



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Winter 2025



Progress on traffic and footbridge projects

Bradford on Avon Town Council is delighted to announce we are making progress on a new pedestrian crossing over the River Avon by working collaboratively with Wiltshire Council.

The new bridge, proposed to link the library car park with Bridge Yard, will make it easier and safer for pedestrians to move around the centre of the town and provide a route across the river during times of flooding.

This has been a clear ambition for the town council since this new project began in 2023.

Following a recent meeting Wiltshire Council is preparing an outline business case for the new bridge which will be funded by Active Travel England. This outline business case can then be used to apply for funding to build the bridge.

We are also working with Wiltshire Council on a town-wide traffic scheme, as unanimously agreed by Full Council in September 2024. To allow one-way traffic downhill on Silver Street, Wiltshire Council is insisting a bus contraflow must be in place to allow buses to continue to exit the town centre via Silver Street.

To enable progress on the scheme, Wiltshire Council has agreed to carry out a feasibility study.

This will look at whether Silver Street could have one-way traffic going downhill, while still allowing buses to travel uphill when needed. The results of the study are expected in summer 2026.

The outline business case for the bridge project and the bus contraflow feasibility study will both be carried out at no cost to the town council. We will regularly meet with Wiltshire to review progress and look for more ways to improve the pedestrian experience in Bradford on Avon.

BoA brings home the gold at South West in Bloom



We're over the moon that Bradford on Avon achieved a Gold Award at this year's South West In Bloom competition. In July, a judge explored the incredible range of projects and community groups that help make the town so special. Since 2022, we've managed many of the town's beautiful green spaces and we're proud that this award highlights the work of our amazing Town Warden team and the countless volunteers who make BoA bloom. It's Your Neighbourhood results; Clean up Bradford – Level 3 (Advancing) Train Station Volunteers – Level 4 (Thriving), Secret Gardens – Level 5 (Outstanding), Three Horseshoes Garden – Level 4 (Thriving), Holy Trinity Church – Level 4 (Thriving), Nature Volunteers – Level 3 (Advancing), Christ Church (Discover Christ Church) – Level 5 (Outstanding), Christ Church Primary School – Level 5 (Outstanding).

Talk of the town: news in brief

• Cosy cooking season is here – which makes it the perfect time to remind you about our low-energy cooking appliance loan scheme. We have air fryers, slow cookers and a pressure cooker available to borrow. These appliances are ideal for making delicious, energy-saving meals that help keep costs down. Find out more on our website.

• With the election of new councillors in May 2025, we have come together to develop a set of values to guide us in everything we do as a town council. This ethos will underpin our commitment to delivering the business plan and how we respond to the challenges and opportunities that arise in the town.

Through these values – we strive to be:

- honest, respectful and supportive with each other and our community
- professional, trustworthy and approachable in everything we do
- clear and transparent in our communications and our actions.

• The town council is a proud donation station for Wiltshire Digital Drive, a charity that refurbishes old tech and redistributes it to those who need it most. This year, residents of Bradford on Avon donated 186 devices – a remarkable 239% increase in donations from 2024. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Events round up



Oh, what a night

It was wonderful to see thousands of people enjoying the fireworks at Poulton Park, this year.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the event possible – especially our amazing volunteers and our event sponsor, The Kingston Group.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the magical Christmas Lights Switch-On. The event is always a favourite, and it felt especially special this year after Storm Bert forced us to cancel last year's switch-on. We'd also like to thank BLB Solicitors for sponsoring the event.

Our thanks also go to all the people and groups who helped make the night possible: Burbidge Electrical, the BoA Rotary Club for bringing Santa to town, all the musical acts – including our headliners Karport Collective – as well as our food and drink vendors, and the funfair.

And thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended these events, we raised £2,422 to help keep future town events free at the point of entry.

New public toilets for Victory Field

In 2024, we were granted planning permission to build a new public toilet block and store at Victory Field – with the intention that this building would replace the storage containers on Victory Field and the toilet behind Culver Close pavilion.

Put simply, the Culver Close toilet is in poor condition – and in recent years it's received a lot of complaints and we had to closed it several times.

The new building being proposed has a simple design but will offer essential functionality. The building is also sizable – with a footprint of 110m².

About 40m² of the building will be dedicated public toilets, including a specialised accessible toilet for people with severe disabilities.

The nearby Tithe Barn is in a Conservation Area and an Area of Outstanding Natural

Beauty. This means the planning process requires any new building nearby to fit in with its surroundings. This means using specific materials – like natural stone and clay roof tiles – which are more expensive.

Our consultants estimate the project will cost around £675,000 – the exact figure will be known following a tendering exercise. So, to fund the project, we're proposing to take out a loan.

This would mean a small increase in council tax – an extra £11.91 per year for a Band D household or about 23p per week.

We're asking for your views on the proposals. Please visit the news article on our website or scan the QR code below to complete the survey.



Cemetery stories: connecting generations

In 2022, we took over management of the cemetery and burials – and, as is often the case, cemeteries can reveal fascinating glimpses of local history.

A wonderful example came from Lydia Gantley, who recently shared the extraordinary story of her grandparents – **who are buried in Bradford on Avon.**

They met, married and raised seven children in China, her mother being number two, while working as Baptist missionaries in the early 1900s. This year Lydia fulfilled her long-held wish to visit China, travelling to Taiyuan where their story unfolded over a century ago.

Now a vast modern city, Taiyuan shows few signs of its missionary past, though local guides explained that the schools, universities and hospitals founded by early

missionaries still remain.

Lydia's family returned to England when her mother was 13, and her grandfather later became a Baptist minister in Limpley Stoke.

By chance, Lydia visited Bradford on Avon and discovered that her grandparents were buried in the town's cemetery. Then she contacted our office and we helped her locate the grave, which she and her nephew found covered in lichen; she is now arranging for it to be cleaned.

Stories like this show how much history lies quietly within our cemetery – and how meaningful it can be when those connections are rediscovered.

"This visit to Bradford on Avon is like the end of the China story for me," she told us.

Work at St Margaret's Hall starts soon

It's been over a year since St Margaret's Hall flooded in November 2024 – and we're pleased to say that we're expecting the reinstatement works to begin this month (January 2026).

We'll confirm more details on our website as soon as we can, including the start date and the works schedule.

We'll also have project updates at town council meetings, in BOA Snippets and on our social media.

The reinstatement works are mainly focused on the ground floor – which suffered extensive damage in the flood.

The works are set to include:

- a replacement floor in the main hall
- new toilets
- new plasterboard and decoration.

Elements of the works should also mean the building is more resilient to flooding – and more recoverable if the hall does flood again.

These elements include:

- new floorings in the rooms and spaces that were carpeted before
- raised electrical sockets and wiring
- repointing damaged or missing mortar around the outside of the building
- changes to the kitchen and bar area.

Spotted a problem? Give us a call on 01225 864240

Dedicated benches available



In a previous newsletter, we shared that we would soon be offering dedicated benches for residents – and we're pleased to say four have now been installed in green spaces

across the town.

Bradford on Avon is lucky to have many beautiful green spaces, each holding special meaning for residents and visitors beyond.

You can now apply for a memorial bench in several of these areas, including Victory Field, Culver Close, Barton Farm Country Park and Poulton Park.

The benches (seats) and picnic benches we recently installed are made from enviropol – a durable material produced from a high percentage of recycled waste plastics. We also install wooden and metal benches.

If you'd like to dedicate a memorial bench to a loved one, please visit our website for more information.

Join in! Youth club needs new volunteers



Our BoA Youth team (l-r) Elena, Abi, Dan and Amanda.

BoA Youth is going from strength to strength, now offering three sessions a week at the youth centre. The Monday and Thursday drop-in sessions continue to be popular, with young people enjoying the social space and free snacks and making use of the pool table and sports hall.

The sessions are free to attend and young people aged 11+ are welcome to drop in anytime from 3pm to 6pm on Mondays and 3pm to 8.30pm on Thursdays.

Our Tuesday Club is also thriving, and we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help the team!

Sessions run every Tuesday evening for children aged 8 to 12, offering a mix of sport, gaming, arts & crafts, cooking and free play – alongside snacks and hot meals.

Volunteers can get involved in all sorts of activities, from arts and crafts to cooking and games.

If you have a skill, hobby or passion you'd enjoy sharing with young people, we'd love to hear from you.

If you're interested in supporting this fantastic free resource for the town's young people, the team will be delighted to welcome you along to a session so you can see what it's all about.

To arrange a visit or to find out more please email our Community Development Officer, George Tomlinson at: gtmlinson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

ons and heritage to BoA



Lydia's grandparents with four of their children (her mother is the third from the left)

Groups begin work shaping next Neighbourhood Plan

After people volunteered to get involved earlier in the year, there are now five topic groups shaping the Neighbourhood Plan review.

And following meetings with Place Studio (the consultants supporting our Neighbourhood Plan review) the topic groups are beginning to draft the policies and community priorities that will go in the new plan.

The five groups are looking at the following topics:

- sustainable development and climate change
- the built environment

- living and working in Bradford on Avon
- the natural environment – including the river corridor and the town's green spaces
- transport (and travel).

Each topic is being researched and considered in detail – and the groups will all meet up again early in 2026 to discuss their thoughts and findings.

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the chance to develop a vision for where they live and work – and our new Neighbourhood Plan will do that for the town.



Neighbourhood Plan topic group workshop in October

Email us at office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

You might not see the Wardens but...

Did you know our Town Wardens take care of all kinds of jobs at our green spaces and public areas?

They open and clean the public toilets, empty litter bins year-round – except Christmas Day – pick litter, sweep streets, remove graffiti, support volunteers and clear dog waste. They also manage seasonal tasks like clearing blossom, leaves and overgrown vegetation to help keep residents safe.

If that wasn't enough, Town Wardens cut grass across the whole town – in parks, play areas, verges and the cemetery – and look after building maintenance, repair play equipment, plant and water trees and support all our events, from the fireworks display to the Christmas Lights Switch-On. They're also a friendly face for anyone needing directions or help.

They're also working to boost local biodiversity by expanding wildflower areas, saving more materials for compost and mulch, and avoiding weedkillers by using methods like no-dig gardening.



Town Wardens working in Westbury Garden

Tackling speeding motorists in BoA

The safety of pedestrians and cyclists is a significant and longstanding concern in the community. And although we aren't directly responsible for the town's roads, campaigning in recent years means we're now working with Wiltshire Council to design a new traffic scheme for BoA.

Alongside this, we've developed a unique approach in response to speeding motorists – one that not only monitors speeds but aims to reduce speeding and change driver behaviours.

Chief Executive & Town Clerk, Ian Brown said: "To help change drivers' speeding habits, we've invested in a Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) to act as a live deterrent for speeding drivers coming through the town, and an Auto Speed Watch camera (ASW) to record vehicle data when people are driving over 37mph through the town."

The SAM is moved around the town to help address residents' concerns, while the ASW typically monitors and records one of the main routes in and out of the town. But collecting data alone won't ever solve the issue. This is why we launched a modern spin on the

Community SPeed Watch scheme. Unlike the traditional model of volunteers in hi-vis jackets using handheld devices, our approach supports volunteers who want to do something positive about speeding in the town. In spring 2025, we began analysing the data collected by the ASW and it soon became clear that many of the offending vehicles were commercial. As a result, we wrote to those businesses highlighting that their drivers were breaking the law.

To date, we've sent out over 60 letters to companies. This has led to some companies apologising and others saying they would speak with their drivers about their behaviour. Through this approach, we believe we're starting to see signs that our campaign can influence driver behaviour and reduce speeding – which will help improve how pedestrians and cyclists experience the town, as well as other drivers.

We're also considering possible next steps, that could include publishing a list of the worst speeds, and formally reporting companies and/or vehicles that are persistently speeding in the town.



(l-r) Town council staff, Gill & Val with the town council's Christmas tree

Every year we take part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church. This year's tree celebrates all our beautiful green spaces, as well as the scores of people who help us keep BoA looking beautiful all year round... and not just for Christmas.

Our meetings, events & more

Meetings are held at United Church at 7pm.

Town Development

Tuesday 13 January 2026

Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Environment & Green Spaces

Tuesday 10 February 2026

Sustainable Travel

Tuesday 24 February 2026

*Resources

Tuesday 3 March 2026

Full Council

Tuesday 10 March 2026

Town Development

Tuesday 17 March 2026

*Resources is held Kingston House Office

Town council events in 2026

With a fantastic year of events behind us, we're already looking ahead to an exciting 2026 programme.

The first event of the year will be the much-loved Pancake Race on Tuesday 17 February. We'll share the full details soon.

Hot on its heels comes another town favourite; the Duck Race on Easter Bank Holiday Monday (6 April). Expect the usual colourful chaos as hundreds of ducks take to the river.

Looking even further ahead, BoA's Live Music Festival will round off the summer with a weekend of live performances spanning rock, pop, indie, jazz and more – we'll be releasing updates, line ups and ticket information as the festival draws closer.

We look forward to welcoming you to these events and celebrating another year of community spirit in Bradford on Avon.

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