



MEADOWS NEWSLETTER

February
15, 2016

Number 10

*Dates for
your
diary:*

4th
February
Gather
meeting

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

This is a very important newsletter because it reports on the last three days which have all, in very different but important ways, been landmarks in our fight to save Bathampton Meadows. Attached to my email are three PDFs which I hope you can take the time to open and digest!

'EVENING WITH TIM' - 1ST FEBRUARY

Yesterday evening a large number of campaigners and members of BaNES council, including Tim Warren and Louise Fradd, met together in Bailbrook House Hotel to listen to the arguments put forward by the campaign against the park and ride. The presentations (see attached) delivered were the culmination of all the hours and hours of hard work by the different groups that were set up before Christmas. After a friendly welcome from Andrew M and a few words from Louise Fradd, Fiona M kicked off with a measured and convincing presentation about the traffic problems in Bath which calmly picked apart bit by bit BaNES' analysis of why a parking ride is necessary. She was followed by Andrew L who was able to deftly show with his phenomenal display of statistical analysis that BaNES were mistaken in their evidence that existing park and rides are actually doing the job that they portray them to be doing. Their presentations led very nicely into Dr Nick Davey's presentation about existing pollution levels in Batheaston and how these would, without doubt, increase beyond legal levels if a park and ride went ahead. Fortunately this was followed by coffee break because most of us were finding it hard to sit still with excitement.

After the break we were treated to Annie K who sternly made the case to BaNES that they had a legal obligation and duty to not go ahead with any development that could cause a breach of a number of different laws concerning pollution levels. You could have heard a pin drop. After this the tone changed slightly and Christine B and Mark M delivered presentations putting forward ideas for ways forward and alternative strategies. The presentation closed with an eloquent plea from the impressive Harry A directly to Tim Warren not to build on our meadows. As Tim Warren shook him by the hand, a slide show of the community in action saving the meadows was played to the sound track of the Beatles' We can Work it Out! Thank you Andrew M ☺ At the end of the evening the audience did not know whether to whoop or cry.

However, please do not take my word for it. Make a cuppa/pour a glass of wine, settle down in an easy chair and download and read the presentations and reports. They make for very interesting and informative reading! These presentations are not only relevant to us, here in the East of Bath, but have wider implications for communities everywhere that are being steamrolled and hoodwinked by politicians. They also show what a small community can achieve when they put their minds to it! So impressive! All those amazing people involved need a big cheer!

RAMBLE ON 31ST JANUARY

About 120 people turned out on a rainy Sunday to enjoy a choice of three different walks exploring Bathampton Meadows by either walking through them or looking down on them and taking in the view after a long walk up Little Solsbury. An interesting fact is that although the walkers included people from the East of Bath, they also included people from the rest of Bath, the wider BaNES area and as far afield as London! One of the walkers was wildlife presenter Nigel Marven. People who did not know the area as well as perhaps some of us do were amazed that the Council could even consider a scheme that would have such a detrimental effect on such a large and beautiful area, especially as it forms part of the green approach to Bath valued by so many.

So a big thank you for the organisers who spent many hours arranging and promoting this event. So important to keep the meadows in the public eye. All of this publicity seems to be working as the news is getting out to a much wider audience.

<http://www.bathecho.co.uk/news/community/locals-join-ramble-as-part-of-campaign-to-save-bathampton-meadows-65533/>



PETITIONING

Susanne H and her band of petitioners braved the cold to win the hearts and minds (and signatures) of Bath residents on Saturday. They collected a massive 362 signatures. Goodness knows how Stuart F managed to keep going for hours on end – he is becoming a bit of a legend! The petitioners reported that loads of Bath residents

were interested in engaging in conversation about the meadows. On the last count Susanne had an amazing 9,765 signatures on the combined on-line and paper versions of the petition. So it is very nearly at the 10,000 mark needed to take to Downing Street. If you are unsure about how to help with the campaign, collecting signatures is really important. We all know people who we could ask to either sign the online petition on change.org or the paper version. Please contact Susanne H if you would like to help out on Saturday petitioning in Bath – the more people on board, the more signatures can be collected .



PUBLIC SCRUTINY MEETING - 22ND MARCH 10 - 4:30

A date has now been set for the public scrutiny meeting. More to come about how this

is approached. See media coverage below:

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/8203-East-Bath-park-ride-debated-March/story-28646865-detail/story.html>

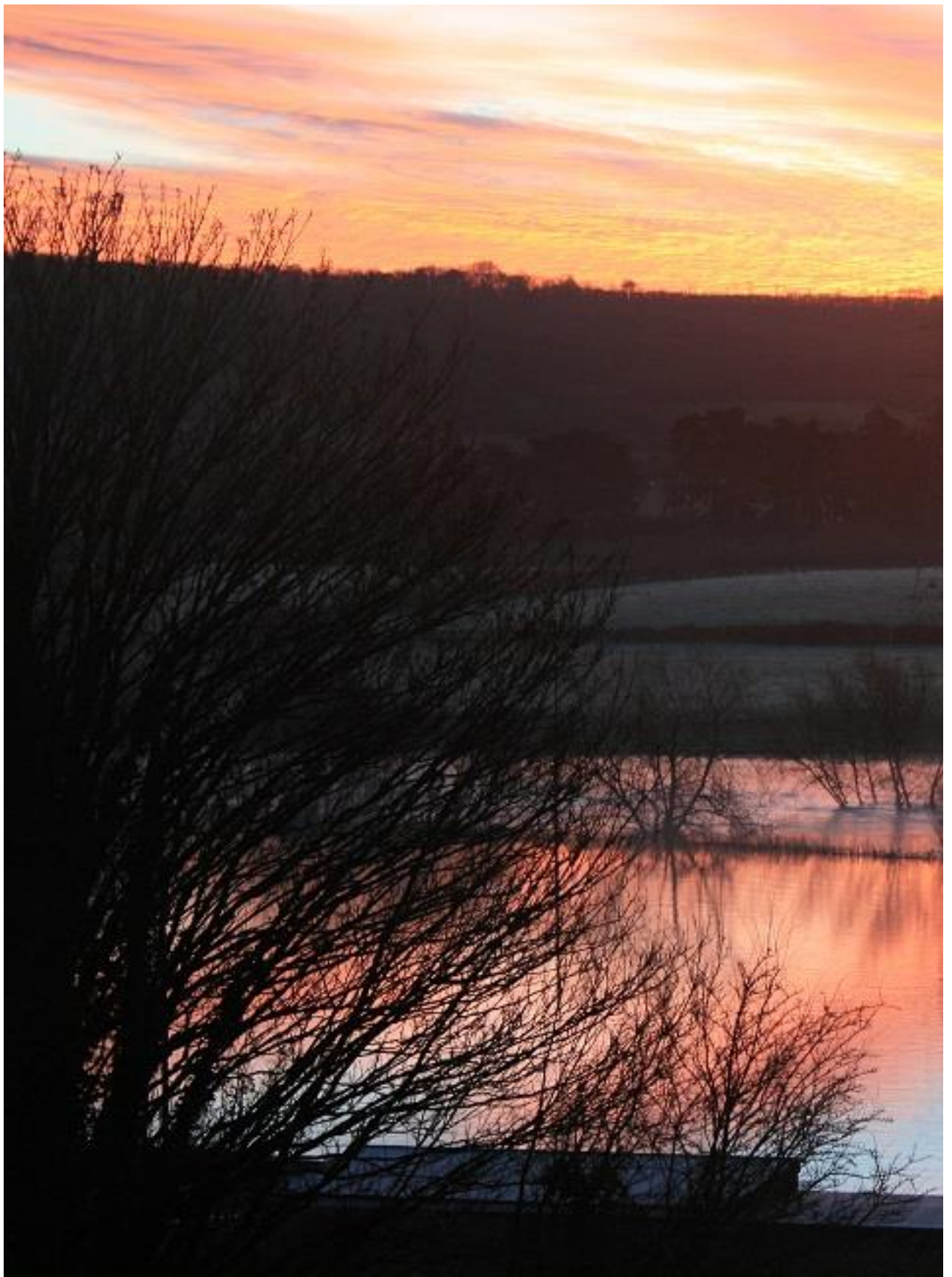
<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/Public-scrutiny-plans-park-ride-east-Bath-just/story-28654667-detail/story.html>

NEXT GATHER MEETING

Thursday 4th February 8pm

AND FINALLY ...

A plea for help. The campaign has now been going since the beginning of September. This week has shown what the community can do and has been the culmination of a lot of hard work by a number of people. However, it is really important that we are not complacent. It needs to be remembered that everyone has family, jobs and other commitments and we are all volunteers. It is really hard for the same people to continue at such a pace. Therefore, it is really important that fresh enthusiasm and energy is brought into the campaign. It is also important that people make the effort to support the various activities and actions that are taking place. People are always needed to spread the word, collect signatures, deliver leaflets and offer up different areas of expertise. Every effort goes towards achieving our aim and is greatly appreciated.
xxx



Beautiful pic – Garry – Flooded meadows 2014

This is what it's all about ☺

