



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council
Autumn 2021



Traffic consultation planned

The town centre social distancing (one-way) system was removed by Wiltshire Council when rules were relaxed in July, but the Town Council is working to deliver a public consultation later in the autumn to seek views on long-term objectives for future traffic management, air quality and pedestrian safety. This was unanimously agreed at a Full Town Council meeting in July.

Wiltshire Council, as the highways authority, is responsible for our roads, so the outcome of the consultation will be presented to them so they can consider how they can meet our objectives as a community. Residents will be able to review data collected during the temporary scheme, alongside that collected when the scheme has not been in place. Look out for more information on the Town Council website and other publicity.

Cllr Tim Trimble chairs the council's Sustainable Travel Committee. He said: "We need to work together to request an outcome that will benefit as many as possible and inconvenience as few as possible. Most people agree on the need to reduce the number of vehicles on our roads. The Town Council has recently applied for extra bus services on the Town route and also on the Holt, Melksham and Corsham route. Next year, there will be another opportunity to apply for more buses as part of the Government's Bus Back Better strategy.

"We also want to make this a better, safer town for cyclists and pedestrians. So the Government's recent announcement that it will be making changes to the Highway Code to give greater protection to these groups is encouraging. We are working to get more EV charge points into the town, and to encourage the use of electric bikes wherever possible. Finally, we will be looking at the possibility of a new pedestrian bridge, which would benefit many - especially vulnerable people and those with young children."

Planting fresh ideas



You may have noticed this summer's transformation of the raised flower beds on the riverbank at Timbrell's Yard - the result of Town Council officers and volunteers working together to replant the beds, which had become overgrown and untidy during lockdown. Volunteers Sue Denmark (left) and Jane Jones are pictured with town warden Stewart Heatherwick, showing off the 'no-dig' bed, planted with vegetables and herbs. 'No dig' aims to maintain soil health while minimising weeds, and 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.

Talk of the town: the news in brief

A consultation on ideas for the Poulton Outdoor Sports Area, including the planned skatepark, took place on 10 and 11 September. Thanks to all those who participated. Responses will be collated, and ideas prioritised. Meanwhile, the Town Council is pressing ahead with pursuing funding options for the skatepark.

As part of the Council's commitment to the Dementia Friendly initiative, town councillors and council staff have recently attended dementia friendly awareness sessions. For some this was a

first session, for others a refresher.

All Full Town Council meetings are now being livestreamed and can be viewed on our You Tube channel, with a link posted shortly before the meeting on the council website and social media. Public attendance at the meetings, held in St Margaret's Hall, is also welcomed. The next Full Council meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday 9 November.

The Town Council has hit the gold standard, with a Quality Gold Award made by the National Association

of Local Councils (NALC). The award demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

Did you know the Town Council organises Tea Dances on Thursday afternoons from 2-4.30pm in St Margaret's Hall? All welcome, including unaccompanied dancers: £5 entry including tea and cake. More information at <https://bradfordonavon.towncouncil.gov.uk/events/event/tea-dance-thursdays-230519/>

Making a difference on climate change

This summer has once again seen record high temperatures, devastating floods and wildfires across the world. In August the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed unequivocally humanity's responsibility for climate change.

CLlr Alex Kay, who chairs the Town Council's Environment and Green Spaces Committee, said: "A minimum 1.5 deg C increase in global temperatures by 2100 is inevitable; the worst case perhaps as high as 4 deg C. "But there is hope: IF we act now to limit the damage.

"With the COP26 meeting in Glasgow in November we ask for real action from governments to reduce harmful emissions - giving humanity a small



■ Corn marigolds blooming at one of the Town Council's hedgerow plantings. Photo by Roger Jones, whose booklet, *Environmental & nature walk around Bradford on Avon*, is available from Ex Libris or from Roger, on alternate Fridays, at the Artisan Market in Lamb Yard

Emergency Strategy of January 2021. The Town Council has already funded a number of initiatives designed to address the emergencies. Projects supported so far have included:

- installing solar panels on St. Margaret's Hall;
- improving biodiversity and restricting use of harmful chemicals;
- the Terracycling project;
- tree and hedgerow planting;
- providing electric vehicles for our wardens and installing EV charging points.

CLlr Kay added: "As part of the nationwide Big Green Week, we are supporting a climate festival on 25 September (*full details on the back page*). This will showcase ways we can all help - whether by rewilding a corner of our gardens, reducing waste, investing responsibly, repurposing old items and reducing fuel consumption, to name but a few.

"As small as we all are, our combined efforts really can make a big difference."

To get involved or find out more, visit our website: <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/climate-ecological-emergencies/> or drop in to Bradford on Avon Library to see the Climate Emergency display.



Town steps up to 'grow it and show it'

■ Back in business: Bradford on Avon Flower and Produce Show drew the crowds to St Margaret's Hall

Nearly 90 exhibitors, well over 300 entries and 320 visitors on the day made the 2021 Bradford on Avon Flower and Produce Show a blooming big success story.

The show, which was cancelled last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, made a welcome return to St Margaret's Hall on Sunday with a splendid array of fruit, vegetables and flowers, jams, jellies and baked goods, some hilariously rude veg, delightful animals made from vegetables, all manner of crafts, some VERY long pieces of bindweed (the longest measured over 6m) and much, much more.

Trophies were presented by Deputy Mayor Katie Vigar, as follows: Bradford

on Avon Potato Challenge - Vernon Burchell; the Avonfield Cup (Fruit and Vegetables) - Neville Day; Flowers & Ornamentals Cup - Tina Vivian; Floral Art Cup - Tina Vivian; the Tillions Trophy (Cookery) - Sarah Knee; the Ms B Avon WI Craft Cup - Hazel Short; the Town Council Jam Cup - Leonie Mourant.

A number of highly sought-after 'spot prizes' were also handed out by the entertainers for the afternoon, Spill the Whisky, who provided an irresistible musical soundtrack to the event.

Of course, no flower show would be complete without a constant supply of tea, coffee and delicious cake, provided by the Save the Children team, who were delighted to raise £310 for the

charity. West Wilts Radio broadcast live from the hall

Former town mayor John Potter, who came up with the idea of reviving the annual show 11 years ago, said: "It was absolutely brilliant to be back with such a spectacular array of exhibits - a really memorable show. Big thanks to Bradford on Avon Town Council for their support, which keeps the event free for everyone to enter and attend."

Show secretary Nicola Reynolds said: "The standard of entries was high, which we've come to expect, but it was very good to see so many new exhibitors taking part - and winning an impressive number of prizes."

Thank you!

Clean Up Bradford on Avon (CLuB) volunteers have continued to meet on Mondays over the summer and we are very grateful for their work, most recently along the river pathway and in the station car park. We also want to say 'thank you' to the many individual residents who make a special effort to pick up litter and dog waste when out and about. It all really helps to keep the town looking beautiful.

Introducing ... the Town Wardens team



■ Wardens at work: Stewart Heatherwick, left, Simon Sutton, above, and Richard Snarr, far right, are a familiar sight around Bradford on Avon, keeping the town clean, tidy and welcoming to visitors and residents

If you've been out and about at all in town over the past few months, you'll certainly have bumped into our team of Town Wardens: Stewart Heatherwick, Richard Snarr and Simon Sutton.

They're to be seen around the town in all weathers, in their distinctive blue polo shirts or blue and yellow hi-vis jackets, looking after the Town Council's land and buildings, and always friendly and willing to help residents and visitors with tips or directions.

The team's main roles are:

- opening and closing various facilities, including council-run buildings, toilets and the Tithe Barn (which they open on behalf of English Heritage)
- keeping buildings and toilets clean
- collecting litter and emptying bins

on the Town Council's land

- making sure that the Town Council's playgrounds are safe.
- But they also turn their hands to many other jobs: from planting hedgerows and trees to maintaining public gardens and green spaces, restoring and installing benches, planting in parks and gardens, and helping at Town Council events. One of their current projects involves work to tidy up Westbury Garden, including restoring and installing benches.

- Everyone can help the Town Wardens use their time effectively by clearing up litter and disposing of dog waste properly, in bags and then in bins. (Compostable dog poo bags are for sale in our Visitor Information Centre - Explore BOA - in Westbury Garden).



Visit our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Just one thing **Climate Friendly** BRADFORD ON AVON

In a new regular column, Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon looks at ways of reducing our carbon footprint - this time suggesting that we take the train, not the plane

Quick Question

We want to make sure everyone in town is well informed about town events, so we are assessing demand for extra noticeboards beyond the town centre. Do you have a suggestion of where a new noticeboard would be useful? And would you be willing to keep an eye on the board and remove outdated posters? Email your ideas to office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Another good place to look for news of events is <https://www.bradfordonavon.co.uk/whats-on/>

In the run-up to the all important COP26 climate conference in Glasgow this November, communities all over the country will be holding events between 18 and 26 September to celebrate national **Great Big Green Week**.

In Bradford on Avon, supported by the Town Council, Climate Friendly BoA will be holding a Climate Festival in Westbury Gardens and St Margaret's Hall on **Saturday 25 September from 11am-3pm**.

This lively event will celebrate local action on climate change with music and drama, stalls giving information on how you can play your part in reducing emissions and the chance to make your views known on how our national and local politicians should play their part too. Savoury snacks will be available from the Country Market and teas, coffees and cakes served in the hall by Save the Children. Do come along and support a great event.

Imagine waking up in a comfortable bunk to the soft light of dawn over the plains of central Spain, lulled by the clackety-clack of the wheels of the train, looking forward to a few hours in Madrid before changing trains for your onward journey to Portugal, happy that travelling by train rather than flying is saving up to 90 per cent of your carbon emissions.

The travel columns are full of the joys of a return to overseas holidays - and all too often it is assumed that this means flying. But both print and online media are also full of warnings on the climate crisis - so let's join the dots: sometimes flying is unavoidable but if you can - take the train. Members of Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon have travelled to destinations as diverse as Iceland, Majorca, the Canary Islands, Tunisia, Poland and Russia without flying or driving - and these are just some possibilities.

There are so many advantages of rail travel: you can sit back, relax, dream, read and watch the scenery go by, you meet interesting people, you can stop off along the way and visit great places, you avoid all the airport hassles and from Bradford on Avon you can just walk to the station and step on to the train. You might even find the journey is quicker or cheaper.

How to do it? Ask a local travel agent or consult the excellent website www.seat61.com, which has extensive information about how and where to travel, what it's like and recommended accommodation along the way. For really easy booking we also recommend two apps: Rail Europe and Rome2Rio which are available from Google Playstore for android phones and sometimes from Apple. These can be used for UK journeys too.

Happy (low carbon) travels!

CONTACT your councillor

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You can keep up to date with local news, and contact your Town Councillor, via our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk