

Bathwick Hill Residents Association newsletter
Autumn 2017

**News of our Autumn event to be held by popular demand on
Thursday Nov. 7th from 7:00 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick Hill**

A Forum to discuss traffic, buses and parking on Bathwick Hill. Guest speakers will be Cllr Mark Shelford who is the cabinet member for transport in our Council, Martyn Whalley from the University, and James Freeman from First Buses.

This is also a social event and we will have drinks and light refreshments. As is usual for the autumn event we will charge £5 per head (payable in cash only). Any profit after expenses will go to our chosen charity – Cleveland Pools.

We will also hold a raffle in aid of the Cleveland Pools Trust. If you have any unwanted gifts that you would like to donate as raffle prizes, please contact Sarah Trimmer tel : 01225 330928 or email : trimmer.sp@btopenworld.com or Claire Jackson tel: 01225 464228 or email : claire.jackson77@btinternet.com

Also, please let us know if you are coming as we need to have a good idea of numbers. Please do encourage your neighbours to come too, all are welcome.

We have a list of questions for the guests, if there are any things you would particularly like to raise please let us know beforehand. There will of course be a chance to ask questions too, but we want to be sure we focus on the main issues.

1. What measures are being made to reduce pollution -
For example: low emissions zones
Enforcing all bus companies to bring in Euro 6 engines by a certain date
2. What speed restriction measures are there on the buses, assuming First have tachographs, how regularly are they checked?
3. What measures are the council planning to take to reduce traffic in Bath.
4. Now we have a metro Mayor does he have the power to regulate bus companies. Is there going to be any help to work towards a Bath by pass? What, if any, change is having a metro mayor going to make to the pollution and traffic problems of Bath?

Please note that we are in consultation with the council with the help of Matt regarding Parking and there is more about that below.

Federation of Bath Residents Associations (FoBRA) report

FoBRA has been pressing for action on air pollution and, now B&NES is on the Government's list of local authorities with the highest pollution levels, the council is required to reduce pollution and proposals are being developed.

FoBRA is consulting on reducing traffic congestion and its impact on the environment, air quality & the historic fabric of the World Heritage Site. Looking at a car free city centre and a Hierarchy of kerb space which will place resident parking above short stay & long stay parking and the management of coach numbers, parking places and set down points.

Regarding commercial deliveries, they are suggesting the creation of a freight distribution centre close to the city with a fleet of small electric trucks as in Gothenburg

The west of England combined authority (WECA) is receiving additional funding and powers from central government, which should accelerate investment in a comprehensive transport strategy for Bath. It also has power and funds for housebuilding and vocational education tailored to regional needs.

The FoBRA winter reception is planned for Feb 6th 2018 at the Victoria Gallery. Members of all resident's associations are invited.

Bathwick Hill News

Events

In July we had our Open garden at Combe Royal Crescent. Thank you very much to all the residents for opening their beautiful gardens to us. Thank you to everyone who put so much work into this . It was successful, despite the damp weather, we raised £134 for Cleveland pools.

Felix and Lilian Moore opened their garden for the FoBRA summer event at Felix's home was also very successful. We had better luck with the weather, but although it was chilly and many guests sheltered in the orangery and kitchen. Many thanks to Felix and Lilian.

Traffic problems

The Committee have been following up on the traffic problems on the Hill.

Many objections were raised on a proposal to stop parking in the middle of the hill and, while so far there has not been a decision, Matt, our councillor is confident that the plan will be dropped. We will then be in a position to talk about permit and restricted parking.

Following on from that 3 of the committee met with Matt and a Council Officer to talk about reducing speeding, parking and possible pedestrian crossing points around the middle of the Hill. The Council will investigate pedestrian numbers, and affordable options He assured us that they are taking regular action on speed and parking enforcement on the Hill. The buses have tachometers so their speed can be monitored.

At the junction of Oakley and Widcombe Hill there have been many minor accidents involving cars turning from Widcombe Hill. There were 12 reported in the year, fortunately with no injuries. The council is looking at ways to make the junction safer.

By the time this newsletter comes out the students will be back and there will be a new term time timetable. The Wessex Connect bus service will have finished, leaving only the First U1 and U2. First say they will tailor the service more to demand, which will mean fewer buses out of peak times. However, there will always be empty buses coming down the hill in the morning and empty buses going up in the evening. Also, be aware buses may be more crowded at peak times, so residents may have trouble getting on downhill buses early evening.

Other matters

New rubbish collections – You will have had a leaflet about the new refuse collections from Nov. 6th. In preparation for this new wheelie bins will be arriving soon, be sure to mark them with your address. IF you have any issues with them please contact the council

YHA planning application The YHA is doing some work to improve its facilities and has made a planning application regarding this. BHRA have objected as, while the new structure is not in view, it is not in keeping with the main Grade 2 listed building in our opinion. Our understanding is that the change will improve facilities but not increase the number of rooms.

Keeping in touch, you will have received this newsletter by email. Many members still seem to be having trouble getting our emails. Obviously, this is an issue, so we are trying alternative ways of emailing. This may mean you get duplicated emails. If your neighbours say they never get our emails please suggest they contact us.

National Trust Forum Julie attended the NT forum on our behalf and reports there are serious concerns about dog owners controlling their dogs near the sheep. There are sheep in Richens Orchard and we normally have cows on Bathwick Fields in the autumn. Please take care to ensure your dog does not bother the sheep or the cows. The NT does post notice to warn us if there are sheep or cows.

St. Mary's Church: A scheme of interior redecoration and improvement of the lighting has recently been completed at St Mary's C of E Church at the bottom of the hill and the Bishop of Bath and Wells (the diocesan bishop for our area) will be at the church on Sunday the 29th October at 6pm to admire the works and to take part in a Choral Evensong. The church has an active choir which welcomes new members. The church office is open Tuesday & Friday mornings, it also has a web site, and a mailing list if you would like to be kept up to date with church activities and events.

Bath Landscape Project

A few of us met to discuss this project which, if successful with a lottery bid, will develop a 20 mile circular walking route around Bath with various shorter routes joining it. The aim is to restore and conserve paths and landscapes, open access, develop walking for health, nature and events, and also focus on heritage and history. We are posting the proposed routes on our web site which are being developed to include easy access from both the City Centre and Park and Ride sites.

If the bid is successful there will be further opportunities for community involvement as the project develops.

Sydney Gardens Parks for People project – Public Consultation

Come and see the latest plans for the restoration of the gardens. Give feedback and share your ideas with the project team.

Saturday 25th Nov 2017 from
11.30am - 4.30pm

Drop in at the Gardeners Lodge in the park.

