



# the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Autumn 2024



## Opposition to housing plans grows

**A**petition opposing housing development on Bradford on Avon's former golf course/town dump has attracted widespread public support, with over 1,800 signatures recorded as this issue of the town council News went to press.

During a recent fact-finding meeting with developers Cala Homes, town councillors were shocked to learn about the plans for the site.

The Mayor, Councillor Jack Vittles, has

now written to the leader of Wiltshire Council, Councillor Richard Clewer, seeking urgent clarification on the current status of the site.

Councillor Vittles wrote: "Bradford on Avon Town Council has made clear our continued opposition to development on this site. Our response to the draft local plan set out our reasoning as to why this site should be removed from the reserve list.

"... local residents and the town council

are eager to learn what discussions have taken place between Wiltshire Council and Cala Homes. Given that the site is a reserve site and mindful of Councillor Nick Botterill's recent comments, as reported via the BBC, that the land would 'only be released if other development plan allocations are delayed or the windfall contribution from smaller sites fails to materialise'."

- You can read the letter in full at [bit.ly/4eZq8WA](https://bit.ly/4eZq8WA)



## Relay runners highlight climate change

The Running Out of Time climate awareness relay baton passed through Bradford on Avon in June, on its epic 1,500-mile, 29-day journey from Ben Nevis to Westminster. The baton arrived from Bath at Christ Church Primary School and was then carried by Christ Church pupils to the Tithe Barn.

- [More pictures inside](#)

Photo: Trevor Porter

## Talk of the town: news in brief

■ The BoA Skate Jam is back on Saturday 7 September, with rider demos, music, prizes and more. Skateboards, scooters and BMXs are all welcome. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for further details: we hope to see you there.

■ You may have noticed that this issue of the News looks and feels a little different from usual. We've changed the paper from matte to silk finish, using paper

which is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified. This means the materials come from well-managed forests and/or are from recyclable sources.

■ Not long to go now before the annual Flower & Produce Show, which this year takes place from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday 8 September at St Margaret's Hall. It's free to enter and attend, and you can pick up a schedule/entry form from the town council offices, the TIC

in Westbury Garden and Bloomfield's in The Shambles, as well as online at [bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk). Don't forget: If You Grow It, Show It!

■ Remember, remember Sunday 3 November. After the success of our fireworks display last year - the family-friendly event will be back with a bang at Poulton Park.

Sign up to BoA Snippets, our email newsletter, at [bit.ly/3zkl6Rb](https://bit.ly/3zkl6Rb)

## A safer way to cross the river

A second pedestrian bridge across the Avon could be on the drawing board. A safer crossing near to the town bridge is needed to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety in the town, and to encourage more active travel.

Town councillors reviewed Sustrans' Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for a safer river crossing earlier this summer. The SOC - based on the results of the Safer River Crossing consultation undertaken by Sustrans in late 2023 - identifies 2 potential locations. Both link the library car park to the north side of the river: one in front of the former Weaving Shed restaurant and the other slightly further upstream near Kingston Square.

The SOC is the first stage in putting together the business case for a mayor project like this - and is required by central government for funding applications. It was agreed that the project brought a positive benefit and would be good value for money.

Now the town council's report on the SOC has been sent to Wiltshire Council, we look forward to further developments - and will keep residents updated on progress via our website.

## Skate park vandalism

The recent vandalism at the skatepark has been disappointing and frustrating for everyone, but the town council will continue to do everything it can to make the skatepark a positive and friendly space for all. Our Town Warden team continues to do an excellent job of quickly clearing and cleaning the site after any incidents. **If you see any vandalism happening, please report it to the police immediately on 999.**

## Residents' Panel update

The results of the first Residents' Panel of 2024 are now available on our website. Panellists were asked about Bradford on Avon cemetery, litter and recycling, extending the Christmas lights, this year's Green Man Festival and the Seniors' Forum. You can read the full report at: [bit.ly/3t54eLv](http://bit.ly/3t54eLv).

# Celebrating our community spirit with a fun-filled summer

Joining in, going green, rocking out - it's been quite the summer for community events. A big thank you to everyone who organised, volunteered, attended or took part in the Live Music Festival, BoA Join In!, Great Big Green Week and the Running Out of Time relay. As our pictures show, a lot of fun was had by everyone who participated



■ Mayor Councillor Jack Vittles modelled an imaginatively recycled outfit at the sustainable fashion show organised by Climate Friendly BoA to highlight the amount of clothing going to waste. The show was part of the town's welcome to the Running Out of Time relay

**All join in ...** hundreds of townspeople enjoyed BoA Join In!

The event was organised to help boost volunteering in the town - and shine a spotlight on the groups, charities and organisations that contribute so much to the town's community spirit.

Whether you had tea with Dolly the pony, played croquet and bowls, made something useful with the Men's Shed or upcycled your old clothes with Climate Friendly BoA - we hope you had a great time and found something you can continue to join in with.

■ Mayor Councillor Jack Vittles meets Dolly the pony and volunteers from the Saxon Group Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), a charity based at Widbrook Equestrian Centre



■ Bradford on Avon Rainbows celebrated Great Big Green Week with an eye-catching window display at the Tourist Information Centre in Westbury Garden



**It's music to our ears ...** Thank you to everyone who came to this year's Live Music Festival, creating a brilliant atmosphere at all the participating venues in the town. From 31 May to 2 June, music lovers packed venues across the town and enjoyed tunes from local artists and nationally recognised bands. Special thanks goes out to this year's festival sponsors: Lerica Tax Accountants, H2 Creative, Ti2 Titanium Jewellery and Kingstons Estate Agents. The event couldn't happen without them.

**The next edition will rock Bradford on Avon from Friday 30 May to Sunday 1 June 2025.**

If you're a local business, band or artist and want to get involved in next year's festival, please get in touch with our Tourism & Events Officer, Katie Ponsford, at [katie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:katie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Holiday magic**  
Get ready for an unforgettable summer filled with magic, baking, beatboxing, arts and crafts ... and more. We've organised a brilliant range of activities throughout August as part of our Summer Holiday Club. All the activities take place at the Youth & Community Centre in Frome Road - dates and times on the back page, and on our website at [bit.ly/3zPna6M](http://bit.ly/3zPna6M)

## Meet town's new mayor and deputy



■ The town's new Mayor is Councillor Jack Vittles, left, pictured with Deputy Mayor Sam Blackwell

In May, councillors elected a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the year ahead.

Councillor Jack Vittles succeeds Councillor Katie Vigar, who served as the town's Mayor for the 2 years prior. Councillor Vittles has been a town councillor since 2021.

At the Annual Full Council on 7 May, councillors also elected Councillor Sam Blackwell as the new Deputy Mayor.

Both Jack and Sam said they were excited about the opportunities and challenges ahead.

## Green wall in full bloom



Now in its third summer, Bradford on Avon's living green wall has been absorbing carbon dioxide from the busy town centre since July 2022. Not only that - but also cooling the surface area of the building beneath, providing shelter for wildlife and looking beautiful in bloom, whatever the season.

# August reopening for play area



**B**y the time you read this, phase 1 of the Poulton play area improvements should be complete, with the Playday on 7 August marking the official reopening. We're still fundraising for phase 2 of the play area improvements through our Give as You Live page (you can scan the QR code on this page to access Give as You Live).

We're also planning a fundraising event for the play area next spring and would like to get a community team together to help organise the event. If you're interested in finding out more, please email Community Engagement Officer George Tomlinson at [gtomlinson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:gtomlinson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)



You can keep up to date with local news, and contact your town councillor, by visiting our website at [bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Did you know?

**Wiltshire Council is the local planning authority. This means Wiltshire Council makes the decisions on whether planning applications across the county are approved or denied. It also sets out where development in the county should be.**

**Bradford on Avon Town Council plays a vital role in the planning process - commenting on planning applications that affect the town.**

**These comments are decided by our delegated planning committee, which meets every week to discuss local planning applications.**

## Tennis courts funding

The town council is working with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) on a project to improve and resurface the Culver Close tennis courts.

The LTA will be providing most of the funding for the project, with the balance coming from the Medlock Charitable Trust. Once the project is approved, work on the courts will start almost immediately - but this is likely to be after the summer holidays.

The tennis courts will be closed for 8 weeks while they're resurfaced and marked. Once the courts reopen, there will be changes as to how you play; these changes include charging household subscriptions to use the courts. These charges will be kept as low as possible; we'll keep you updated.

## Save the date

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

#### Sustainable Travel

Tuesday 27 August

#### Full Council

Tuesday 3 September

#### Resources

Tuesday 10 September

#### Environment & Green Spaces

Tuesday 17 September

#### Town Development

Tuesday 1 October

#### Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 8 October

#### Sustainable Travel

Tuesday 15 October

#### Full Council

Tuesday 5 November

#### Environment & Green Spaces

Tuesday 19 November

#### Resources

Tuesday 26 November

#### Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 3 December

#### Town Development

Tuesday 10 December

### Events

#### Cheerleading with Bop About

**Dance**, Youth & Community Centre, Monday 19 August, 9am-1pm

#### Beatboxing Workshop with Jack

**Salt**, Youth & Community Centre – Tuesday 20 August, 9am-1pm

#### Football Fun Factory, St Margaret's

Hall, Wednesday 21 August, 9am-12.30pm

#### Making & Baking with BoA Youth,

Youth & Community Centre, Tuesday 27 August, 9am-1pm

#### Circus Workshop with Wessex

**Community Circus**, Youth & Community Centre, Wednesday 28 August, 9am-2pm

#### BoA Walking Festival, across the

town and local area, Friday 6 September to Sunday 8 September

#### BoA Skate Jam, Skatepark, Saturday

7 September, from 11am

#### BoA Flower & Produce Show,

St Margaret's Hall, Sunday 8 September, 2-4pm

#### Talk with Kenyan Tea Farmer

(as part of Fair Trade fortnight), Wallington Hall, Monday 16 September, 7pm

#### BoA Firework Display, Poulton Park,

Sunday 3 November, from 4pm

#### Christmas Lights Switch On,

Westbury Garden, Friday 29 November, from 4pm

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