



MEADOWS NEWSLETTER

January 16, 2017

Number 13

Hi everyone, and welcome to the Christmas edition of our Newsletter

It seems extraordinary that in November 2015 we faced losing the Meadows to a Park and Ride for the second time, and yet a year later the Council still has not selected a site or even made a formal decision to have a Park and Ride to the East.

We've done a great job, but battle is not over yet, in fact its only just begun!

West of England Transport Plan – consultation closes 19th December

We are now faced with a vision to 2036 from the West of England that sees the whole area becoming a huge transport hub. In addition to a P&R on the meadows, there are regional plans for a freight consolidation centre and the A46/A36 bypass. Plans for a Park and Ride are just the beginning and it is really important to send a message to this regional level that the Meadows are not for developing and that their plan must research and address the real causes of congestion without trashing our beautiful setting.

Please take part in the consultation by 19th December if you haven't already done so. This link reaches our website, from which you can link to the consultation itself, as well as our draft response and those of our Parish Councils once they become available:

http://bathamptonmeadowsalliance.org.uk/?page_id=641

Parking Survey – closing date 19th December

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In the 2014 Transport Strategy, the Council agreed 'to establish the need for increased Park and Ride capacity as part of a wider parking strategy'. Funnily enough as they come towards reporting to Cabinet and moving on to planning, the Council has suddenly decided that now is the time to set about doing a wider parking strategy and are asking for our views.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parkingstrategy2016>

Please take part in the survey if you haven't yet. Just like with the P&R consultation, this survey can be answered many times by an individual and from any location. We are concerned that there will be those out there filling it

out multiple times to skew results, which are then held up to be 'the truth'. Clearly we don't endorse such behaviour as a campaign.

Cabinet decision – next year!

The council is no longer claiming it will make a decision on the Park and Ride this year, but they are talking about a decision in January. There is no scheduled Cabinet meeting for that month, but we suspect that the 28-day notice for such a meeting will be issued around Christmas time in the hope that we will all be distracted.

We are as confident as we can be that the council has not yet been able to acquire an alternative to site F which they already own; but that of course raises the specter of a return to site F if all other options fail. It's vital that we prepare the best case we can for Judicial Review and have funds available for continuing legal advice and action. Please support our various fundraising initiatives and if you have not yet pledged to support a JR please visit

http://bathamptonmeadowsalliance.org.uk/?page_id=460

FUNDRAISING

Christmas Cards and 5K Fun Run



Caroline Cooper kindly arranged the printing of some Bathampton Meadows Christmas Cards to raise funds for the campaign. There are two beautiful designs courtesy of Cheryl and the cards come in packs of 5 cards for £4. They're currently on sale in Maudens Newsagents on Batheaston High Street. Get them before they're gone!

5k Run/walk

Join us on Monday 2nd January to burn off those Christmas calories in the Meadows 5k fun run! Let's get together and show the health and wellbeing the Meadows have to offer. We need runners, stewards and volunteers so if anyone would like to get involved please contact Yasmin Royce on

yasminroyce@hotmail.co.uk

Call-in of £300k Council Spend on P&R

Opposition parties are working together to try to hold Tony Clarke accountable for his latest sign off of another £300k, which he has done without presenting anything to Cabinet. Having managed to secure a partial call-in of the latest spend, Libdems and Labour continue to seek advice as to how they can bring about a full call-in and have asked a series of further questions of the Conservative administration to answer at the next panel meeting.

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/park-and-ride-call-in/story-29906757-detail/story.html>

In the news

Despite there being little action from the council other than the call-in, we have managed to keep our campaign in the public eye with regular stories and comments in the Bath Chronicle paper and online versions, as well as via Twitter and Facebook.

In case you have missed any of our news here is a quick round up. Please remember to register with the Chronicle to leave your comments (this really pays off as you'll see below) and to keep on writing to the Chronicle and to Councillors and MPs.

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/final-2016-cabinet-meeting-cancelled-what-does-it-mean-for-the-east-of-bath-park-ride-decision/story-29894726-detail/story.html>

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/paving-over-natural-flood-sponge-of-bathampton-meadows-would-make-park-dive-claim-residents/story-29928728-detail/story.html>

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/b-nes-cabinet-member-says-none-of-four-eastern-p-r-sites-are-on-flood-plain/story-29931461-detail/story.html>

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/lizzie-gladwyn-wins-abbey-election-to-increase-bath-north-east-somerset-council-s-tory-councillors/story-29915546-detail/story.html>

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/ward-election-was-bad-day-for-democracy/story-29947654-detail/story.html>

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/bath-mp-ben-howlett-submits-expense-claim-of-just-9p-within-total-of-over-63-000/story-29946031-detail/story.html>

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/need-to-open-our-eyes-to-air-pollution/story-29822918-detail/story.html>

Also here's Adam Reynold's transport vision for the City:

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/radical-transport-plan-suggests-more-bus-gates-and-road-closures-could-fix-bath-s-traffic-crisis/story-29943105-detail/story.html>

Some of you may also have spotted this brilliant article in the Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/28/park-flood-planners-joni-mitchell>

And this BBC article that shows how some are tackling pollution from cars:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-38170794>

Finally, if you're all shopped out and wondering just whose idea it was to have a Christmas market in Bath check out this year's worst Christmas advert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i63anj0rRkg>

Merry Christmas!

