



# the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council  
Summer 2020

Follow us on social media @BoATownCouncil

## Lockdown brings out the best

### A message from Dom Newton, Leader of Bradford on Avon Town Council

The past few months have really shown the very best of Bradford on Avon, with people from all over our community stepping up spontaneously to support residents and neighbours. It has been immensely encouraging, and at times very emotional to see our community responding in such a hugely positive way, and to hear some of the individual stories behind the numbers.

In common with much of the rest of the country, we have also been learning how to operate in new ways - bringing forward updated IT systems to help our team continue to work effectively and respond to the radically changed circumstances.

As a council, one of our clear tasks is to make sure you have accurate information, know how to get help, and, most importantly, understand what we are all being asked to do, to safeguard each other and our NHS. We're working hard to make sure that we continue to get messages across, with leaflets, letters, and short animated movies.

We've also successfully lobbied Ofcom to approve a short-term FM licence for the town's community radio station, **West Wilts Radio** - now broadcasting on **87.7 FM** - as it continues to provide great content supporting local businesses, as well as communicating important messages on behalf of the Town Council and others.

On top of that, there are still elements of normal council business that have to carry on - bringing to a successful conclusion the transfer of assets and services to the Town Council from Wiltshire Council; working to secure green spaces around the town and to address the Climate Emergency, and

continuing to develop capital project ideas, such as replacement of the town's skatepark.

We also cannot lose sight of what will happen when the current emergency has passed - helping our town to go into a strong recovery, supporting our vibrant and eclectic business community, acknowledging that a significant proportion of residents are employed in, or run businesses based in, the town.

We are in the process of amending the Explore Bradford on Avon tourism website - [www.bradfordonavon.co.uk](http://www.bradfordonavon.co.uk) -to

help support local businesses moving online, and are working on other proposals to ensure the town thrives in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank you all. I am - and, I think, speaking for all Town Councillors when I say this - hugely proud of representing a town that can respond in the face of such a crisis in the way it has.

● **Keep up to date with latest information on COVID-19 at: <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/covid-19-local-information/>**



### Woodland plan welcomed

Bradford on Avon Town Council has had an overwhelmingly positive response to its decision to purchase of 10 acres of local Historic Ancient Woodland. Becky Addy Wood, between Bradford and Avoncliff, is home to many ancient and native species of trees and rare flora, as well as blankets of wild garlic and bluebells. It also provides vital natural habitat for protected local wildlife, including bats.

Cllr Alex Kay, Chair of the Environment & Planning Committee said: "I am very proud and inspired to have worked with the community to acquire Becky Addy Wood.

"People from across the area, including Westwood, Turleigh, Avoncliff and Bradford on Avon, have united with one aim: to protect the wood in perpetuity. This fits in with efforts to tackle the Climate Emergency and developing our Green Space Management Strategy which has maximising biodiversity at its very heart.

"Becky Addy Wood is a beautiful stretch of woodland, full of wildflowers and birdsong. Along with all of our green spaces, it provides a place for those seeking solace and renewal, not just in the current circumstances, but long into the future."

Photo: Lydia Booth Photography

Visit our website at [www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Growing the extra mile

The GROW Bradford on Avon project is proving a great success, with people from all over town sharing seeds and plants. Part of the Town Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the idea is to provide hubs where people can exchange seeds and plants, and enjoy planting, growing and sharing as a community.

Two plant stations - one in the Phoney Boxes box at the top of Whitehill and one at the planters on St Laurence Road - were set up at the end of April. The first batch of plants and seeds were grown and donated by Town Council officers

and councillors.

Cllr Dom Newton, Leader of the Council, who built the containers from recycled materials, said: "GROW has already proven to be a huge success, encouraging people to get gardening and to share what they have - another example of the lovely community spirit across the whole of our town."

- To follow the project's social media pages visit: <https://www.facebook.com/GROWBradfordonAvon/> and <https://www.instagram.com/growbradfordonavon>

## In brief ...

The Town Council has commissioned a series of animated short films, using Lego, to help get pertinent messages across to the community, with the aim of reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our area. The fun, eye-catching and very informative films - which can be seen on Facebook and Twitter - are reaching a huge number of people: the first - *Exercising Safely* - was viewed 32,000 times within the first five days of its release. A second film - *Stay Safe, Stay Connected* - gives helpful advice to older people (pictured below), and a third is in the pipeline.



Bradford on Avon Town Council launched the COVID-19 Response Fund in mid-March, and by early May it had already tripled its target, raising more than £6,000 to help support the most vulnerable in the community over the coming months. You can donate to the fund via the Town Council website.

Lockdown, the flourishing GROW Bradford initiative and a spell of fine weather mean that a lot of people are spending more time in their gardens, so we are delighted to announce that the Bradford on Avon Flower and Produce Show is still planned for 6 September - although perhaps in a somewhat different format from the usual event. Look out for more information over the coming weeks!

Did you know you can get help with shopping and prescription collections, practical help if you can't afford to buy food or household supplies, and emotional support if you are isolated? To ask for help, fill out the form on the Town Council website or email [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk). If you don't have access to a computer, call 01225 864240. We are here to help.

**Don't let concerns about COVID-19 stop you from seeking medical advice for other conditions! Not seeking help from your GP could put your long-term health at risk.**

## Volunteers pull out all the stops



The COVID-19 pandemic has seen volunteers from across the community coming forward to help those in need as never before in our lifetimes.

Our team of Community Emergency Volunteers (CEVs) were hard at work the first weekend in May, setting up a flat with donated furniture and a food parcel, ready for the arrival of a person being assisted by Julian House, the Bath-based homeless charity.

Paul Robertson, CEV Co-ordinator, said: "We have been primarily assisting those who are self-isolating and shielding with

shopping and prescriptions and other tasks that aren't covered by the extensive town street champion network."

The volunteer network of street champions, with co-ordination assistance from Town Council officers, have been processing hundreds of requests for help across the community - including questions about food bank parcels and worries about social isolation.

Huge thanks are also due to all the local businesses, key workers and NHS staff helping to keep our community safe and well in these uncertain times.