



BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
2021/22



**BRADFORD
ON AVON**
TOWN COUNCIL

CONTENTS

2 —	Introduction
3-6 —	Projects 2021/22
7-8 —	Climate & Environment
9-10 —	Updates
11 —	Grants 2021/22
12 —	Your Councillors
13 —	Town Council Officers



INTRODUCTION

Year in Review by Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Mayor of Bradford on Avon over the last year.

It has been an important year for the town as we opened up again after the pandemic, and it was a pleasure to lead the Town Council in organising events and welcoming visitors back.

As Mayor of the town, being able to switch on the Christmas lights among so many friends and neighbours was an event I hold dear. It was a much needed and wonderfully uplifting event, full of light and good cheer.

Following the May 2021 elections, it was a good to see new and younger Councillors join the team. Working together, we have been able to consult on ideas and aspirations for Poulton Park, the position and requirements for a Community Pavilion on Culver Close with a priority on its green credentials, as well as on the Traffic Consultation with a follow up liaison with Wiltshire Council.

We also held the first of a series of events focused on lowering our local carbon footprint with an emphasis on addressing fuel poverty. This type of practical information event is something I am proud to have collaborated on and intend to pursue.

I had the pleasure of hosting the West Wiltshire Polish Twinning Association AGM as Bradford on Avon was president this year, and to offer our support for the amazing efforts Elbląg has made for Ukrainian refugees. With the generous support of the town, we were able to send aid directly and are beginning to welcome Ukrainians to the town.

With the Friends of Palestine, I participated in the Walk for Freedom and will continue to support their ongoing efforts to raise funds and awareness of the plight of Palestinians.

Not forgetting events like the Pancake Race and the Duck Race which have become traditions in our town, that are always a joy to be part of and show Bradford on Avon's true competitive spirit!



(l-r) Bradford on Avon Town Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Katie Vigar



PROJECTS 2021/22

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

On Friday, 1 April 2022, Several services and assets in Bradford on Avon have today been passed from Wiltshire Council to Bradford on Avon Town Council to enable the Town Council to have more say in the running of local services.

The transfer means the Town Council will now take responsibility for grounds maintenance, such as grass cutting, and streetscene services in the town.

While also taking over several buildings, allotments, the town market, play areas, the cemetery and parcels of amenity land. We will have the autonomy to manage these services and facilities as we see fit.

This gives the Town Council an opportunity to focus on local priorities without any input from Wiltshire Council.

Similar transfers have already taken place in Chippenham, Salisbury and other towns around the county.

Town Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson said: “Bradford on Avon Town Council is pleased to bring services such as grass cutting, the market and allotments under local management.

“This is fantastic news for residents as the Town Council progresses with ambitious plans for Bradford on Avon.

“Community Asset Transfer has been a lengthy process, but it has been great to work with Wiltshire Council to deliver a positive outcome for Bradford on Avon.”

Cabinet Member for Asset Transfers, Cllr Phil Alford said: “We’re delighted to be handing these services and assets to Bradford on Avon Town Council. This transfer will enable the local community and its assets to be more resilient and will give the town more say in how these services and facilities run, to ensure they are sustainable in the long-term.

“The Town Council can now focus on its priorities for these services, without any involvement from Wiltshire Council,

and I’d like to thank the town council for working in partnership with our officers to complete this process.”

As part of the transfer, the Town Council will take on the idverde grounds maintenance contract from Wiltshire Council from until Wednesday, 30 November 2022, when the contract ends.

The Town Council will then decide on the new provision for these services.



(l-r) Bradford on Avon Town Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson with the Portfolio Holder for Passenger Transport and Streetscene at Wiltshire Council, Cllr Kevin Daley



PROJECTS 2021/22



Photo courtesy of Trevor Porter

AID COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE

When Russia began a military invasion of Ukraine on Thursday, 24 February 2022, Bradford on Avon was quick to respond.

On Tuesday, 1 March, Cllr Sam Blackwell approached the Town Council about collecting aid for those in need and it was decided that the Town Council would take in donations and pay for the drivers and transport. This decision was ratified by Full Council on Tuesday, 8 March.

On 1 March, the Town Council put a call out for specific items to help refugees, and within the hour the first residents began to drop off food, clothing and medicine at the Town Council offices.

Volunteers pitched up on 5 March to begin the process of sorting and boxing the donations ready to send. The boxes used were generously provided by Pickfords.

By Monday, 7 March we had already received enough donations to fill a van, driven by two Ukrainian volunteers, Dmytro and Vlad Sveato.

In total, Councillors, Officers and community volunteers packed over a tonne (1,200kg) of aid. The next day, they began the long journey to the southeast border of Poland and Ukraine to deliver the donations to volunteers working with those in need.

By Friday, 11 March the drivers arrived in Łaszczów (near the Ukrainian border) and unloaded the donations into a local warehouses.

The centre is operated by Ukrainian volunteers Ihor Shak and Serhiy Kerivnyk, who are arranged the onward delivery.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The 2021 Christmas Lights ceremony brought light and hope for a better tomorrow.

The Christmas Lights Switch On featured a live choir and other entertainment in Westbury Gardens and food stalls, and fairground rides in St Margaret's Car Park.

The Christmas lights were officially switched on by Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson. Feedback received by the Town Council said the evening was a very vibrant and entertaining evening — and the most successful ceremony to date.



PROJECTS 2021/22



FUTURE OF TRANSPORT

The Future of Transport consultation launched in late 2021 as an exercise in collecting data and comments on traffic in Bradford on Avon.

The Town Council received over 2,700 responses to the consultation and identified three key priorities; pedestrian and cyclist safety, air quality and traffic volume.

On Tuesday, 29 March, the Sustainable Transport Committee, chaired by Cllr Tim Trimble, met to discuss the results of the Future of Transport consultation.

During the meeting Councillors voted to join Wiltshire Council's Highways team.

Town Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson and Cllr Trimble have since met with Wiltshire Council's cabinet member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland.

Wiltshire Council is analysing the data which will inform any future traffic scheme.

The Future of Transport consultation results were compiled by Bristol-based company Copper Consultancy.

RESIDENTS' PANEL

The Residents' Panel is a new project designed to help the Town Council hear views from across the community. The panel is formed of 100 residents selected to complete surveys three times a year on Town Council activities, policies and services. The first survey, which centred on Town Council communications, was issued on Friday, 11 February 2022.

Of the 100 panellists, 69 responded to the questionnaire.

A report was presented to Full Council on Tuesday, 8 March and a number of outcomes were approved.

These included the creation of a regular email newsletter would be created and subjects and results of future surveys would be taken to the Community & Wellbeing Committee.

The timescales for the next three surveys until 2023 have been set and working groups will be formed to devise future questions.

It was proposed that the next survey focused on the environment.

Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Katie Vigar said: "The Residents' Panel is about helping the Town Council to hear more views from across the community. The project has received a lot of interest and I look forward to seeing the results of subsequent surveys."



PROJECTS 2021/22



(l-r) Town Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Chairman of the Preservation Trust, John Potter and Wiltshire Council cabinet member for Transport and Street Scene, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland | Photo courtesy of Trevor Porter

PENNANT STONE PAVING

Exciting paving works to bring back the historical origins of Church Street have been hailed as a joint success for Bradford on Avon.

Rather than seeing Church Street tarmacked, Bradford on Avon Town Council, the Preservation Trust and Wiltshire Council worked together to relay the footpath between Church Street and Barton Orchard with pennant stone.

The job of laying beautiful pennant stone, from a reclamation yard in Merthyr Tydfil, began on Friday, 4 February 2022.

Despite some set backs due to the triple threat of storms and other factors; the work was finished on the footpath.



Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson

Bradfordians want to see their town's heritage protected for generations to come, and by working together we have delivered that with the beautiful pennant stone paving on Church Street

GOLD STANDARD COUNCIL

Bradford on Avon Town Council has been awarded Quality Gold status. The award recognises good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.

The Quality Gold Award, made by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. There are three award levels – Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold – and the emphasis of the scheme is on encouraging and supporting the improvement of councils, setting out criteria to be met at each level.

Confirming the award, NALC national panel chair Sue Baxter wrote: "Receiving the Quality Gold Award is an excellent achievement... this award shows that your council has gone above and beyond the legal obligations; you are leading your community and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

"Therefore the council is to be congratulated immensely."

Bradford on Avon has previously achieved the Quality award but this is the first time it has been awarded Quality Gold status.

Town Clerk Sandra Bartlett said: "I am very proud that we have achieved Quality Gold status.

"It was very much a team effort, with everyone playing their part in working towards a successful outcome."



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

COMPOSTING TRIAL SCHEME

The Town Council will soon be trialling a composting plan to fight food waste. Tackling food waste can be done effectively in the town and encouraging composting is just one way of doing it.

The pilot will see subscribers composting uncooked vegetable waste, such as peelings, seeds and cores. Other composting schemes will be considered in the future.

The first scheme will be set up near the TerraCycle site close to the Youth Centre. Wiltshire Council does not currently run a composting project, but will have to by 2023.

In the meantime, we are starting this pilot scheme as some may prefer to compost locally.



Deputy Mayor, Cllr Katie Vigar

The idea of the project is to promote composting, provide for people unable to compost at home and create compost that can be used on town council land, so there are benefits all round

TREE PLANTING GRANT

In collaboration with Wiltshire Council, we have secured a grant of £96,000 from the Forestry Commission's Local Authorities Treescape Fund.

The money will be used to plant around 3,000 trees and hedgerow trees in the town.

Locations for planting have already been identified, both on Town Council and Wiltshire Council land, which have been taken on from the unitary authority as part of Community Asset Transfer.



Cllr Alex Kay with local poet, Dawn Gorman

FOUNTAIN PLAQUES

Laser cut plaques with works of local poets have been installed on our three water fountains around the town.

Three local poets, Carrie Etter, Dawn Gorman and John Hawkhead, have their poetry immortalised on the oakwood plaques.

The **Halsey Taylor 4420BF1UDB – Endura II Tubular Outdoor Bottle Filling Stations** were first installed in November 2019 and are in the following locations:

- Sladesbrook Play Area
- St Margaret's Car Park
- Culver Close Recreation Ground

The idea of the fountains is to help visitors and residents reduce single-use plastics.

Cllr Alex Kay said: "I want to thank our poets and the generous donors for their support of this great community project."

INCINERATOR OPPOSITION

In June 2021 Bradford on Avon Town Council was one of the local authorities which wrote in objection to the Northacre incinerator.

Backing up this opposition and in solidarity with Westbury Town Council, at Full Council on 8 March, Councillors voted to earmark £1,000 towards the cost of a legal battle against the incinerator.

Councillors said that these plans were the wrong strategy for Wiltshire and would impact on our town.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

EV CHARGERS INSTALLED

Electric Vehicle Charging points (EVC) were installed next to the Youth Centre on Frome Road in Autumn 2021.

On Saturday, 25 September, the eco-chargers were officially unveiled and switched on by the Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson.

ELECTRIC TRUCK FOR WARDENS

Residents and visitors will be able to see our Town Warden team whizzing around Bradford on Avon in their Melex 3 Series Cargo.

It was agreed by Councillors at the Tuesday, 13 April 2021 meeting to take out a four year lease on the vehicle.



Photo courtesy of Trevor Porter

SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

Volunteers were presented with certificates for the It's Your Neighbourhood competition of South West in Bloom by the Town Mayor.

The Train Station Volunteers, Wiltshire Heights, Bradford on Avon Secret gardens all did well, and the Three Horseshoes achieved Outstanding, the highest rating possible.

Bradford on Avon as a whole achieved a Gold medal for its South West in Bloom entry this year, recognising the beauty of the town and the efforts of all the staff and volunteers who keep it so beautiful. We also won the Preece Cup – the best of towns of our size.

BECKY ADDY WOOD

In summer 2020 a professional ecological survey identified ash dieback as a potential issue in the woods. Since then, it has extensively spread, and work is being carefully planned to minimise damage and risk to the public.

The works will also maximise biodiversity and the ongoing recovery of the woodland. Public safety, as well as the health of trees, has been considered and no healthy trees will be removed.

Our approach is to prioritise the biodiversity in the woodland and to carry out necessary work while considering the safety of people using the public footpath through the woods, which is our legal obligation.

The Town Council is planning the recovery of Becky Addy Wood, which will include planting a wider mix of tree species so the woodland is ecologically more diverse and resilient.

Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin (2022) caused significant damage to trees in Becky Addy Wood. The Town Council closed parts of the wood to protect visitors from potentially unsafe trees. Those areas had fallen trees, snapped high on the trunk and fallen tree limbs of a variety of tree species including ash trees affected by ash dieback disease. Additionally, some trees have fallen across the public footpath. In response, emergency tree works were undertaken.



Ash Dieback visible in trees at Becky Addy Wood



UPDATES

POULTON PARK

In September, the Town Council held a well attended consultation on the future uses of Poulton Field.

This included improved children's play areas, adult gym equipment, rewinding and replacement of existing buildings.

All of which would compliment the planned skatepark. In June, a book sale to raise funds was held in Westbury Gardens. The public generously donated hundreds of books.

Along with books, the team were also selling tote bags and t-shirts bearing skatepark logos, as well as limited edition prints donated by local artists.

A total of £1,989 was raised by the combined efforts. Of this, £954 from bags, books and prints and remaining £1,035 from book sales and donations!

About the event, Cllr Kate Bessant said: "A big thank you to everyone who came to support the skatepark, it was lovely to hear so many words of encouragement and raise so much money for the fund."

Although the Town Council was unsuccessful in its lottery funding bid, an appeal was made to the community for experts in fundraising to make the skatepark plans a reality.

At the latest Full Council meeting on Tuesday, 8 March, a working group was proposed to help raise the remaining funds. The group is to be made up of councillors, community fundraising experts, skaters and parents.

The working group has met and further funding options are being explored.



Town Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson with the winner of the Pancake Race, Tim Jeary of Bowline Communications | Photo courtesy of Trevor Porter

FLIPPIN' SUCCESS

For the first time since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Town Council was able to hold the Pancake Race on Tuesday, 1 March 2022.

Taking place over the Town Bridge 11 runners safely sprinted while flipping their pancakes in the air.

Tim Jeary of Bowline Communications won his spot on the coveted frying pan trophy in this years' event.

Town Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson said: "The Pancake Race was well attended and there was fierce competition between the businesses in the town.

"There was not too much cheating from our pancake flippers and it was nice to see a new competitor win."



UPDATES



Attendees at McKeever Bridge getting a good view of the Duck Race | Photo courtesy of Trevor Porter

DUCK RACE

Thousands came to Westbury Garden on a sunny Easter Monday to celebrate the return of the annual Duck Race — sponsored by Puddle Ducks.

This year was the first time since 2019 that Bradford on Avon Town Council has been able to hold the iconic event.

Attendees poured into Westbury Garden early to enjoy the food, drink and activities offered by incredible stallholders and entertainment.

While the launch site was moved at the last moment to protect the swans and their clutch, the Duck Race was a great success. All 1,000 racing ducks were sold by launch.

All 1,000 ducks were caught and returned by the Bradford on Avon Canoe Club.

The fantastic prizes included:

- 10 free swimming lessons with Puddle Ducks, for children aged 0-4, worth over £150
- One luxury cushion and Duck Feet stands from Dibel & Roy
- A weekday narrowboat along the Kennet & Avon canal donated by Sally Narrowboats
- The Lucky Duck prize was a copy of the new board game called Prometheus.

COMMUNITY PAVILION

In September 2021, the Town Council consulted with the public and user groups on the position of the pavilion.

At its meeting on Tuesday, 22 March, Town Development Committee discussed the plans for a new multi-use Community Pavilion in Culver Close.

It was then agreed that public exhibitions on the plans should be held to gather public opinion.

Between the end of March and April, local people were given the opportunity to view pavilion plans either in-person or online.

The Town Council held public exhibitions of the plans at the current pavilion on Friday, 25 March and Saturday, 26 March, as well as Friday, 8 April and Saturday, 9 April. Additionally, the Town Council published the plans online with a web version of the feedback form for interested parties.

In total, 164 responses were collected in-person and online, and the plans were viewed almost 650 times. On Tuesday, 10 May 2022, Town Councillors will discuss the responses to the plans.



CGI impressions of the proposed Culver Close pavilion



UPDATES & GRANTS 2021/22

FLOWER BED RESCUE

In 2021, Town Council Officers and volunteers worked to tidy the raised flower beds along the riverside walk which had become overgrown during lockdown.

These flower beds are now designated as no dig – which aims to maintain soil health minimise weeds. The planter shows what can be achieved in a garden, allotment or even a window box.

The other planter retains wildflowers and bulbs rescued from both the original beds, replanted with a mix of insect attracting perennial flowers.

ST MARGARET'S HALL

Despite a three month lockdown in 2021, St Margaret's Hall has met its income target for the year.

More and more events have started to be held in St Margaret's Hall including tribute bands, theatre and children's events — all supported by the public.

Highlights include:

- All Floyd
- Fleetwood Mac Songbook
- East of the Sun and West of the Moon by the Bradfordians
- Maker's Market



Bradford on Avon Grants		2021/22
Organisation	Type	Amount
Bowls Club	General	£4,000
Living Green Wall	General	£2,500
Friends of BoA Station	General	£1,500
BoA Museum	General	£500
Climate Friendly BoA	General	£500
Book Fiesta	General	£5,500
Great Big Green Week	General	£500
Youth Adventure Trust	General	£1,000
Preservation Trust	General	£1,950
Arts Together	Health & Wellbeing	£600
Walkers Are Welcome	Health & Wellbeing	£727
Ukraine Aid Delivery	Health & Wellbeing	£1,200
Lunch Club - Aldhelm Court	Health & Wellbeing	£60
Natural Theatre Company	Covid-19	£5,325
Recovery Event	Covid-19	£999
		£26,861

Displayed is the total number of grants issued by Bradford on Avon Town Council between 2021/22 financial year and present.



YOUR COUNCILLORS



Bradford on Avon is divided into two wards: South Ward and North Ward, each represented by six elected Town Councillors. Town Councillors are volunteers elected by the people of Bradford on Avon.

NORTH WARD

Cllr Tim Trimble (Lib Dems) —

cllr.trimble@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Sam Blackwell (Lib Dems) —

cllr.blackwell@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Alex Kay (Ideal Bradford) —

cllr.kay@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Katie Vigar (Lib Dems) —

cllr.vigar@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Alison Potter (Lib Dems) —

cllr.potter@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Simon McNeill-Ritchie (Ideal Bradford) —

cllr.mcneillritchie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Jack Vittles (Lib Dems) —

cllr.vittles@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Emma Franklin (Ideal Bradford) —

cllr.franklin@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Jennie Parker (Lib Dems) —

cllr.parker@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Dave Garwood (Ideal Bradford) —

cllr.garwood@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

SOUTH WARD

Cllr Sarah Gibson (Lib Dems) —

cllr.gibson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Kate Bessant (Ideal Bradford) —

cllr.bessant@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



YOUR COUNCILLORS

UNITARY COUNCILLORS

The role of a Unitary Councillor is to keep in touch with local people and represent their views at Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Sarah Gibson (Lib Dems) —
sarah.gibson@wiltshire.gov.uk

Cllr Tim Trimble (Lib Dems) —
tim.trimble@wiltshire.gov.uk

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Town Council meetings take place most Tuesday evenings from 7pm.

Town Councillors from each of the various committees will gather to discuss council policies, issues and activities.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICERS

Officers ensure the day to day running of the Town Council, as well as the delivery of services and functions.

Town Council staff are responsible for providing advice, implementing the Town Council's direction and taking action on decisions made.

YOUR OFFICERS

Town Clerk - Sandra Bartlett
Director of Operations - Ian Brown
Accountant - Sarah Hawkins
Communications Officer - Matthew McLaughlin
Facilities Manager - Tim Yeomans
Green Spaces Officer - Chris Hogg
Tourism & Events Officer - Katie Ponsford
Senior Administrator - Val Baker
Senior Receptionist - Gill Murray
Receptionist - Jackie Brown
Deputy Hall Manager - Keith Draper
Town Warden - Simon Sutton
Town Warden - Stewart Heatherwick
Town Warden - Richard Snarr
Caretaker - Roger Collett

CONTACT US

Bradford on Avon Town Council is open Monday to Friday.

Opening hours:

Monday—Thursday (9am until 5pm)

Friday (9am until 4.30pm)

Phone — 01225 864420

Email — office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Post — St Margarets Hall, St Margaret's St, Bradford on Avon BA15 1DE

Website — bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

*Please note that the Town Council offices are closed on weekends and public holidays unless otherwise stated.

