



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Autumn 2023



Skatepark off to a flying start

It has been just over a month since we announced the opening of the new skatepark at Poulton Park - and the reaction and community spirit around the project has been fantastic.

Maverick Skateparks finished work on the skatepark in late July and it was signed off by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

A large number of people have been part of this journey - too many to name here - so we'll simply say a big thank you to everyone who has helped to make this happen.

The skatepark is designed for skateboards, BMX bikes, inline skates and scooters.

Make sure you keep Saturday 9 September free, from 12 noon to 4pm, as this is the date of our grand opening event, with demos, competitions and prizes.

- Practising some impressive scooter moves at the town's new skatepark at Poulton Park

Photo: Trevor Porter



Talk of the town: news in brief

■ A project update on the Culver Close Pavilion is expected at the 31 October meeting of Full Council. At the meeting we will display designs for the new pavilion at Culver Close on the footprint of the original site. St Margaret's Hall will be open from 6.30pm so that anyone interested can come down and have a look before the plans are discussed. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during the meeting.

■ Wessex Water will be starting work on a new sewage storage tank at Victory Field in September - with an expected finish date in spring 2024. The new tank will help to prevent overflows into

the river. There is an information board about the project in Victory Field. You can also read about the project on Wessex Water's website. Some of the parking spaces along Pound Lane will be closed off while the work takes place.

■ In its most recent (at the time of writing) update, Network Rail said the repair work on the railway bridge would be delayed until the end of November. This is due to quality issues with the concrete and steel which led to it being removed and replaced.

■ We have just finished analysing the results of the latest Residents' Panel survey. These regular surveys help the town council in a whole host of areas.

This time around we asked our panellists about play areas, the Town Vision, the Community Fridge, our websites and events. If you're interested in the panel, you can read the report on our website: bit.ly/3t54eLv

■ More than 30 local businesses attended a drop-in Business Forum, led by Cognisant Research. They provided helpful comments and ideas on business development in the town. If you couldn't make it, you can find the slides on our website: bit.ly/3Y6X0Vd Our website's business page will be updated once we have Cognisant Research's results in hand.

Sign up to BoA Snippets, our email newsletter, at <https://bit.ly/3zkl6Rb>



■ South West in Bloom judges, with volunteers and Chris Hogg, the town council's Green Spaces Officer

Bloom judges tour the town

Judges from the South West in Bloom competition visited Bradford on Avon in July and were shown around the town to see all the work undertaken by the town council, along with the work of numerous volunteer groups.

A lunch reception was held in Holy Trinity Church to say thank you to all the volunteers who help make the town look so beautiful - winning the Silver

Gilt medal in last year's contest. The reception - which included a slideshow illustrating the many voluntary projects taking place in Bradford on Avon - also gave the judges a chance to chat with the volunteers about their work.

The results won't be announced until later in the autumn, but what we can say is that Bradford on Avon is a town to be proud of all year round.

Secret Gardens grants awarded

Among the projects considered by the South West in Bloom judges was the popular Secret Gardens of Bradford on Avon event, in which gardeners open their gates to the public on 2 Sundays each year, with the proceeds going to various horticultural schemes around the town.

For this year's event, nearly 30 gardens opened, raising about £5,000 in total. Beneficiaries include all 3 of

our schools, for help with equipment and plants for their garden schemes, the town council for designing and replanting the 2 large beds by the swimming pool, the volunteers who look after the planters on the riverside walk below Timbrell's Yard and the Preservation Trust for a new bench in the Hens' Orchard.

Next year's Secret Gardens will be open on Sunday 26 May and Sunday 30 June.

Have your say ...

... on Poulton Park

We talked to people about Poulton Park in September 2021.

Since then, we've taken on responsibility for the park - carefully managing the meadow and planting new trees. We've also recently completed our skatepark project.

Now, we'd like to ask some follow-up questions on more of the ideas that were suggested in September 2021.

Our short survey asking for your views on Poulton Park will be available to complete online. You'll also be able to pick up a paper copy of the survey from our office.

The information boards relating to the survey will be in the park, in the library and in the Youth & Community Centre.

... on play at Poulton Park and St Aldhelm's

One of the priorities that came from talking to people about Poulton Park in September 2021 was to provide a better play area.

Some of the other play areas that we became responsible for in April 2022 are also showing wear - so we're going to be investing in play across the town over the next 15 years.

Poulton Park and St Aldhelm's are the first 2 play areas that we're working on - and we'll be asking for your comments and questions on the initial designs soon.

You can read more about our play project on our website: www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Hello and goodbye

Three new staff members have been hired since the last newsletter, including George Tomlinson, right. George's job as Community Engagement & Development Officer is to organise consultations, talk with businesses and liaise with our volunteers and community groups.



As a casual Venues Assistant, Megan Taylor-McCaffery, left, has really taken to her new role helping with local performances, live music and more.



Town Warden Steve Grimes, right, has also joined the team - helping to keep the town clean and tidy.



● We have recently said a fond farewell to our Hall Manager, Tim Yeomans. Tim has worked for the town council for over 9 years and we're sure many of you will have met him at some point. Tim initially joined the team as manager of St Margaret's Hall and has since taken over management of the Youth & Community Centre, the public toilets, bookings in the green spaces and much more. We wish him all the very best in his new role at Bath Abbey.

Thank you for signing rail petition

The town council organised a petition opposing the planned mass closure of ticket offices at railway stations, and particularly in Bradford on Avon.

We would like to thank everyone who has signed the petition, either online or in person, as well as those who took petitions out into the community. At the time of writing we have nearly 2,000 signatures.

The Mayor, Councillor Katie Vigar, and Councillor Tim Trimble, chair of the Sustainable Travel committee, have also written to GWR protesting against the proposals.

The closures have been proposed due to a decline in ticket sales from ticket offices, according to the government. But the Bradford on Avon ticket office accounts for 18% of sales - according to an article in the *Wiltshire Times* - above the 15% daily average quoted by GWR.

Contact us by phone on 01225 864240

A new model for the town's traffic

Councillor Tim Trimble, chair of the Sustainable Travel committee, answers questions about the traffic modelling that is underway in Bradford on Avon

What's the traffic modelling about? You may have noticed the pairs of cables running across some of our roads in July. These have been installed by the company modelling options for traffic measures in Bradford on Avon. They provide traffic counts and will be used along with the regular data we get from other permanent traffic count devices which are situated at key points including the Town Bridge. The results will help assess the impact of a variety of options for managing the town's traffic in future.

What's the objective? The objective is to build a computer model of the traffic system and then use it to simulate different possible traffic arrangements. This will help identify the best way to achieve the goals that came out of the traffic consultation held in the winter of 2021/22: improved pedestrian and cyclist safety, improved air quality and reduced traffic volume.

How do you know that the traffic counts will be representative? There are always variables such as school terms and

holidays, road closures elsewhere and other factors but seasonal fluctuations in the traffic counts can be accounted for using historic data from the permanent counts.

Are the modellers looking at a one-way system? Various one-way systems or elements of one-way working are being considered, along with other options. It is important not to narrow the options too soon, so the modellers are considering what is feasible and what is not. They then can look at what will best achieve our objectives.

What happens next? We expect the results of the modelling to be received by Wiltshire Council (the highways authority) and the town council sometime in October. We hope to be able to consult on the way forward early in the new year. After any proposed new system is agreed, it will then require funding to be allocated by Wiltshire Council, probably by means of bidding from national funding sources.

SID has his eye on speedy drivers

Winsley Road now has a Speed Indicator (SID), to help reduce speeding and support the AutoSpeedWatch camera put up in December.

A SID is an illuminated sign used to display passing vehicle speeds. In addition to raising awareness of local speed limits, it aims to make roads safer by reducing vehicle speeds.

AutoSpeedWatch facts and figures: In July more than 10,400 cars were registered by the stationary camera which is located on the Trowbridge Rd opposite the football ground. Of those, 207 vehicles were snapped going above the 36mph trigger speed. The fastest speed recorded by the camera was 46mph.

Historic lock-up opens to visitors

The 18th century lock-up on the Town Bridge will be open to visitors during this year's Heritage Open Days festival.

Heritage Open Days is the largest community led festival of history and culture in England.

The old jail cell is a small, early 18th century building with a stone dome, topped by a weather vane in the shape of a fish known as the Bradford Gudgeon. It has a fascinating history. There aren't many lock-ups that jut out over a river. And there is thought to have been a chapel on the site before the jail was built.

The lock-up is open to visitors between 10am and 4pm, from Friday 15 September to Sunday 17 September.

Protecting our parks and green spaces

The town council agreed 2 new policies this summer, to help protect parks and green spaces. The first was a ban on metal detecting at the town's parks and green spaces. Secondly, councillors confirmed that barbecues will not be allowed. Barbecues in public open spaces can be a fire risk - and disposable barbecues in particular have been linked to some of the wildfires that happened in neighbouring counties last year.



It was a sunny summer weekend for the Bradford on Avon Live Music Festival, which attracted hundreds of music fans to venues across the town.

The festival started at St Margaret's Hall with Jack Mac's Funk Pack and the music and good feelings carried on from there. Hundreds of people flocked to the town centre on Saturday for free events in Westbury Garden, Lamb Yard and Terry Sheppard's open mic in The Shambles.

The festival closed with The Louise Parker Quartet playing their blend of sophisticated jazz in the grounds of The Hall.

Bradford on Avon Town Council want to thank everyone who came and supported the event, the food and drink vendors, as well as the volunteers and groups who helped us to make the festival a reality.

We are currently discussing more live music plans, keep an eye on our website and social media for regular updates.

Get in touch via email at office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



■ Blitzing it: Councillors Tim Trimble and Sarah Gibson with Simon Kay, Liz Stephen, Gill Brooks and Councillor Alex Kay

River survey assesses water quality

Councillors Alex Kay, Tim Trimble and Sarah Gibson, alongside fellow citizen scientists from Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon, Liz Stephen, Gill Brooks and Simon Kay, took part in the Bristol Avon River Trust RiverBlitz.

The RiverBlitz is a yearly event where volunteers across the country collect water samples from their local rivers during the same week in July to test nitrate and phosphate levels.

Observations about the sample sites are also recorded. This helps to provide a snapshot of the water quality.

Samples were taken at 8 different sites in

Bradford on Avon, from above the town weir to below Avoncliff weir, with some very interesting results.

The samples captured from the river showed raised levels of phosphate and nitrate. Data from RiverBlitz shows the Avon running through the town as red – as is most of the Bristol Avon catchment area. The red colour found on the map means there is high nutrient pollution in the water.

You can view the results on the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust website: Bristol Avon RiverBlitz: RiverBlitz Explorer (bristolavonriverstrust.org)

Coming up next ...

The next big events in the town council calendar are the Bradford on Avon Fireworks Display and the Christmas Lights Switch On.

Everyone knows that Bradford on Avon

is where Christmas is made! And this year we're back with a firm local favourite, with something for the whole family, on Friday 24 November.

We'll have more details on the music, timings and gift fair soon. Keep an eye on our social media, website or BoA Snippets for the latest updates.

We're just as excited about our fireworks event – and we have learned from what happened last year.

This year we will be holding the Fireworks Display on 5 November at Poulton Park, and launching the fireworks themselves from the adjacent meadow area.

The event will be free to attend, and there will be food and drink stalls as well as amusements to keep everyone entertained before the show starts.

Town welcomes twinning visitors

Did you know that Bradford on Avon is twinned with Norden in Germany, Sully-Sur-Loire in France, Elblag in Poland and maintains a friendship link with Tubas in Palestine?

In October, we'll be welcoming visitors from Norden, who will be coming to Bradford on Avon. The visit will include a reception on Friday 20 October in St Margaret's Hall.

You can find out more information on twinning on our website: <https://bit.ly/3DSsnJQ>

Save the date

Town Council meetings at 7pm in St Margaret's Hall

Full Council

Tuesday 5 September

Town Development

Tuesday 12 September

Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 19 September

Sustainable Travel

Tuesday 3 October

Environment & Green Spaces

Tuesday 17 October

Resources

Tuesday 24 October

Full Council

Tuesday 31 October. Including display of designs for new pavilion at Culver Close from 6.30pm.

Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 14 November

Town Development

Tuesday 28 November

What's on?

Skatepark Opening Jam - Poulton Park - Saturday 9 September - 12 noon to 4pm

Wednesday Matinee Club presents What's Love Got to Do with it? (2022) - St Margaret's Hall - Wednesday 13 September - doors 1.30pm

All Floyd - St Margaret's Hall - Saturday 30 September - doors 7.30pm

Wednesday Matinee Club presents The Fabelmans (2022) - St Margaret's Hall - Wednesday 11 October - doors 1.30pm

Wednesday Matinee Club presents The Old Oak (2023) - St Margaret's Hall - Wednesday 1 November - doors 1.30pm

BoA Fireworks Display - Poulton Park - Sunday 5 November

Christmas Lights Switch On - Westbury Garden - Friday 24 November

Wednesday Matinee Club presents Barber (2023) - St Margaret's Hall - Wednesday 13 December - doors 1.30pm

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