

MEADOWS NEWSLETTER

April
2016

*Dates
for your
diary:*

12th April-
Scrutiny
report
published

13th
April-
next
Green
gathering
7pm at
Rising
Sun, Bath

18th
May –
P&R
Decision
Day

Hello All,

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter weekend. A great deal has taken place since the last newsletter. On Monday 31st of March Susanne, Louise Wallace, Stuart, Andrew and Christine met our MP Jacob Rees Mogg at no.10 Downing Street and submitted our 12,000 signed petition. Thank you Susanne for leading this – a great deal of hard work and dedication went into this and many of us have spent many a cold and wet afternoon in Bath canvassing support. Thank you also to Louise Wallace who has walked across Bath since October knocking on doors and asking for a signature and now with the petition in London we await the parliamentary debate.



Well, the date we have all been working towards 22nd of March – Scrutiny Day has passed. A huge “Thank-you” to the core team who wrote and presented the amazing evidence – Christine, Andrew, Fiona and Annie – you did us all proud and we all hope now that during these last few weeks before a decision on 18th May BANES council has heard what we have to say and changes their mind.

Scrutiny was a long day and by no means perfect for us – we were not given enough time to go through all our evidence but now all the councillors have our report hopefully some time will be given to understand the argument why we do not need a P&R on the meadows. We gave a compelling argument backed with evidence which was still lacking from any BANES presentations.

The speeches from George Riley, Susanne representing Batheaston PC and Caroline Kay, from the Bath Preservation Trust were also powerful and critical – there should have been some red cheeks listening to what was being said! And remember you can still watch the day on the BANES webcast. The report from the Scrutiny panel will be available from the 12th April and work is being done to ensure all evidence and data gets to Councillor Bull to help with his support.

And wasn't the protest a success! Another great turnout with I'm guessing 100 people shouting “Meadows Not Madness” will have had an impact in the Banqueting Hall. Well done and “Thank you” to Sharon for rallying supporters across Bath to join us.



Another very important “Thank you” needs to go to Louise Hildego and Neil Whitehead – thank you for arranging BBC coverage of Downing Street and the interview before scrutiny on Solbury Hill. All the coverage and publicity helped again get Bath talking about our campaign.

So the next steps – firstly make sure you book your three minute slot for the council meeting on the 18th May – lets see if we can exceed 80 speakers this time. Please contact democratic services to book your space. There will be another protest before this meeting and details will follow.



Good Friday

The Batheaston Churches in Partnership Good Friday walk traditionally ends on Solbury Hill, where the cross is erected. However this Good Friday, in support of the campaign to protect Bathampton meadows from being developed into a P&R the walk ended on New Leaf Farm. The cross was erected while prayers were said.



