



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Summer 2025



Welcome to the Mayor & Deputy Mayor

The local elections on 1 May meant that a new town council administration was formed – with new and familiar faces representing the town for the next 4 years.

A sincere thank you to all the candidates who stood for election.

Whether elected or not, each person puts themselves forward in the hope of helping to improve the town and that commitment is greatly appreciated.

We also offer our commiserations to those who were not elected this time.

Alongside the new town council administration, the town councillors have elected a Mayor and new Deputy Mayor for the year ahead.

At the annual Full Council meeting in May, Councillor Jack Vittles was re-elected as Bradford on Avon's Mayor.

At the same meeting, Councillor Kate Bessant was elected as the Deputy Mayor.

"It's an honour to be re-elected as Mayor for a second term," said Jack.



From left: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kate Bessant and Mayor, Councillor Jack Vittles.

"I will continue to work with all our residents and my fellow councillors to represent the town and to be part of the important projects that are happening."

Kate added: "It's a privilege to serve our town as Deputy Mayor this year."

"And I'm particularly excited to engage with our brilliant and passionate community on the things that matter to them."

Find out more about the local elections and your new town councillors on pages 2 & 3.

The story so far on the second Neighbourhood Plan

As a community we're reviewing Bradford on Avon's Neighbourhood Plan. In due course, this will result in the second edition of our plan.

In May, we talked about the plan to over 200 people at a series of events – encouraging everyone to have their say and start contributing.

Since then, people have:

- completed surveys – telling us what they like and dislike about the town and what's important to them for the future of the town
- added to our town map – showing us the places and space that matter to them.

Now we're working on a summary of what's been said so far – and we'll share this when it's ready.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a strategic document that sets out planning policies. It can do things like protect local green spaces and bring forward housing that meets the town's needs and aspirations.

The town's current Neighbourhood Plan was adopted (made) in 2017.

Importantly, Wiltshire Council takes the plan into account when making decisions on planning applications in Bradford on Avon.

This means the second edition of our plan will have an important role in shaping the town.

Find out more about the project on our website.

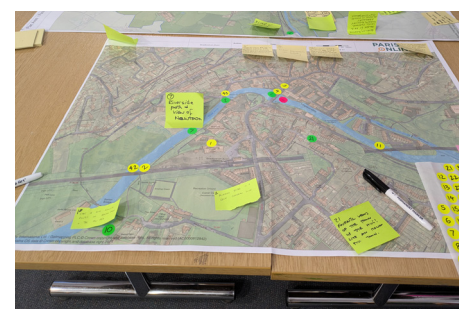


Photo from one of our May drop-in events, where people marked the places in Bradford on Avon that matter most to them. Want to add your own? The map is available at our office on Kingston Road.

Keep up to date on what we're doing at bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Save the date

Town council meetings at 7pm in United Church

Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 22 July

Full Council

Tuesday 2 September

Resources

Tuesday 9 September

Environment & Green Spaces

Tuesday 16 September

Sustainable Travel

Tuesday 7 October

Town Development

Tuesday 14 October

Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 21 October

Full Council

Tuesday 4 November

Events

BOA Skate Jam, Poulton Park Skatepark, Saturday 19 July, 11am

Flood Forum, Holy Trinity Church, Monday 21 July, times TBC

Walking Festival, across the town, Saturday 6 September to Sunday 7 September

Flower & Produce Show, Holy Trinity Church, Saturday 6 September, 2pm

BOA Fireworks, Poulton Park, Sunday 2 November

Christmas Lights Switch On, Westbury Garden, Friday 28 November 4pm to 8pm

Summer club & BOA Youth updates

We're delighted to be able to offer a programme of affordable and fun activities during the school summer holidays again.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings throughout August there will be a wide range of activities to choose from at the Youth Centre.

Children will get the chance to try their hand at magic, circus skills, clay modelling, creative writing, cheerleading and more.

Places are limited and you must book in advance.

Please be aware, that at the time of writing, lots of places have already been taken.

Some you may know that our BOA Youth Coordinator, David, retired in April.

We'd like to thank him for his dedication, hard

work and positive vibes – and we wish him all the best for a very happy retirement.

We're pleased to welcome Amanda Wiffen as the new BOA Youth Coordinator and to introduce Abi Jackson as our newly appointed Deputy Youth Coordinator.

Please join us in congratulating Amanda and giving Abi a warm welcome as they step into their new roles.



Scan this QR code to check the availability of our summer activities and book your place(s).

Meet your new BOA town councillors



From left: Councillors Atkinson, Blackwell, Kay, Savva, Spence, Vigar, Bessant, Elliott, Gordon, Reed, Simmonds and Vittles.

Poulton needs you

Last year, we launched a crowdfunder to raise the rest of the money needed to complete Poulton Park play area.

Through a combination of donations, events and grants, now we're just £2,900 short of meeting our match funding target of £25,000.

Our Fun Dog Show & Spring Fete was a huge success! Together, the event, Top Dog competition, and gift raffle raised an amazing £4,595. A fantastic effort from the BOA community!

If you can donate, please visit our fundraising page: donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/poulton-park-play-area

If you're a business or business owner and would like to contribute, please contact us directly.

Talk of the town: news in brief

• Following the first meeting of the Becky Addy Wood liason committee, we've appointed independent ecology and arborist specialists to develop a woodland management plan. As part of this, ecology and tree surveys, including nighttime bat checks are underway. The aim is to create a plan that supports biodiversity while ensuring the woodland stays safe and accessible.

• In May, Wiltshire Council approved our planning application for a new Community Pavilion at Culver Close – a milestone for the project. We're now moving into the next phase that includes reviewing construction costs and securing funding.

• Many people have a close relationship with the town's parks and green spaces – and a memorial bench can be a long-lasting way to mark this connection for a loved one. Soon, we'll be accepting requests for memorial benches in some of the spaces that we look after. If you'd like to remember a loved one in a favourite park or a special place, please see our website for more details.

• If you're looking for family days out, arts and culture or live music, Explore Wiltshire Events (events.wiltshire.gov.uk) has you covered. This interactive noticeboard is your one-stop shop for what's on in the county.

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Spotted a problem? Give us a call on 01225 864240

Green Man draws big crowds

Every May, Bradford on Avon comes alive with dance, music and folklore at the Green Man Festival – and this year was no exception, as thousands turned out to celebrate its eighth edition.

As one of the UK's largest events of its kind, nearly 250 dancers and performers brought energy and colour to the town centre.

We're proud to give our continued support to this much-loved, family-friendly festival, its dedicated organisers.

Mark your calendars for Saturday 9 May 2026 – the next Green Man Festival is already shaping up to be worth the wait!

Photo courtesy of Trevor Porter.



The cost of vandalism & litter in the town



This is an example of some of the less offensive graffiti we encounter.

Over the past few months, vandalism in the town has risen – including damage to the play areas, bin fires or graffiti.

This kind of anti-social behaviour not only leaves things unusable, which can be upsetting to residents, but also takes our Town Warden team away from their regular duties and can delay important projects.

In some cases, urgent action is needed to remove offensive graffiti or anything that might be a safety risk.

The estimated cost of dealing with vandalism in the town, so far this year is around £12,000.

Did you know that over the last year, the town council has emptied its litter bins over 32,000 times? That's a lot of bin bags! And currently, all the bins are emptied once a day.

As well as this, the Town Wardens pick up litter across town with enthusiastic volunteer groups such as CLuB completing extra tasks in the town. These jobs pick up a lot of natural mess but there's also lots of litter and dog waste that shouldn't be left on the ground or hung in hedges.

The Town Wardens have also had to respond to 16 reports of fly-tipping in the town.

All of the above costs the town council and ultimately the precept payers (residents), around £20,000 a year to legally dispose of the waste.

It's important to remember that litter bins are there for general rubbish and not household or commercial waste – which has increasingly become an issue for us.

Household waste should be disposed of in your grey bins or at one of Wiltshire Council's Household Recycling Centres, while businesses should make their own arrangements for collection and disposal through a licenced waste carrier – **as it's the law.**



Bradford on Avon Town Council has new councillors. We've added a brief biography for each of the councillors to the website, telling you a bit about them – and what they hope to do while they're elected.

Your new town councillors are:

BOA North

- Councillor James Atkinson
- Councillor Sam Blackwell
- Councillor Alex Kay
- Councillor Ghika Savva
- Councillor Chirs Spence
- Councillor Katie Vigar.

BOA South

- Councillor Kate Bessant
- Councillor Kevin Elliott
- Councillor Andy Gordon
- Councillor Ben Reed
- Councillor George Simmonds
- Councillor Jack Vittles.

The total voter turnout for BOA North was 42.14% while 40.13% of the electorate in BOA South voted. Councillor Blackwell was also elected as a councillor for BOA North at Wiltshire Council and Councillor Simmonds was elected to represent BOA South.

partnered with Wiltshire & on Prepared to set up the Youth as an Emergency Contact these hubs can be activated by ated volunteers or the town council an emergency. They're a safe space one who needs help – or wants it. We're also looing for another to set up as an emergency hub in rth of the town.

ever wanted to learn more Bradford on Avon – the museum best place to start. Housed the town's library and run by ted volunteers, the museum t announced new opening

hours (from June 2025). Please visit bradfordonavonmuseum.co.uk for more information.

• Over the past three years and eight surveys, the Residents' Panel has helped shape everything from BOA Snippets to tree planting and the Town Vision. With a new administration, we're looking to welcome more members. If you're interested, please contact our office.

• We're also keen to hear from residents interested in joining a clothing and textile reuse group – something like Frome's Everyone Needs Pockets network. If that sounds like you, please get in touch.

Email us at office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Clean up shows what's dumped in the river

On Sunday 1 June, the Boat Club organised a river clean up, filling 6 bags full of rubbish from the river and its banks.

Alongside the usual rubbish, they found tyres and a parasol – and even rescued a Singer sewing machine from the water.

This goes to show just how much rubbish ends up in our river – including wet wipes, plastic, drinks bottles and cans.

Please help keep the town clean and green by taking your litter home with you.

On behalf of the town council, thank you to everyone who took part in the litter pick and helped clean our river.



Boat Club volunteers after collecting rubbish from the river.

Record turnout for annual music festival

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the fourth (and busiest) Bradford on Avon Live Music Festival!

From 30 May to 1 June, the town was brimming with music from local stars and international talent like The Bowie Experience, Jah Wobble & the Invaders of the Heart, Gaspar Nali, local heroes Retro Electro and Nick Langston & the Hipcats.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to our amazing event sponsors – Kingstons Estate Agents, H2 Creative, Citroen Peugeot Specialist and Beswick Stone. As well as The Total Letting Service for sponsoring the Sunday jazz night.

We also have to say a huge thanks to our volunteers, venues and performers. It was our biggest festival yet – stay tuned for the dates of next year's event!



The crowd in Westbury Garden on Saturday 31 May.

Free tennis sessions on the way!

Starting soon, we'd like to offer an hour of free tennis every weekend throughout the year.

Working with the Lawn Tennis Association, we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers over the age of 18 to become Activators and lead the free sessions.

We'd also like to hear from people over 16 years old who would like to help at the sessions.

You don't need to be an experienced player – we're looking for people who enjoy the game and would like to support others to play.

To find out more please email us at office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01225 864240.

Work on St Margaret's Hall

Work stripping out the ground floor in St Margaret's Hall started on Monday 9 June.

The work will include removing damaged plaster, doors and skirting boards – and the hall floor in the main hall. Removing the floor in the main hall might tell us more about how and where the water got into the building.

This might lead to ideas about how we can make the building more flood resilient – and quicker to recover if it does flood in the future.



Photo courtesy of Maverick Industries.

The Skate Jam is back in Bradford on Avon! Join us on Saturday 19 July from 11am at Poulton Park for a day of pro-demos, music, competitions, prizes and fresh pizza. With Rubicon hosting and groups like Mighty Girls, Skate BOA and BOA Youth in the mix, it's set to be an epic day of skating, scooting and BMXing.

Keep up to date with local news by visiting bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

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