



# the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council  
Winter 2021



Wiltshire Times / Trevor Porter Photography



Mayor Sarah Gibson with some of the volunteers and council staff celebrating Bradford on Avon's South West in Bloom accolades

Bradford on Avon won a gold medal for its South West in Bloom (SWIB) entry this year, as well as the Preece Cup, which is awarded to the best town of our size. The awards are a well-deserved tribute to the efforts of all the staff and volunteers who keep the town looking beautiful.

Mayor Cllr Sarah Gibson recently met the volunteers to present them with certificates for SWIB's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition. The railway station volunteers, Wiltshire Heights and Bradford on Avon Secret Gardens all did well, with The Three Horseshoes achieving an 'outstanding' rating - the highest possible.

The judges' assessment described Bradford as "an absolute gem of a town" and awarded top marks in all categories. They commented that "greening efforts, reduction of carbon footprint, protection and enhancement of flora and fauna were all evident here". They also noted that Bradford has "a well led community events programme and participation from community and business, across the board".

● If you, your community group or your business wish to be considered for the competition next year, please contact the town council by email at [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Take part in our consultation on traffic issues. A survey will be available:**

● online at <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/>

● in a leaflet to every home (if you have not received one by 27 November and require a paper copy, please contact the town council on 01225 864240 or email [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk))

● at drop-in events in St Margaret's Hall on Saturday 27 November from 10am - 2pm and Saturday 4 December from 12 noon - 4pm

**This year's Christmas Lights Switch-on takes place on Friday 26 November in Westbury Gardens from 5pm - 8pm. Everyone welcome!**

## Talk of the town: news in brief

■ Bradford on Avon Town Council and Wiltshire Council have worked together to secure a £96,000 grant from the Forestry Commission's Local Authorities Treescape Fund to plant around 3,000 trees and hedgerow trees in the town. Preparatory work as part of the funding application has already been completed, and planting will start this winter, followed by a three-year maintenance schedule.

■ The Aldhelm Court 60 Plus Group has been re-established by Cllr Jennie Parker. All are welcome for a cup of tea,

cake and activities such as bingo, a quiz or skittles. Just turn up at Aldhelm Court, Southville Road, on Thursdays at 2pm.

■ Bradford on Avon is hosting a Christmas Gift Fair on the night of the Christmas Lights Switch on, with Christmas carols, live bands and outdoor entertainment, including bumper cars, bungee trampolines and a festive merry go round. The fair, on Friday 26 November, runs from 4pm - 8.30pm in St Margaret's Hall.

■ The new town council electric vehicle charging points at the Youth

& Community Centre in Frome Road are up and running. To use them you will need the EB Go app (available on IOS and Android). More details on how to sign up and use the app can be found on the town council website or by emailing [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

■ If you would like the Mayor, deputy or councillors to visit your organisation, club or residents' group, they would be happy to do so. To arrange please call 01225 864240 or email [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Help to track the path to net zero

Pooled data from a wide range of regional and government statistics suggests that Bradford on Avon's carbon footprint could be in the region of 40,000 tonnes a year.

But that figure is only an estimate. To fully trust the numbers, we need to cross-check them against the reality on the ground - and that's where *you* come in.

Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon has devised a simple questionnaire, and will soon invite all homes and businesses to complete it. It only takes about 10 minutes, online or on paper, and will ask you how much energy and fuel you use in a year (anonymously, of course).

Each completed questionnaire will be a data point. The more data points we have, the more complete the cross check. And if we know our footprint accurately, we can see how we are doing on our net-zero trajectory each year. It's not just essential, it's fun!

## Thanks for response to consultations

A huge thank you to all residents for responding in such large numbers to the town council's recent consultations.

The Poulton Park consultation took place on 10 and 11 September, and preliminary results show this is a valued green space for residents but suffers from some neglected and old facilities.

A consultation also took place on the subject of Culver Close on 11 September, with the purpose of determining how people currently use the space and what they think of the facilities.

Initial results show that this area is valued for its beauty and the sport and recreation opportunities it provides, with recognition that current facilities would not be fit for future use.

Full reports will be made available at the next Town Development meeting on 23 November, and then via the town council website.

## Youth services build on success

Earlier this year the council recommissioned its youth service, building on the success of the previous model and aiming to provide an innovative service with open access provision.

The following principles have been set at the heart of the service design:

- Youth led
- Inclusive (equalities and diversity)
- Respect
- Quality, safety and wellbeing
- Empowerment
- Positivity

The services are targeted towards young people aged between 10 and 18 years, rising to 25 for looked-after young people.

Community Family Care was the successful bidder for the new contract, and the council is delighted to continue working with the organisation to develop the services available to the young people of Bradford on Avon.

This will also allow Community Family Care to build on the experience gained over the past very demanding couple of years. The youth workers have been supporting young people through the

pandemic with services that had to be developed and delivered to meet the challenges and demands of the lockdowns. The restrictions limited what could be achieved in person, so the services were swiftly moved to online provision, delivering a virtual youth club and online gaming nights. With ongoing learning from the first lockdown, the Covid response was further developed by ensuring that members had doorstep visits to check in on their wellbeing and hand deliver session activities.

The new contract will run until March 2025 and the council will be working to develop the services offered over that period of time. The contractor will work with the council and other stakeholders to improve the capability of young people and encourage their engagement in decision-making processes in the community.

- The youth club operates on Tuesdays in term time. Junior sessions (8-12 years) from 4.45pm-6.45pm and senior sessions (13-18 years) from 7pm-9pm.

You can catch up and follow the service on Instagram and Facebook.

## Welcome boost to skatepark fundraising



Fundraising for the new skatepark at Poulton is going well thanks to a contribution of £5,000 from the Area Board and the fantastic Art Decko event (pictured above), which raised well over £20,000. Thanks to all involved.

The town council hopes to submit a Lottery bid in November that, if successful, will bring the fund very close to the target for Phase I of Poulton Park.

Amounts raised or pledged so far are:

- Town Council: £100,000
- Area Board: £5,000
- Col Llewellyn Palmer Trust: £50,000
- Community fundraising: £37,516
- Total to date: £192,516

Please keep your eyes open for more events, including a rescheduled Sk8ter Noize gig at St Margaret's Hall.

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

# Join the panel and have your say



## ■ Share your ideas about Bradford on Avon's future by applying to join the new Residents' Panel

**D**o you have views on the future of our town? Do you have ideas on issues such as green spaces, community events and activities, our local economy, environment and more? If you do, then Bradford on Avon Town Council wants to hear from you. The town council is setting up a Residents' Panel so that we hear more points of view from across our community. The Panel will complete surveys, and information from these will be published on our website and newsletter. Please consider applying.

### How will it be set up?

The panel will consist of around 50-100 Bradford on Avon residents, depending on the number of applications. To

ensure a balanced panel, it may not be possible to select everyone who applies, but anyone not selected initially will be placed on a waiting list to fill vacancies that arise.

We encourage people from all generations and backgrounds to apply. If you think this isn't for you, think again!!

### What will it involve?

Panellists will be asked to complete surveys two or three times a year. This is the only regular commitment, and surveys can be completed online or on paper. However, panellists might also be invited to one-off events to contribute their views on specific topics. The project starts on a pilot basis, with

the council reviewing it in March 2022.

### How do I apply?

- To apply online see <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/> or call 01225 548000
- You must live within the parish of Bradford on Avon.
- We aim for a panel representing our whole community. We seek applications from across the town: all ages from 16 years, all backgrounds and from those new to the town and lifelong Bradfordians. Don't hesitate: apply now!
- Applications are open until Friday 10 December 2021. Selected panellists will be informed in January.

## Tackling food waste - from every angle

The town council is piloting a composting scheme for residents living in flats, or with small gardens, who may find it difficult to compost their food waste.

Estimates suggest that around one third of the food we produce globally is wasted, causing around 6 per cent of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. Tackling food waste is something that can be tackled effectively at local level and encouraging composting is a way to do so.

The free subscription scheme will begin on a trial basis at the Youth Centre site in Frome Road. Initially, it will be offered to some residents living in the immediate area. If it

is successful, the council plans to expand it to more residents who might be interested. The compost will be used on town council-owned land.

The aim will be to start with a limited number of subscribers to gauge interest, manage capacity and gain feedback from participants.

The trial will start with uncooked vegetable material. Further items (cooked food and dairy, meat etc) may be added, depending on the performance of the composting method.

● For more on cutting down on food waste, turn to the back page for the latest advice from Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon.

After a one-day trial at the Climate Festival in September, we hope to soon be opening the Community Fridge, next to St Margaret's Hall.

The initiative is designed to help reduce food waste. Local shops donate near-sell-by date food, which anyone can take from the fridge, free of charge, for their own consumption. In time this could expand to include local excess fruit and vegetable giveaways and integrate with using food waste for composting.

The project was a temporary victim of the Covid-19 pandemic, but is now starting up - and we need volunteers to help stock the fridge, and keep it clean and tidy. If you can help, please email [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)  
More information: [www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge](http://www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge)

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

# Working for a healthier river



The River Avon and its green corridor give Bradford on Avon much of its unique character – and are essential to the wildlife that flourishes in the town

and surrounding area. It is also a well used recreational amenity. The imminent asset transfer from Wiltshire Council means that Bradford on Avon Town Council will take on responsibility for the river from Westbury Gardens almost to Avoncliff.

## Quick Question

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be marked by an extended Bank Holiday weekend from 2-5 June 2022. How could we celebrate in Bradford on Avon? Please send your ideas to [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk) and they will be considered by our working party planning local Jubilee events.

Many thanks for the feedback on our last 'Quick Question' about noticeboards. Your suggestions will be discussed at the next Community and Wellbeing Committee on 30 November.

The Environment & Green Spaces committee has agreed unanimously to work towards a Healthy River Project to bring together appropriate user groups and expertise to manage 'our' stretch of the River Avon for enhanced biodiversity, wellbeing and safe and beautiful multi-recreational space.

The project is expected to include a water quality analysis programme to monitor the cleanliness of the water, and a tree survey and management plan, as well as involving other stakeholders.

## Just one thing Climate Friendly BRADFORD ON AVON

Our regular column looks at just one more thing we can do to reduce our carbon footprint: this time, cutting down on food waste

Seventy per cent of food waste, post farm-gate, is wasted by households – and that figure excludes scraps such as vegetable peel and stalks. WRAP (<https://wrap.org.uk/resources/report/food-surplus-and-waste-uk-key-facts>) estimates that 16 per cent of edible food bought by households is thrown out. This is a shocking figure, from an economic as well as a waste point of view.

The first, essential, step to ensuring you do not waste food is to shop for food having planned your menus – working out which meals you will eat at home, and how many people you are feeding. It is well known that people buy too much if they shop when they are hungry, and most food waste is caused by over-buying. If you like to shop for bargains, you can still make a list that says 'Sunday lunch for five', or 'quick supper for four'.

The second step is to check on what you have left in the fridge before you compile your next shopping list, and work out what to make from the leftovers. Vegetable soup is always a good option – and can easily be frozen for future use. Empty 500ml yogurt cartons make excellent freezer containers.

Remember that a 'best before' date does NOT mean the food will be inedible after that date. Many items, including yogurt, butter or vegetables, will keep for days longer – and you can always taste to check. With meat and fish, however, you should always use within the date given.

If you have a garden, a compost bin is essential. A Green Johanna bin for food waste, including cooked food, is available from Wiltshire Council at the reduced price of £50 instead of £119.99: you can order one at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/reducing-your-waste-and-composting>

## CONTACT your councillor

### North Ward

**CLlr Sam Blackwell (Chair, Resources Committee)** [cllr.blackwell@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.blackwell@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Alex Kay (Chair, Environment & Green Spaces Committee)** [cllr.kay@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kay@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Simon McNeill-Ritchie** [cllr.mcneillritchie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mcneillritchie@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Alison Potter** [cllr.potter@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.potter@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Tim Trimble (Chair, Sustainable Travel Committee)** [cllr.trimble@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.trimble@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Katie Vigar (Deputy Mayor)** [cllr.vigar@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.vigar@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

### South Ward

**CLlr Kate Bessant** [cllr.bessant@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.bessant@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Emma Franklin** [cllr.franklin@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.franklin@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr David Garwood** [cllr.garwood@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.garwood@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Sarah Gibson (Mayor)** [cllr.gibson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gibson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Jennie Parker (Chair, Community & Wellbeing Committee)** [cllr.parker@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.parker@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**CLlr Jack Vittles (Chair, Town Development Committee)** [cllr.vittles@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.vittles@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

You can keep up to date with local news, and contact your town councillor, via our website at [www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)