



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Winter 2024



Way forward on traffic agreed

Bradford on Avon Town Council has unanimously approved the aims of a traffic scheme to recommend to Wiltshire Council, the highways authority.

At the Full Council meeting on 24 September, town councillors agreed to ask Wiltshire Council for:

- 20mph speed limits throughout the town
- wider pavements maximised throughout the scheme, particularly at the bottom of Silver Street and the top of Market Street
- one-way traffic down the hill (east to west) on Silver Street
- a trial of either one-way traffic up the hill on Market Street, or priority for traffic coming up the hill on Market Street, with the decision about which of these to trial based on advice from Wiltshire Council's highways engineers
- mitigation measures for areas expected to see significantly more traffic
- consultation with emergency services, bus services and local schools on the impact of any scheme.

Masons Lane would remain two-way to the top of Market Street (to enable access to Newtown), as it did in 2020/21 when the Covid/lockdown traffic management scheme was in place.



■ The town council has approved the aims of a traffic scheme to recommend to Wiltshire Council

Mayor of Bradford on Avon, Councillor Jack Vittles, has written to Wiltshire Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Nick Holder, to explain the town council's decision.

In the letter, Councillor Vittles said: "As you know, we have worked alongside Wiltshire Council for the past three and a half years to reach this point and we are pleased that we have been able to reach a decision on a recommendation for a traffic system in Bradford on Avon. "As set out in your letter earlier this

summer the town council had to 'demonstrate an overall level of support at a local level'.

"We believe we have achieved this, by focusing on areas of consensus among the town as well as having the backing of a unanimous vote from our town councillors.

"We now look forward to working with Wiltshire Council and your highways team to design a scheme which works for our town and achieves our key priority of improved pedestrian safety."

Talk of the town: news in brief

■ In June, the town council launched a petition to oppose development on the former golf course, and to date nearly 2,500 people have backed it. If you haven't had the chance to add your name yet, it's not too late. You can sign the petition here: bit.ly/45VqxVY

■ Bradford on Avon is choc-a-bloc with opportunities for enthusiastic residents who want to make a real impact in

our town. Whether you're interested in planting tree nurseries and sowing wildflower meadows with the Nature Volunteers, assisting visitors at the Tourist Information Centre or helping to keep the town tidy with CLuB, there's a perfect volunteer role waiting for you. Find out more on our website: bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/ volunteer

■ By the time you're reading this, we'll have launched our new website, designed to meet specific accessibility standards set out by the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations 2018. These regulations aim to ensure that public sector bodies meet the needs of all users, including those with disabilities. The website is still at bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Season's Greetings to all our readers

Fundraiser needs your support



Children and families love the new play equipment at Poulton play area, but we need the community's help to finish the project. We're planning a traditional spring fair and fun dog show on Saturday 19 April 2025 and we're looking for volunteers to help plan, set up and run the activities, stalls and refreshment stands.

Ideas for activities – such as a coconut shy, tombola, face painting and welly wanging – are all welcome!

If you'd like to get involved, please contact our Community Development Officer, George Tomlinson, at gtomlinson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Come on down to the free Youth Café

Since it launched in mid-September, the new free Youth Café has been very well received. Open every Thursday from 1.30pm to 4pm at St Margaret's Hall, it is perfect for young people (8 to 16 years old) who aren't in mainstream or full-time education.

Young people can enjoy snacks, drinks, table games, WiFi and art supplies, or even use the space to do homework. It's a great way for your child to connect, learn, and have fun in a safe environment. If you know a young person who might benefit from the Youth Café, please let us know - new faces are always welcome. Contact BoA Youth worker Amanda Wiffen at awiffen@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Support for families

If you're a parent, carer or young person who needs support or advice, family hubs are here to help. Family hubs give support and guidance to Wiltshire families and young people aged from 0 to 19, as well as up to 25 years old for those with special educational needs and disabilities. Find out more at: wiltshiretogether.org.uk/altogether

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ...

This year's Christmas Lights Switch-On takes place on Friday 29 November, in Westbury Garden - with an evening of festive fun including music, fairground rides, Santa's grotto, a gift fair and much more.

What's going on?

The lights will be switched on by the Mayor, Councillor Jack Vittles, at 6pm.

Over in St Margaret's Hall, you'll find more than 25 local artisans offering festive gifts at the Christmas Fair, which runs from 4pm to 8pm.

Jenkins Amusements will have fairground rides set up in St Margaret's car park from 4pm to 8pm.

You can also enjoy delicious seasonal food and drink from 20 different vendors in St Margaret's car park and Westbury Garden.

Bradford on Avon Rotary Club has booked Santa for the evening, and he will be in residence at his grotto in the Bull Pit.

The Tourist Information Centre will also be open until 8pm for you to purchase your Cards for Good Causes Christmas cards, with over 50 charities and unique designs to choose from. You'll also find gift wrap, ribbon, wrapping paper, and advent calendars, with all proceeds going to the charity, Cards for Good Causes.

Finally, a very big thank you to our sponsors, Ravello and River Spice, for making this event possible.



■ Lights, the Christmas Fair, Santa and SoulTown Collective are all on the agenda at our sparkling Christmas Lights Switch-On

What's that I hear?

We have a great festive musical line-up performing in Westbury Garden, headlined by the one of UK's premiere Motown acts, SoulTown Collective.

The full programme is:

Westbury Garden

West Wiltshire Young Singers - 4.15pm to 4.45pm

Courage Choir - 4.45pm to 5.15pm

Shannon Kitchen - 5.15 to 5.55pm

Christmas Lights Switch-On - 6pm

SoulTown Collective - 6.02pm to 7.30pm

Lamb Yard

Dr Zebo's Wheezy Club - 4.15pm to 4.45pm

Katie Mills - 5pm to 5.30pm

Tithe Barn Workshops

Sounding it Out - 5.30pm to 6pm

Dr Zebo's Wheezy Club - 6pm to 6.45pm

The Shambles

Sounding it Out - 6.30pm to 7pm

Did you know?

- there are more than 80 litter and recycling bins in Bradford on Avon
 - between April 2023 and March 2024, it cost over £23,000 to dispose of the waste and recycling from all these bins
 - our Town Wardens check and empty the bins over 15,000 times each year
 - in 2023, the Wardens collected 1 tonne of recycling and over 32 tonnes of waste from the town's bins
 - so far in 2024, we've already collected over 31 tonnes of waste - and just under 1 tonne of recycling
- The litter bins in the town are for general waste - and everyone putting their litter in the bins helps to keep the town clean and welcoming.
- Sadly, we've noticed people disposing of household waste and commercial waste in our bins. This results in more collections and more cost to us.

This is also against the law. This year, we've worked with Wiltshire Council to deal with commercial waste dumped in our bins - and local businesses have been identified and fined.

What you can do to help

- if a litter bin is full, please take your rubbish home and put in your household bin. Don't drop your litter - and please don't put it next to or on top of a bin
- take your recycling home with you if you can't see a recycling bin
- larger items should be put in household bins or taken to the local household recycling centres, where there is capacity to deal with them. Don't break them down and force them into the bins.

Looking ahead

We're currently reviewing whether the current bins are all in the right places - and whether we can add more recycling bins.

'Council acted in good faith', High Court finds as woodland case is dismissed

The town council is pleased that the High Court case brought against the council regarding Becky Addy Wood has been dismissed.

The judge, His Honour Judge Blohm KC, has ruled in favour of the town council, confirming that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between the Friends of Becky Addy Wood (FROBAW) and the town council is binding, that the town council has complied with its duty to consult with FROBAW in the production of the management plan for the woodland and that the claimants, Lisa Otter-Barry and Christopher Humphries, do not have any trust claim over the woods, nor does FROBAW.

The judge concluded that: "The Council's attitude to negotiations appears to be clear and open... Mr Hogg's report to committee is the Management Plan; it did not need to be agreed... [and] I consider that it satisfies the agreement requirement."

The town council is particularly pleased that the judge recognised that the officers and councillors involved in the case have undertaken their roles in good faith.

The town council deeply regrets that it was obliged to spend considerable officer and councillor time and £463,025.05 in legal fees and disbursements fighting this case. It was not possible to withdraw from the case as it was brought against the town council. Despite undertaking two rounds of mediation and offering a number of opportunities to settle and stop this legal case, the claimants pursued the case to trial.

The next step is to seek a costs award from the court and the town council will be working rigorously to recover as much taxpayers' money as possible. It plans to continue to undertake its duties under the MoU and hopes that the town council and FROBAW can move forward with a positive working relationship.

We stand by the fact that we have engaged with those individuals in good faith throughout this process, attempting to avoid this expensive and time-consuming case.

Councillor Katie Vigar, mayor during the period of the case, said: "It is a great sadness that a wonderful community project, undertaken to protect this woodland, ended up in court. The town council's aim has always been to protect the wood and ensure public safety, so that it can be enjoyed as a public amenity and its ecological value safeguarded and promoted."

Mayor Councillor Jack Vittles said: "We particularly regret that this court case has forced the town council away from other important projects - not just for the woods, but across the wider town.

"This court case has taken up a considerable amount of councillors' and officers' time over the last two

years and has been particularly stressful for those involved. I would like to thank all town councillors and officers, especially Ian Brown, Chief Executive & Town Clerk, Chris Hogg, Green Spaces Officer, Councillor Alex Kay, Chair of our Environment and Green Spaces Committee, and Kate Nottage, local resident, all of whom gave evidence at the trial and, along with Cllr Katie Vigar, worked tirelessly on trying to bring this to a resolution."

The next stage will be a hearing where the town council hopes the judge will lift the current injunction, so officers can refocus on the responsible management of the woodland. At the hearing the town council will be seeking a costs award and will look to recover as much taxpayer money as possible. Throughout this long process, we made every effort to avoid such a costly trial.

You can read the full judgement at bit.ly/3zpCSWq

Annual show draws the crowds



■ Town Mayor, Councillor Jack Vittles, presented the trophies at September's Flower & Produce Show

More than 400 visitors packed St Margaret's Hall in September for the town's annual Flower & Produce Show

The number of entrants (and entries) was slightly down from last year. Show committee member John Potter said: "It wasn't the best summer for growing – but the quality of the flower, fruit and vegetable entries was well up to the usual high standard, and the cookery, craft and children's classes were outstanding."

Mayor, Councillor Jack Vittles, presented the trophies: Bradford on Avon Potato Challenge Cup – Vernon Burchell; Avonfield Cup for fruit and vegetables – Neville Day; BoA Preservation Trust Compost Cup – Chris Young; Robin Gould Memorial Cup (awarded this year

for the tastiest tomato) – Tina Vivian; Ms B Avon WI Craft Cup – award shared by Mary Clark and Jane Jones; Climate Friendly Bradford Trophy (awarded this year for the best entry made from recycled materials) – Evie Froud; Town Council Flower Cup – Tina Vivian; Tillions' Cookery Trophy – award shared by Mary Clark and Aaron Burchell; Town Council Jam Cup – Judith Holland; Bloomfield's Marmalade Cup – Aaron Burchell; Dog & Fox trophy for most points in the drinks classes – Roz Surtees.

The Save the Children team were delighted to raise £525 from sales of tea and cakes.

Next year's show will take place on Sunday 7 September.

Tennis courts reopen

By the time this issue of *The News* drops through your letterbox, the tennis courts at Culver Close will be back and better than ever.

We've worked with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) as part of their Park Tennis Project to improve the courts. The upgrades include resurfacing, new

markings, new nets and a new access gate.

You can now book sessions for £6 per hour or choose an annual household membership for £40.

Visit ClubSpark to book or sign up: clubspark.lta.org.uk/culver-close-tennis-courts.

Cycle power

We've launched an electric bike (e-bike) loan scheme to help more people travel sustainably in and around the town. The town council has purchased an e-bike for residents to borrow for up to 14 days. Riding an e-bike is a fun and healthy way to cover more miles than on a regular bike.

Our first hirer, Justine Pitts said she was an e-bike convert. "My first time on any type of bike in many years. I surprised myself and absolutely loved it," she added. "Great to have the power back-up in our hilly town. My top tip – avoid steps; Ernie's very heavy!" If you want to join the waiting list, please email office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Save the date

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

Environment & Green Spaces
Tuesday 19 November

Resources
Tuesday 26 November (in our Kingston House office)

Community & Wellbeing
Tuesday 3 December

Town Development
Tuesday 10 December

Full Council
Tuesday 7 January

Environment & Green Spaces
Tuesday 14 January

Town Development
Tuesday 28 January

Events

Christmas Lights Switch On
Westbury Garden, Friday 29 November, from 4pm (Full details on pages 2 to 3)

Spring Fair & Dog Show
Poulton Park, Saturday 19 April

Duck Race
Westbury Garden, Monday 21 April

Green Man Festival
Across the town centre, Saturday 10 May

Secret Gardens
Across the town, Sunday 25 May

Live Music Festival
Across the town, Friday 30 May – Sunday 1 June

The Fleetwood Mac Songbook
St Margaret's Hall, Friday 27 June

Secret Gardens
Across the town, Sunday 29 June

BOA Skate Jam
Poulton Park, Saturday 19 July

Flower & Produce Show
St Margaret's Hall, Sunday 7 September, 2pm to 4pm

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