



Bradford on Avon
Town Council



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD

BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to a Full Council meeting
of Bradford on Avon Town Council
On Tuesday 8th November 2022
At 7.00pm in St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

ILB
Ian S Brown
Chief Exec & Town Clerk
3rd November 2022

AGENDA

1. QUESTION TIME OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (not to exceed 30 minutes) <i>The public are welcome to ask questions on matters that are on the agenda and other matters at the Chairman's discretion. The question should not be a statement and limited to no more than 2 minutes. The Chairman will call the question from those who are indicating that they wish to speak. A record of any public participation session shall not be included in the Minutes but included as an appendix note to the Minutes of the meeting and will be made public via our website and held in archive.</i>
2. To accept apologies for absence
3. Declarations of Interest <i>To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 made under Section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011 and under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Town Council.</i>
4. Minutes <i>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th September 2022.</i>
5. Matters arising (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) –
6. Chairman's report <i>Chairman's report attached.</i>
7. Minutes of Committees <i>To note the minutes and decisions taken under delegated powers. These minutes are not for discussion. Circulated by email to members. (i) 27.09.22 Sustainable Travel (ii) 04.10.22 Environment & Green Spaces</i>
8. Traffic Consultation <i>Discuss the Wiltshire Council request for financial contribution towards modelling costs</i>
9. Skate Park <i>Update on fundraising progress.</i>
10. Warm Spaces <i>Cllr Parker to give an update on working group progress</i>
11. Future plans of the Twinning Associations <i>Cllr Kay to provide an update</i>
12. Next meeting <i>Next meeting arranged for 10th January 2023.</i>
13. Confidential business 'Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of a confidential nature to be discussed, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting'. Commercial matters to be discussed.



**Bradford on Avon
Town Council**



**LOCAL COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Full Council meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held
on Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7p.m in St. Margaret's Hall

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr K Bessant
Cllr D Garwood
Cllr S Gibson
Cllr A Kay
Cllr J Parker (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A Potter
Cllr T Trimble
Cllr K Vigar (Chairman)
Cllr J Vittles
Mrs S Bartlett (Town Clerk)
Mr I Brown (Director of Operations)
Ms S Howe (Committee Clerk)
Mr C Hogg (Green Spaces Officer)

Members of the public: Jeremy Wire, Richard Smith and three others.

Chairman asked everyone to use the microphones, so that the people at home can hear everything.
Apologies: Cllr S Blackwell, Cllr E Franklin and Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie

27. Declarations of interest - none

28. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Trimble and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 5th July 2022 were accepted as a true record.

29. Matters arising – none

30. Chairman's report

The Chairman report is attached to these minutes. The Chairman mentioned every item. With regards to the Summer Club this was well attend and she hoped this is repeated again. On Friday 2nd September 2022 she opened the Walking Festival and Cllr Gibson did the walk.

On Sunday 4th September 2022 she attended the flower show, which was well attended. Chairman presented the Town Clerk with a large bouquet of flowers, as she was retiring at the end of September 2022, and this was her last Full Council meeting. The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk for her long service to the town and wished her well in her retirement. Town Clerk thanked the Chairman and said the flowers were lovely.

31. Minutes of Committees

The minutes of the following committees were noted:-

12.07.22 Town Development Committee, 19.07.22 Sustainable Travel Committee and 26.07.22 Environment & Green Spaces. Cllr Kay said that she had not received a copy of the Environment & Green Spaces minutes yet. Town Clerk agreed to look into this.

32. Re opening the High Street

Cllr Gibson said that Wiltshire Council had some money for Levelling Up the High Street. Triangular information towers in the car park advising where the other car parks are located are one item the money is to be used for. Cllr Gibson reported that she had been working with City Dressing and Jenny Dack and Cllr Kate Bessant, as the original designs were inappropriate for Bradford on Avon. The imagery on the Heritage Trail were not of high resolution to show the woollen trade, rubber and brewing history of the town. As these information towers were late being installed, she hoped that they could be used for a longer period. Cllr Gibson said that she would share with other members what is being proposed. She was sure it would be delivered.

33. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Gibson explained her report and said that the latest Housing Needs Assessment with a lack of affordability for housing in this town, will be forwarded to all councillors. At the Town Council conference members came up with six topics. She said that she had been speaking to the Town Council's Planning Consultant to find out what was encapsulated in the original plan before certain aspirational points were removed by the Inspector in 2016. She said that the Planning Consultant was available to talk to members about when, how and what any vision framework should look like. He was also prepared to talk to members about how to deal with planning applications or maybe concentrate more on the strategic side. Cllr Gibson explained she sent some notes to the councillors on each topic. It was agreed that members would inform Cllr Gibson if they wished to be on the following groups with their area of interest:-

1. Active Travel – Cllr Trimble agreed to be on.
2. Commerce
3. Community and Health – Cllr Parker agreed to be on.
4. Education and Youth
5. Green Spaces
6. Housing

Membership of these groups to be discussed at the next Town Development Committee next week. Cllr Gibson also agreed to send some dates to members for initial discussion on reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

34. Traffic Consultation

Cllr Trimble reported that a response had been received from Cllr Dr Mark McClelland on the traffic consultation and he was pleased to read it was not a 'no'. He gave a résumé and explained that we had been asked if we could contribute a substantial amount to fund the development of traffic options. We had declined as Highways is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and £20,000 had been spent already. Phase 2 will cost £10,000 so £30,000 in total. Cllr Gibson said that the Highways Team at Wiltshire Council have taken the response on as their responsibility. They have budgetary restraints and they are looking for funding. Cllr Bessant said that our M.P. was keen to get involved in this and to ask her what funding pots she had available for it. Cllr Trimble said that he has updated the local M.P. but that he did not know about any funding she may have available. Jeremy Wire said in that he had read in the letter to Cllr Dr Mark McClelland that the Town Council had a local traffic engineer who had independently built a VISSIM traffic model free of charge for the town. He asked why don't the council run that anyway to give the Town Council something to compare it to? Cllr Trimble advised that Wiltshire Council should be allowed to do their work, modelling costs a considerable sum. Cllr Bessant said that would cause controversy with the outcome, that it had influenced it in some way how the modelling is interpreted and that the Town Council had to remain as neutral as possible.

35. Business Survey

Chairman said that she was sad to note the recent closure of Cassia, she was mindful of the difficulties businesses are facing, she thought they had made a good contribution to the town. Chairman noted that the Town Council had been offered to be used as a pilot scheme for a business survey and that Bradford on Avon Business had agreed to circulate it to their members. This survey will reveal how the businesses are feeling about the future. Jeremy Wire asked who was providing it? Chairman said Cognisant, who had selected and developed the application form for the Residents Panel. The outcome of the survey was hoped to be discussed with the local business community in the future. Cllr Kay said that the businesses have no cap on their energy and their costs are through the roof, with the domestic heating project coming up we need to try and help them. Cllr Gibson said that with the replacement of our Community Engagement Officer, that he is going to dig around to find out what assistance and advice is available for domestic and small business owners too. Wiltshire Council's commercial partner who installs the solar panels and reducing energy costs to businesses may be able to attend the heating project event. She said not to advertise this yet, as it is not confirmed yet. Cllr Kay said that Money Wiltshire helps people with money. She did not know if this is entirely domestic or business. She was waiting to hear from Selwood Homes about this.

36. Leave of absence

It was noted that Cllr Jack Vittles was due to become a father at the end of October 2022 and that he will not be available for council business following the birth for the remainder of the year. Chairman congratulated Cllr Jack Vittles and thanked him for his hard work and wished him well for an enjoyable break from council duties. Chairman gave her best wishes to him and Cerys. Cllr Vittles said that being a young father as well as a town councillor should be something that everyone can do.

37. Next meeting

Next meeting arranged for 8th November 2022.

38. Great Big Green Week (this item was not on the agenda)

Cllr Kay said that the Great Big Green Week starts on the 23rd September until the 2nd October 2022. There will be an Eco Fair, Domestic heat event, Eco Films, Eco Recipe books, Saving Foods, Food events, biodiversity and saving energy. It will be advertised in the library on banners and on 'A' Boards and details on the Town Council website. Chairman said it was advertised on the back of the town council newsletter with a green bubble.

39. Confidential business

It was proposed by Cllr Parker seconded by Cllr Kay and with all in favour it was **RESOLVED:** to start confidential business.

Members of the public who spoke at the Council meeting on the 6th September 2022

1. Jeremy Wire was a bit dismayed at the letter from Cllr Dr McClelland to the Town Council he said they did not have any money, don't have any time, not doing any modelling, can you reassure me that reducing the volume of traffic is still the priority of the Town Council and pedestrian safety and air quality also. Chairman said there was a level of engagement with the Cllr Dr McClelland, Cabinet Member for Highways at Wiltshire Council if people are not aware. Cllr Trimble said he was looking at the downside, he will get back to us and share something soon, all the discussions have been very positive. They are still working out what the scope of any modelling will be and will be doing several different scenarios, they are cutting their cloth here with what money is available. He said it was very encouraging that we have received a reply and he is reassuring Jeremy that we still have the same three priorities as above.

2. Richard Smith asked:-

1. Can the Chair please confirm that proposals for a one-way system will require the D1 bus service to operate in both directions along New Road as part of the same journey? Does the Council recognise or realise that this will be a deterioration in service for bus passengers? If the increased journey time deters bus users and patronage reduces in consequence how will the additional cost of the service be funded?
2. At the Sustainable Travel Committee, it was proposed to introduce mitigation measures to avert an increase in traffic; is it possible that any of these measures may further adversely impact the D1 bus service by slowing journey times?

Cllr Trimble said he could not confirm that the proposals for a new one way will go up and down New Road. We cannot presume that a one-way system will be the same as it was before with social distancing measures. Cllr Gibson said the system is still yet to be considered on the priorities we have. A one-way traffic is all hypothetical. Cllr Trimble said that you are jumping ahead to Phase 2 which has not been decided. The bus service network is involved and will be consulted. The D1 is a commercial system and does not receive any funding from Wiltshire Council. With regards to mitigation measures may further adversely impact the D1 bus services by slowing journey times – you are jumping ahead 6 or 9 months this will be looked at by the traffic engineers and the bus company.

3. The previous one-way system resulted in residents of North Bradford and Winsley travelling towards Trowbridge diverting via Staverton, avoiding Bradford on Avon town centre. Does the Town Council recognise that a one-way system may result in a loss of passing trade for commercial and retail premises in the town centre if journey habits change. Did the consultation exercise identify any concerns from retail or commercial businesses in Bradford on Avon about the impact of a one-way system proposals? What steps have the town council taken to consult with retailers in the town centre about one-way system proposals?
4. Can the Chair please confirm that the impact of any one-way system on the residents of Staverton has been fully modelled and quantified?

Cllr Trimble replied second question first, no it has not been modelled. No traffic model will go out as far as Staverton because you would have to include Winsley and Westwood. Cllr Trimble did not agree that people were travelling via Staverton during the last one-way system and he lives in the north of the town. He wanted pedestrians and cyclists in the centre of the town but not the cars or the traffic in the town. He said you need to come back in 6 or 9 months when we have some solid proposals, which have been consulted with different groups in the town. Chairman said that businesses and residents were consulted in the last consultation.

Chairman's Report

Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's Engagements

Friday 10th September - Along with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jennie Parker, I placed a floral tribute in Millie's Garden to honour the life and service of HM Queen Elizabeth II. We both then signed the Book of Condolence in the Tourist Information Centre. This remained in the centre throughout the period of mourning and was signed by a large number of residents. An online version was also available.

Sunday 11th September - It was a great honour to read the Proclamation of King Charles III in Westbury Gardens alongside the Deputy Mayor and joined by Amanda Burnside, Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire, who we thank for attending. Other councillors were also present along with many residents of the town. I attended the church service at Holy Trinity in the morning.

Saturday 24th September – It was a pleasure to attend a charity wine tasting at the Swan Hotel in aid of Penny Brohn UK. This charity does tremendous work supporting those affected by cancer and their families. It was a very enjoyable evening, well supported by local businesses and raised almost £2000. My thanks to the organisers.

Sunday 25th September - I attended Holy Trinity's Harvest Festival service for Great Big Green Week in the morning and the Eco-Film Festival in the afternoon. Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis's sermon and the message of the films were important reminders that the climate emergency cannot be ignored. This was the start of over a week of fantastic events highlighting many aspects of the crisis in biodiversity and climate and my thanks go to all those who worked so hard to put them on.

Saturday 1st October – along with other councillors, I supported the Town Council stall at the Eco-fair which was an excellent event with many stalls of interest, including the fantastic Men's Shed apple pressing!

Wednesday 12th October – the Southwest in Bloom Presentation at Hazelberry Mill, near Crewkerne was attended by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jennie Parker along with Green Spaces Officer, Chris Hogg. Bradford on Avon received a Silver Gilt Award. Jennie reports that they spent some time talking to the judges and are now confident that we can go for a gold award next year. There were two speakers who talked through how they set up their gardens, one on the Scilly Isle of Tresco. The other was an organiser of the Chelsea Flower Show. Jennie says that she learnt a great deal from the experience which can be put to good use in the town next year.

Sunday 6th November – I am due to attend the Bradford on Avon Lions' 52nd Charter Anniversary Lunch.

I would also like to report that the Town Council has recently received a gift of a plaque from the Mayor of Tubas, following a visit by the BoA Friends of Palestine group. This is gratefully received by us as a recognition of the friendship link formed between our two towns in March 2020. It will be displayed in the Town Council office and I will write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Council.

Looking ahead, I'd like to make a special mention of Remembrance Sunday on November 13th. The restoration works have now been completed in this centenary year of the memorial being placed in Westbury Gardens. I look forward to seeing all the organisations represented at the ceremony. This year we will also be joined by a representative of our local Ukrainian residents who will be laying a wreath on their behalf.

Traffic Update 3rd Nov 2022

Background

In mid 2021, shortly after the Social Distancing scheme was removed, the Town Council and Wiltshire Council agreed to adopt a three-stage approach to resolving the transport issues that have dogged the town for decades.

The stages were;-

- 1) A wide-ranging transport consultation to gather residents' views, contrasting the situation with and without the Social Distancing scheme and examining all possibilities to improve movement in the town. This was carried out by the Town Council at very considerable time, effort and cost (c.£20,000).
- 2) Wiltshire Council, as Highways Authority, to design a scheme (or schemes) to meet the needs of the town based on the Stage 1 Consultation. The Town Council to consult again with residents to fine tune a final scheme for detailed design/implementation by Wiltshire Council Highways.
- 3) Final design to be ratified by the Full Town Council and formal request to Wiltshire for implementation.

Current Situation

The Town Council has faithfully executed the most thorough transport consultation the town has ever seen and the results were passed to Wiltshire in spring 2022. It was subsequently agreed that the best way forward would involve one way working on some roads, but with enhanced safety mitigations on those roads where increased traffic loads were likely to arise.

Now, almost six months on, Wiltshire persist in asking for a 'substantial contribution' to the traffic modelling costs, which are estimated at around £50,000. This is a Highways issue, quite clearly within the remit of Wiltshire, not the Town Council. No mention was made at the outset of this process that the Town Council would be asked to consider contributing to these costs.

In the meantime, we have been in contact with our MP Michelle Donelan, who is very keen to see some positive results spring from the recommendations.

Most recently, we have requested from Wiltshire the answers to a number of key questions including what assurances they can give on the practical outcomes of modelling and what possible inputs we might have to the work in the event of our agreeing to part fund the work.

Frustratingly, we still await a reply to these questions; consequently, we have requested a face to face meeting with Cllr McClelland (the Wiltshire Cabinet member for Transport), Wiltshire Highway officers and Michelle Donelan MP, in the hope that we can hammer out a solution to this apparent impasse.

31st August 2022

Cllr Katie Vigar
Town Mayor
Bradford on Avon Town Council
By E-mail:
cllr.vigar@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cabinet Office
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your Ref: Letter dated 8th August
Our Ref: MM/LY/22921

Dear Katie

Thank you for your letter of 8th August 2022. We are experiencing significant inflationary pressures which require us to carefully consider our priorities and ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

Were we to venture into a next stage, it would require us to instruct specialist consultants to embark on a modelling commission. I should say there is no current budget for such a project, and were we to proceed, funding would have to come from as yet unfound headroom in other budgets.

We have learnt from past experience that similar modelling exercises can come under attack in the town where there is local dissatisfaction with any conclusions subsequently drawn. That being the case, and on a without prejudice basis, we are in discussion with Atkins to see how such risks might be managed, at the same time keeping costs to a minimum. This requires careful consideration, and although that discussion is ongoing, we have not yet reached a point where we can share the outcome.

I am sorry that it is taking longer than we had hoped, but I should be able to share something with you shortly.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dr Mark McClelland
Cabinet Member - Transport, Waste, Street Scene & Flooding

Direct line: 01225 718386
Email: mark.mcclelland@wiltshire.gov.uk

Copies to Bradford on Avon Town Clerk, Cllr Trimble and Cllr Gibson



Bradford on Avon Town Council

Kingston House Offices, Kingston Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1AA

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland
Cabinet Office
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
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10th October 2022

Progress on Bradford on Avon Traffic

Dear Mark,

It is now six weeks since you apologised for the delay and told us to expect a response shortly on Wiltshire Highways proposed course of action.

In the meantime, we are facing public meetings where the patience of residents is, not unreasonably, becoming stretched. So far, we are managing the situation, but we cannot carry on indefinitely when it is probably the issue we are most frequently asked about. This is not surprising, given the continuing reports of pedestrians being struck by cars in the narrow town centre streets; the most recent we know of on Saturday morning, 8th October on the Town Bridge resulting in whiplash and arm injuries to a pedestrian.

It is perhaps worth reminding ourselves, that when Sarah Gibson outlined the 3 stage framework for this project a year ago (see email to you of 31.8.2021), the point was clearly made that it would be futile for the Town Council to undertake a rigorous, time consuming and expensive consultation if there was no commitment from Wiltshire to act on the results. Sarah stressed the need to act collaboratively, and I believe we all agreed to that sentiment as well as the overall framework. The Town Council has delivered on the consultation (Stage 1 of the plan), and now looks forward to Stage 2 delivery from Wiltshire.

Failure to follow through on this would certainly lead to huge disappointment in the town, as well as a further loss in public trust.

We very much hope to hear from you soon,

With best regards,

Cllr Tim Trimble

Chair of Bradford on Avon Town Council Sustainable Travel Committee
Councillor for Bradford on Avon North and Unitary Councillor

Also on behalf of:

Cllr Katie Vigar, Mayor of Bradford on Avon
Cllr Sarah Gibson, Councillor of Bradford on Avon South and Unitary Councillor
Ian Brown, Chief Executive and Town Clerk

19th October 2022

Cllr Tim Trimble
Chair of Bradford on Avon Town Council Sustainable
Travel Committee
Bradford on Avon Town Council
Kingston House Offices
Kingston Road
Bradford on Avon
BA15 1AA

Cabinet Office
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your Ref:
Our Ref:MM/CD/

Dear Tim

I refer to previous correspondence on this matter, and specifically to your letter dated 10th October.

My position has not changed in principle.

I agree with Cllr Gibson's view that our councils need to act collaboratively.

My conditional agreement to use the results of the consultation as a basis for us to commission some work that would look at potential solutions was given in good faith, and still has the potential to be progressed.

As I mentioned in previous correspondence however, Wiltshire Council's position regarding funding of transport schemes continues to worsen due to inflationary pressures which I feel sure I need not elaborate.

(I believe David Thomas has recently met and alerted you to the ongoing impacts, and the measures we are having to take to protect services).

Whilst I acknowledge the Town Council's rationale in arguing that we should bear the cost of the next stage(s), I am afraid that is not affordable, nor consistent with the arrangements we have agreed with other Wiltshire towns in similar circumstances.

That being the case, taking this forward will be conditional on the Town Council providing a significant local contribution – the principle and value of which I must ask you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dr Mark McClelland
Cabinet Member - Transport, Waste, Street Scene & Flooding

Direct line: 01225 718386
Email: mark.mcclelland@wiltshire.gov.uk



Bradford on Avon Town Council

Kingston House Offices, Kingston Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1AA

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland
Cabinet Office
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Bythesea Road
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25th October 2022

Dear Mark

Thank you for your reply to Cllr Tim Trimble of 19th October.

We appreciate your reiteration that this is a collaborative process between our two councils and your statement that you still believe that there is potential to progress work on solutions to the traffic issues our town faces.

We are planning to bring your request for a contribution towards the costs of modelling such solutions to our Full Council meeting on November 8th.

In order that we make an informed decision, and to enable us to answer residents' questions, we would be grateful if you would provide us with answers to the following questions by the close of Tuesday 1st November. This will enable us to include the information in our agenda pack.

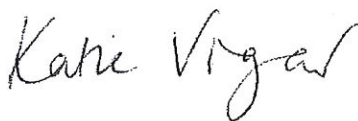
1. Can you confirm how much the modelling is expected to cost?
2. What proportion of this cost would you be looking to the Town Council to contribute?
3. What degree of guarantee can you give us that following such modelling Wiltshire Council Highways department will proceed to scheme design and budget allocation for work on a scheme? Are you able to suggest any timescale for progress?
4. Please can you provide some information about the other towns you refer to in similar circumstances? What level of contribution have they provided and what has been the outcome in terms of the scheme progressing?
5. If we contribute to the cost of the modelling, will we then have the option to attend key meetings and provide input to the process?

I think it is important to note that our entire annual budget for highways-related work/travel is £20,000. Making the 'significant local contribution' you are asking will need to be clearly justifiable to our council and our residents as money well spent, given that we have already spent £20,000 on the consultation last autumn/winter and are committed to funding the next round of consultation.

Our councillors are also likely to raise the fact that Bradford on Avon Council is being asked to contribute to this study when it is already saving Wiltshire Council far greater sums. The asset transfer to Bradford on Avon Town Council of 1st April 2022 will enable Wiltshire Council to save £160,000 from its street scene budget in 2023-24 with further savings in the current financial year.

As we have explained in previous correspondence, there is a very high level of resident interest in this issue, and there will be a great deal of disappointment if we are not able to progress. We do not wish to let this opportunity pass, but if we are to commit further funds (bearing in mind that all expenditure so far has been borne by the Town Council), the Council and residents will be looking for some certainty that money we contribute to modelling won't be wasted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Vigar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cllr Katie Vigar

Mayor of Bradford on Avon



Bradford on Avon Town Council

Kingston House Offices, Kingston Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1AA

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland
Cabinet Office
County Hall
Bythesea Road
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3rd November 2022

Dear Mark

It is now almost a year since the Town Council began its traffic consultation with the residents of Bradford on Avon to address the longstanding issues of pedestrian safety, pollution, and traffic volume. We received an exceptionally high response of well over 2000 replies reflecting the level of public concern.

We have welcomed indications from you that you would like to see a scheme(s) modelled. However, the issue of how this modelling should be funded, at a cost, we understand, of around £50,000 remains to be sorted. You have requested a significant financial contribution from the Town Council, a sum that is likely to be well beyond our annual budget for traffic/highways-related issues.

Mindful of the level of interest in town, and the extremely serious concerns about pedestrian safety, we do not want progress to flounder at this point. We await your reply to my letter of October 25th with questions relating to funding for the modelling. Additionally, we would like to host a meeting at our offices in Bradford on Avon and invite you to attend, along with Wiltshire Council Highways Officers to discuss how we can find a way forward. We will also invite Michelle Donelan MP as she has expressed interest in this issue.

We anticipate that to suit her parliamentary business, a Friday meeting will be most convenient for Michelle Donelan. Can you let us know your availability please on the following Fridays and we will liaise with her office?

- November 11th, 18th, 25th
- December 2nd, 9th, 16th

We appreciate your continued engagement with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Katie Vigar

Mayor of Bradford on Avon

The Future of the Twinning Associations

I want to provide an update as to the status of German and French Twinning in BoA. The charters for these twinning relationships are between Town and Town and so on both sides of the Channel responsibility lies with the Town Councils to some extent, although here the running of the community groups falls entirely in volunteer residents' hands. These are important and historic relationships and in the current world climate, they are more important than ever as symbols of peace and friendship. We have agreed this at previous FTC meetings.

Having failed to engage with my fellow Twinning Champions, Sam and Simon over the summer (as we've all been busy elsewhere), there is some good news and updates.

French Twinning: As the current committee have been stepping down, it seemed like the French group may fold. However, I am delighted to inform you that we have some volunteers step forward for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer committee positions with commitment towards a Sully visit next May. I cannot give further details as this needs to be ratified formally at a meeting next week. The French group will contact the Council and may seek further support as required.

German Twinning: This group has stayed more stable with a 12 of us visiting Norden in July, which was a successful and interesting visit where we all made our own travel arrangements, mostly very eco: by train. There was a prestigious event attended by 7 mayors and ex-mayors of Boa and Norden where I presented the Burgermeister a Made in Bradford artwork gift on BoA Mayor's behalf! There was recently a Charter lunch attended by ca 20 members at the Dog and Fox. There is a scheduled visit from our Norden friends next October and this would coincide with the BOARC (Kayak & Rowing Club) 150th anniversary, of relevance to the beginning of German Twinning (50+ years ago.)

There was one Twinning post over the summer which elicited just two potential new members. We had agreed to make more of the Twinning both in posts and perhaps sharing activities on our website when we last discussed this (in June?)

Cllr Alex Kay