



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council
Summer 2021



New Town Council elected

The first 'in person' Town Council meeting held since the Covid-19 pandemic began took place in May, when the newly elected Town Council met for the Annual Council Meeting in St Margaret's Hall. Outgoing Mayor, Cllr Simon McNeill-Ritchie, handed over the reins to the town's new Mayor, Cllr Sarah Gibson, with Cllr Katie Vigar elected as Deputy Mayor.

After the meeting, Cllr Gibson said: "Firstly, I'd like to thank the residents of Bradford on Avon for their support and to my fellow councillors for unanimously voting for me as Mayor and Katie Vigar as Deputy Mayor in our first year as a predominantly female council.

"It is the beginning of a very exciting four years for the new council and I am looking forward to working with the whole council team, with many interesting projects already underway such as the Culver Close sports pavilion and the skateboard park - within what I hope will become the Poulton Outdoor Sports Area. This park at Poulton will be the subject of a community engagement consultation on 10 and 11 September, to inform the design of the skatepark, improvements to the existing play area, options for adult leisure and outdoor gym - as well as the much-needed replacement of the pavilion there. This, along with tree planting on that field and increasing the protection for the wildflower meadow beside it, while allowing for disabled access, is one of the priorities of the new council," Cllr Gibson said.

"Many other green spaces will come under the control of the Town Council as they are transferred from Wiltshire Council, giving more scope to fulfil the aims and aspirations of the town in addressing the climate emergency - be that rewilding areas, tree planting or providing nesting boxes, in combination with the play areas that our children really need at a more local level and near people's homes.

The flight of the kingfisher



Bradford on Avon Mayor, Sarah Gibson, meets the town's colourful new visitor

A stunning kingfisher sculpture 'Wait a Minnow' arrived outside the Explore BoA Tourist Information Centre in June. The kingfisher, whose 'plumage' has been designed by artist Tracy Spiers, is part of the Kingfisher Trail organised by Cotswolds National Landscape.

Similar to 2018's Minerva's Owls Sculpture Trail, the Kingfisher Trail sees the town host one of 22 sculptures, each decorated by a

professional artist. The trail is aimed at supporting local businesses and attracting visitors to the town.

Our kingfisher will be back between 23 August and 6 September, thanks to Town Council sponsorship. A special 'Golden Kingfisher' is also on display locally at Iford Manor throughout the duration of the trail.

The trail is available online and via a smartphone app: <https://www.kingfishertrail.org>

"We would like residents to be involved in these exciting projects as well as the more challenging decisions on traffic solutions and will therefore be consulting over the next year, as well as forming a residents' panel to keep decision making as open and transparent as possible (see page 2).

"Supporting businesses in the

town, both retail and other small businesses, is important to us. We are working with Wiltshire Council on the opportunities for improving our town centre and particularly the station car park for a long-term sustainable future while initiating the review of the Neighbourhood Plan in order to protect the town from unwanted development."

Visit our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

10 things ...

... we can all do to help save the planet (and some money as well)

Climate Friendly BRADFORD ON AVON

1. Wash wisely: Clothes wash fine at 30 degrees, then hang them outdoors to dry or on a rack indoors; tumble dryers are really energy-hungry.

2. Cook sensibly: Keep lids on pans; boil only the amount of water you need in the kettle; cook in batches if you can.

3. Eat well: Buy locally and seasonally; make a friend of your freezer - food waste results in huge carbon emissions and even left-over crisps freeze well; choose Fairtrade.

4. Warm homes: Turn down your thermostat if you can and keep warm by insulating your house, keeping out draughts (curtains are great) wearing warmer clothes; make sure radiators aren't just heating the back of the settee.

5. Move healthily: If you can, walk or cycle shorter distances or take a bus rather than your car - this will help keep us all healthier.

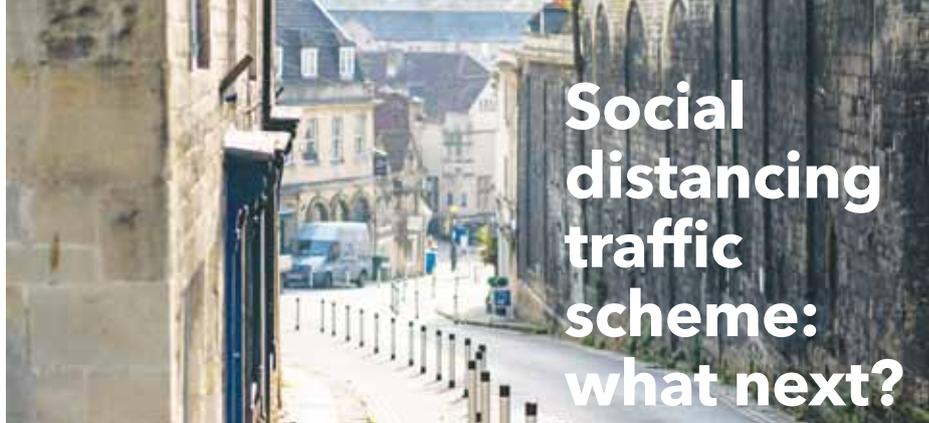
6. Travel by train: Once we're allowed to holiday overseas, consider taking the train, not the plane - saves loads of emissions and is much more fun.

7. Remember the bees: Our lives depend on the pollinators; and just think of 'weeds' as wild flowers and leave them be.

8. Forgo fast fashion: The clothing industry is one of the world's worst polluters; buy less, buy well and make it last; buy second hand (there are some great places for this in Bradford on Avon).

9. Waste not: Avoid plastic, repair or share, discover freegle (www.ilovefreegle.org) and pass on to others what you no longer need.

10. And if you have a little spare money think of investing it in an environmentally friendly way such as a renewable energy project. The returns may be great for you and for the planet.



Social distancing traffic scheme: what next?

Photo: Lydia Booth Photography

Many residents are keen to understand what is likely to replace the temporary social distancing traffic scheme currently due to end in mid-August.

The temporary scheme, including a one-way system, was put in place in August 2020 under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) due to expire on 17 August. Its purpose was to enable social distancing in the town centre during the Covid-19 pandemic; there has never been any possibility for it automatically to become permanent.

Cllr Mark McClelland, Wiltshire Cabinet Member for Transport, has made it clear that the position of Wiltshire Council as the highways authority is that once social distancing measures are no longer required by the Government, the scheme will need to be removed as its stated purpose will no longer exist. However,

they are analysing the data collected and this will be used to consider a future traffic system for the town.

Mayor of Bradford on Avon, Cllr Sarah Gibson, said: "I welcome any willingness from Wiltshire Council to work with the town constructively on the way forward. I was pleased recently to meet with Cllr Mark McClelland, along with my fellow town and Wiltshire Councillor, Tim Trimble. We made clear to him the range of issues that need addressing from air quality to pedestrian safety and traffic volume."

The Town Council is aware of a range of views on the temporary system and hopes to lead its own consultation on options for the future in the autumn.

● For more information and updates, visit <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/covid-19-social-distancing-traffic-scheme-update/>

Poulton Outdoor Sports Area update

The Town Council is working with Maverick Skateparks to deliver a new skatepark for the town as Phase 1 of a wider plan to invest in land at Poulton, soon to be transferred to us from Wiltshire Council.

We intend to offset the concrete construction of the skatepark with local tree planting, both on and off the Poulton site, but critically at a local level.

Subsequent project phases of the Poulton Outdoor Sports Area will see development and maintenance of existing play areas, landscaping and access improvements, as well as replacement of the pavilion.

Current estimated costs for the first phase of the skatepark (including tree planting, accessibility improvements and landscaping) is £400,000. Of this, the Town Council has committed £100,000, and together with our active local community, we are working to raise the rest through private, personal, charitable and corporate sponsorship.

One of the most recent fundraisers was a second-hand book sale held in Westbury Garden on 12 June. Organised by Cllr Kate Bessant, working with the local skater group A New Skatepark for BoA, the sale raised



■ Cllr Kate Bessant models one of the tote bags produced to help raise funds for Bradford on Avon's new skatepark

£1,989 from sales of books, prints and specially designed t-shirts and tote bags.

To help with future funding applications, it's important to show community support for the project, and add to the amazing £12,000 already raised.

If you would like to make a personal donation or discuss a corporate gift, we'd love to hear from you. Please email our Director of Operations, ian@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Photo: Lydia Booth Photography

Meet your newly elected Town Councillors



Cllr Kate Bessant

I work in sales and marketing, and live in the south of the town with my graphic designer husband and two teenage children - currently at St Laurence School. I'm especially looking forward to working on projects that help the youth of our town and protecting the green spaces that are so important to all our community and the wider environment.

dlr.bessant@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Sam Blackwell

With a young pre-school son, I have a particular interest in projects for younger residents and families. I am looking forward to working on upgrades to local play areas and supporting the Poulton Park scheme. I would also like to see improved accessibility in the town, so all our residents can move around safely and make the most of local facilities.

dlr.blackwell@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Emma Franklin

A key member of my family's business, I also find community work engaging and fulfilling and am honoured to serve as a councillor for a further four years. I look forward to continuing to help the town's hard-working volunteers and completing projects such as the skatepark, and transfer of assets and services from Wiltshire Council.

dlr.franklin@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Dave Garwood

I've lived in Bradford on Avon for 24 years and have been privileged to be a Town Councillor for the last four. I work on West Wilts Radio and Radio Bath as presenter and producer, and I am a keen photographer. As a Town Councillor I shall be looking to improve tourism, local business and, of course, the traffic situation.

dlr.garwood@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Sarah Gibson,
Mayor

I believe passionately in meaningful engagement to enable residents to guide and prioritise projects for the town. With a background in architecture and urban design, I want to ensure the town continues to be as vibrant as it is today by supporting retail, tourism and leisure, alongside ongoing concern over traffic, pollution and pedestrian safety.

dlr.gibson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Alex Kay

A geologist and artist, I am a creative and analytical thinker with passion and energy for the environment and community. With a special interest in environment issues, my focus will continue to be to ensure mitigation of the Climate Emergency is at the heart of all Town Council activity, creating projects which improve biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

dlr.kay@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Simon McNeill-Ritchie

I am currently MD of Radio Bath, a charity that provides training and work experience opportunities for the local community. As a returning Councillor and former Mayor, I am keen to take through to completion projects such as the new pavilion in Culver Close, the redevelopment of the Health Centre and the skatepark in Poulton Field.

dlr.mcneillritchie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Jennie Parker

I have worked closely with residents who were living with dementia over the last four years, and Loneliness presented itself as a prime factor. My priority now is to address the issue and to encourage people to see that, whatever their perceived status, they have a valuable contribution to make to the mental and physical prosperity of their town.

dlr.parker@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Alison Potter

I have lived in the town for nearly 30 years, during which time I have been involved in various community events, some involving Christchurch and St Laurence schools, which my three children attended. As a councillor, my emphasis will be on protecting and enhancing our green spaces and promoting more arts and community initiatives.

dlr.potter@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Tim Trimble

The climate and ecological emergency is the overriding issue of our time, and I am keen that the town plays a full part in dealing with it. I'm particularly interested in reducing carbon emissions and pollution from transport, and increasing electric vehicle charge points. I also want to make it easier to walk and cycle and for that we need a new pedestrian bridge.

dlr.trimble@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Katie Vigar,
Deputy Mayor

I am keen to promote community projects that bring people together for valuable causes, especially those concerned with the environment, building on my past work with local organisations. Tackling food waste is a particular interest. My other main priority is to ensure residents are more actively involved in shaping Town Council decisions.

dlr.vigar@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Jack Vittles

I'm incredibly excited to begin improving our town as much as possible in the next four years. I have a strong interest in sport and making those facilities work for all residents. I'm also very keen to get more young people engaged in local democracy and the decisions we make. My aim is to be part of a genuinely collaborative 12-person council.

dlr.vittles@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

Recycling the non-recyclable

Flower show blooms again

Photo: Lydia Booth Photography



A new recycling collection point in Frome Road enables people to recycle items that can't currently be put out for collection by Wiltshire Council - including disposable gloves and cheese packaging.

The TerraCycle station next to the Youth and Community Centre in Frome Road has been created by repairing and renovating a previously unused external store. It will be open from 10am - 4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Items that can currently be recycled are:

Crisp packets (these can also be taken to the recycling point at the Co-op in Lamb Yard)

Cheese packaging - including any brand of flexible plastic cheese packaging and nets

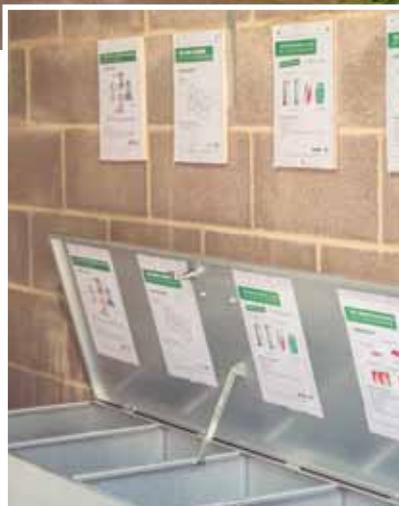
Disposable gloves - all brands of household disposable gloves that have been purchased for use at home only

Dental care products - including electric toothbrush heads, flosser nozzles, interdental brushes - *but not manual toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes etc*

Flexible packaging such as dishwasher tablet pouches

Ring carriers - any flexible plastic ring carriers used to hold cans

The recycling bins at Frome Road are clearly marked to show exactly what you can dispose of, and you can find out



■ The TerraCycle station utilises a small building next to the Frome Road Youth and Community Centre; inset, various items are collected in clearly marked bins

more about all these schemes via the Town Council website.

The idea of joining the national TerraCycle scheme was suggested to the Town Council by resident Ruth Walton, who blogs as The Green Shopper. She explained: "TerraCycle is a great way to increase the local recycling facilities. It's really hard to avoid plastics and packaging altogether - but recycling is always better than putting them in the bin."

● Visit <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB> to find out more about where to recycle many other hard to recycle items in locations around Bradford on Avon.

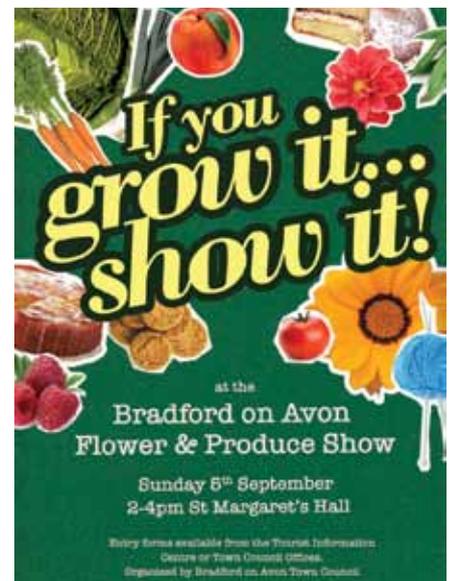
Bradford on Avon's popular Flower and Produce Show is planned to take place this autumn - after a 'lost year' due to Covid-19.

On the afternoon of Sunday 5 September, St Margaret's Hall will once more be filled with an array of beautiful fruit, vegetables, flowers, cakes, jams, craft exhibits and much, much more.

The familiar categories are still here, including entertaining classics like 'longest carrot', 'largest marrow' and 'animal made from vegetables'. Particular mention should go to the recently enlarged craft section, which was such a triumph back in 2019 - it includes a knitted, crocheted or sewn soft toy and a bird box made from recycled materials, and the organisers are looking forward to an equally impressive range of entries this year.

Tea and cake will be served in aid of Save the Children and prizes will be awarded at 3.15pm.

Copies of the schedule are available from the Town Council offices and Tourist Information Centre, and can be downloaded from the Town Council website. Enquiries to the show secretary at nicola.jr@icloud.com or on 07903 533550.



Frome Road location for electric vehicle charging points

As part of the Town Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, electric vehicle (EV) charging points are to be installed at the Youth & Community Centre in Frome Road.

There is limited capacity for public EV

charging at present, with the points in the station car park having awaited maintenance and upgrades for some time, so the Town Council is pleased to be able to offer better provision for residents and visitors to charge their vehicles in the town.

You can find out more about what the Town Council is doing about the Climate and Ecological Emergencies and why, by visiting our website - <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/climate-ecological-emergencies/>