town Market.



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Are there any particular types of stalls you would like to see at the Town Market? The Town Council is encouraging plastic-free and locally sourced produce/ products.

Panellists were given an open text option for this question.

- More local traders/ produce—12
- Fruit and vegetables—8
- Bakery/ baked goods—7
- Repair/ recycle stall—5
- More stalls—5
- Children’s items (including second hand clothing etc) —3
- Hot food—3
- Cheese—3
- Artist/ craft stalls—3
- Fish and meat—3
- Book stall—2
- Coffee—2
- Hartley Farm—2
- Affordable stalls—1
- Bric a brac—1
- Has a good mix already—1
- Second hand furniture—1

Standout comments

“Diversify - we have lovely local shops such as a butchers and greengrocers so why offer market stalls selling those products? Surely we should be supporting our local businesses rather than offering competition?” – a number of similar comments were made by panellists in relation to competition with local traders.

“A community stall where people can bring surplus garden or orchard produce, with takings going to an environmental or ecological charity.”

“Affordable stalls, prices are very high, low income residents can't afford to shop at the market, Market stalls should give discount to low income residents, maybe subsidised by the council.” – this is a thread repeated a



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

number of times throughout panellist answers.

Are you aware of any plans locally to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee?

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

- Yes—61
- No—18

Which, if any, of the following Platinum Jubilee events do you plan to attend? You can select multiple events.

Panellists were given a series of option for this question, and could select multiple options.

- None of the above—29
- Live music at Westbury Garden and Lamb Yard (Saturday, 4 June) —23
- Historical exhibition at St Margaret’s Hall (Thursday, 2 June - Saturday, 4 June)—18
- Jubilee at the Hall (Sunday, 5 June)—13
- Tea Party at Holy Trinity Church (Saturday, 4 June)—5
- Live Opera in St Margaret's Hall (Sunday, 5 June)—3

Additionally, panellists were given a free text option for this question.

- Street party/ community organised event—9
- Away/ on holiday—6
- Undecided—5
- Lions of Bradford on Avon Fun Day—2
- Not aware—1
- Bell ringing—1
- Moulton Hall (Jubilee at the Hall)—1
- Live music (outside Bradford on Avon)—1
- None of the above—1



Tuesday, 28 June 2022

How did you find the length of this survey?

Panellists were given “too long”, “too short” and “about right” options for this question.

- About right—76
- Too short—3
- Too long—0

