



MEADOWS NEWSLETTER

February 11, 2016

Number 11

Dates for your diary:

22nd March Public Scrutiny meeting 10 - 4:30 Guildhall Bath

Hello,

Another week and yet more news. This last week seems to have been dominated by the fact that we could demonstrate how well Bathampton Meadows works in its capacity as a flood plain! Lots of lovely pics out there! Good news from Ruth and Pete W is that Ben A and Andrew S have kindly agreed to help and the website can now be viewed at: bathamptonmeadowsalliance.org.uk

GATHER MEETING 4TH FEBRUARY

Minutes of Gather meeting 4.2.16 – many thanks to Judy B for taking the minutes.

Chair Emma A, apologies Annie H, Jan A Minutes: Judy B

Stuart F – update on Ramble which got into Bath Echo and was successful ‘soft’ PR. The ramble brought campaigners/ local people and visitors closer together in a positive way and was a chance to show people the meadows from view points in the area.

Feedback from Monday’s meeting at Bailbrook House 1.2.16 from Andrew L, Fiona M with Annie’s summary being done by Christine B. Please see previous attachments with the last newsletter.

LDF is 9th February and is private. Their job is to look at alternative sites.

Scrutiny 22nd March 2016 9.30-4 p.m. Guildhall if anyone can make it, most people are at work, which feels deliberate on the Council’s part.

Communications group- suggestion by Stuart F of hosting an Old School Sports’ Day on Hicks Field in collaboration with the Avon Rugby Club. It would be for Sports Relief on 12th March and is for children and adults, and should be lots of fun. We would be able to use the club house for drinks/ toilets and could have teams taking part in relays, tugs of war, egg and spoon etc. If anyone has any comments/ suggestions of help for this please contact Stuart F or Alison S.

Emma A made a plug for getting involved on Twitter as you can reach a very wide audience. For example, Ben Howlett tweets back and a tweet can reach tens of thousands of people. Give it a go, people!

Media feedback-good and bad news: coverage of ramble in Bath Echo, Art installation in Chronicle, but no coverage of Monday’s meeting in local media possibly due to PERDA prior to Mayoral referendum.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

There is a meeting with representatives from B&NES on Thursday at 11am with the three parish councils. During the meeting the B&NES will give a response to the presentations delivered at 'The Evening with Tim' last week. We are all looking forward to some feedback from Emma A!

PETITIONING

A big shout out to Susanne H, Louise W and all those who have put in many hours of work trudging the streets and canvassing people in Bath. The petition has now been signed by a mass 10,000 people! That's a WOW!

However, we are not going to stop there! Please contact Susanne H if you can give up a few hours this Saturday (13th February) to help out with petitioning in town. Susanne also has a map with all the different Bath areas which have already been covered and those still to be covered. So if you feel that you can do some door-to-door canvassing please get in touch with her.

WEBSITE

Big thank you to Pete and Ruth W for tenaciously plugging away at the website. Here is a note from Pete:

Following our request for assistance, Andrew S and Ben A came forward, and Andrew is now helping with the website. It can now be viewed at bathamptonmeadowsalliance.org.uk (no www!). More content to be added over next week or so.

Good News, Pete and Ruth.

TONIGHT (Wednesday 10th Feb) - MEET BATH'S GREENS

We have received a lot of support from various different 'Green' groups in Bath. It now transpires that they have a monthly meet-up. So if you fancy getting out there and meeting some supporters then head on down to the Rising Sun in Grove Street from 7pm. A few of us will be going ...



WHERE PEOPLE WHO LOVE THE ENVIRONMENT MEET
TO SOCIALIZE, NETWORK, AND EXCHANGE IDEAS.

2ND WEDNESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
FROM 19:00

THE RISING SUN
3-4 GROVE ST.
BATH BA2 6PJ



NEXT EVENTS:

10 FEB | 09 MAR | 13 APR | 11 MAY | 08 JUN | 13 JUL

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AS BATH GREEN DRINKS OR VISIT WWW.GREENDRINKS.ORG/BATH

SOCIAL MEDIA

This week was a big week on social media. On Sunday tweets and pictures of the flooded meadows were going 'viral'! Facebook was amazing too! Here is an update from Sharon C which gives an idea of how far and to how many social media reaches:

Support for the campaign is growing far and wide!

This past week, the SBM FB posts have reached over 30,000 people.

Just a couple of examples to illustrate the extent of our reach...

As of this morning -

Jan's flooding tweet was re-posted on FB and has reached 18,010 people and received a total of 804 likes, shares and comments <https://www.facebook.com/SaveBathamptonMeadows/photos/a.1616249335315468.1073741828.1615900092017059/1659963047610763/?type=3&theater>

Cheryl's flooded Bathampton Mill FB post has reached 8,763 people and received a total of 372 comments, shares and likes <https://www.facebook.com/SaveBathamptonMeadows/photos/a.1616249335315468.1073741828.1615900092017059/1659860570954344/?type=3&theater>

And then we have all the likes and shares on Twitter too. The SBM Twitter account now has 419 followers, including many accounts from central Bath and West Wilts.

Social media is such an effective way to get our message out there to the wider public.

Let's keep up the good work!

MEDIA

Lots of lovely flooding pictures in the Bath Chronicle!

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/Bath-flood-plains-alleviation-works-come-trumps/story-28687503-detail/story.html>

Someone is doing well on getting the anti Park and Ride comments in!

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/Met-Office-warns-strong-winds-heavy-rain-Storm/story-28687606-detail/story.html>

Travellers have done a good job of showing that there are indeed empty spaces in existing park and rides!

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/Travellers-leave-Newbridge-Park-Ride-Bath/story-28699767-detail/story.html>

Criticism for the Scrutiny meeting. This stimulated quite a bit of discussion.

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/Public-scrutiny-plans-park-ride-east-Bath-just/story-28654667-detail/story.html>

This is a lovely one that Pete W discovered.

http://www.travelmole.com/news_feature.php?c=setreg®ion=1&m_id=_rs~vdns~&w_id=31592&news_id=2020572

A LITTLE STORY BY CHERYL N [an adaptation of the famous classic *Wind in the Willows*]

CHAPTER ONE: The day it rained A LOT!

"Hullo, Mole!" said the Water Rat.

"Hullo Rat!" said the Mole." Do you really live by The River? What a jolly life!"

"By it and with it and on it and in it. What it hasn't got is not worth having. It's always got its

fun and excitements. Now it's February and the floods are on, my cellars and basement are brimming with drink that's no good to me, and the brown water runs by my best bedroom window. The Meadows are flooded again too; soaking up all that extra water, and preventing an even bigger flood in The City. I love it when nature gets it right. I'm just getting the boat out- there is nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats don't you think?"

"I prefer it underground myself Ratty; nice and dry. I am an earth- dwelling animal. But my place deep below New Leaf Farm next to Mill Lane got completely flooded out this morning. "

" That's shocking. MP told all the Riverbank that New Leaf Farm was bone dry- raised up above the Meadows; a sanctuary of dryness."

"It's most unfortunate Ratty, a family of rabbits appeared this morning thinking they would be dry, and the young 'uns got saturated and now have the fever. MP should know better than to spread untruths around our community. Everyone knows the whole valley is a big sponge ,all squidgy, and vital for The City."

"You're right Mole. Nothing has been the same since The Weasels took over Toad Hall in The City. Well, I suppose if you're going to tell a lie, tell a big lie, then everyone will believe you."

"It's most troubling Ratty- they even want to build a huge big car park over my home, on top of the sponge."

"Outrageous! Well I suppose at least Toad will like it. He loves driving around the countryside for no good reason in his motor-cars spreading poisonous nitrogen dioxide and more over our green valley."

" But there will be 1400 just like him. And anyway Ratty, where will all the sponge water go?"

"They 've thought of that. They are going build lots of clever drains and suck it all out."

"And put it where?"

"Maybe they could build a great big long channel into the centre of The City, and dump it there. "

"The good folk of the city would never let the Weasels do that surely? Don't they want the water to stay on The Meadows where it belongs?"

"I hope so Mole. Anyway, they might soon be looking for a new leader for Toad Hall . That could tip things."

"How about helping toad back into Toad Hall?"

"With his love of motor-cars- Poop !Poop! - he probably has a good chance Mole. But he is a loose cannon at the best of times. On second thoughts, he should fit right in."

"Well, nice seeing you Ratty. Enjoy the floods."

"Good bye Mole. Stay dry."



THE
RAIN
IN THE
MEADOWS

*Kenneth
Grabame*



NEXT STEPS

Fiona P and Sian J have kindly agreed to put their heads together to come up with a structured plan about the way forward. The idea behind this is to enable everyone in the campaign to have an overview about what is happening and know who is doing what and when! More to come

NEXT GATHER MEETING

Thursday 18th February 8pm







