



MEADOWS NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Dear All,
Welcome to the April newsletter. There seems to be a lot going on within the campaign while we wait for the Council to publicly decide which site they take forward to planning.

Although the council have not made any public comments on progress towards purchasing site B, we now know that no progress has been made behind the scenes and that the Highways Agency have said that they will not approve access to Site B from the bypass, on safety grounds. This leaves site F as the only option according to the council's February decision. The Council is publicly in denial on this, read all about it on this Chronicle link.

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/highways-england-unable-to-support-proposed-access-to-preferred-site-for-fourth-bath-park-and-ride/story-30249595-detail/story.html>

Our earliest genuine chance to halt this scheme comes next week, 4th May at the West of England Mayoral Election. PLEASE encourage your friends and family to use both their votes for a candidate who will work to save the meadows. More details below.

Leafletting re the Mayoral Election

We need more volunteers to encourage turnout at next week's election

Thank you to everyone who has helped so far to deliver leaflets giving information on the election for West of England Mayor. Tim Bowles, the Conservative candidate is the joint favourite and wants to support the P&R development on Bathampton Meadows. We really need to help people know how important it is to vote and to consider what and who they will be voting for.

We managed to distribute an incredible 3000 leaflets across Bathford, Batheaston, Bathampton and parts of Larkhall as the postal votes dropped on the doormat, with Louise Wallace alone talking more than 1000 leaflets - thank you very much!

But we still have 8000 leaflets to deliver before election day on the 4th May so that we can reach into Walcot, Abbey, Fairfield, Camden, central Bath, Widcombe and Landsdown. If you can manage an hour to help please contact Emma or Christine at emma7.adams@hotmail.co.uk or christine.boyd@hotmail.co.uk

Fun Run and Art exhibition/auction

The 5.1k Fun Run/Walk last Sunday across Bathampton Meadows was a huge success – Well done to Emma and everyone who helped. There are now lots of great comments and pictures on social media and lots of people saying they would love this

to be a regular event.

Most importantly the event brought us out as a community, raised awareness of the threat and £650 to help our campaign!

Caroline and Nick Cooper also held a family party the night before and managed to raise a further £190 taking our total to £840 for the weekend – thank you!

Our next date in the diary is an art exhibition and auction on 15th and 16th June at Green Park in their event space. Our objectives are to take the beauty of the meadows into the City and to raise money. Jane, Louise and Fiona are working on this with input from local artists who have been inspired by the meadows, as well as help from Steve H. Please let them know if you are able to help organise too.

Hot off the press is that Peter Brown has said he will do his best to sketch the meadows for us between now and then – he is a campaign supporter. Fingers crossed that he will be able to fit us in 😊

Open General Meeting this Thursday

As this is the last Thursday in the month our open information meeting is going to be held on the 27th April 7.30pm. The Coopers have generously again offered Brow Hill (4 North End) as the venue. Do come along (bring refreshments, please) to hear the latest position and news and make any comments you have.

Can you see the Meadows?

Please join our formal complaint about Cllr Clarke's Radio Bristol comments

Councillor Clarke has maintained his reputation for a total disregard of reality by his claim on Radio Bristol that sites B and F (the Meadows options) cannot be seen from Batheaston or the surrounding villages. Our arguments are not primarily about the view, but about sustainability and the right answers. Nevertheless we believe that this statement was a deliberate attempt to mislead voters in the West of England Mayoral election into believing visibility to be a 'non issue'. We are therefore asking people to sign up to an official complaint about this behaviour.

Cllr Clarke made the comments in a live interview the day before the Walcot by-election. He agreed to appear on the programme to answer a report that Highways England had said it cannot support the proposed access for Site B. Asked by the interviewer how a Park & Ride on the meadows could be screened, he answered:

“From ground level there is very little difficulty as far as screening is concerned, because it's not as though either site is actually visible from Batheaston particularly, or the other communities around. The issue is more from above and we think we can actually screen both sites.”

Many people have already responded on Facebook and Twitter to this nonsense, but we are also asking if you would like to add your name to a formal complaint to the council about Cllr Clarke's conduct? If so please could you send your name, address and email address to the Meadows Alliance email: bmeadowsalliance@gmail.com.

If you can see either Site B or Site F from your home, could you also please send a picture with your address; and if you can see the meadows from a favourite viewpoint, please send a picture of this along with a description of where the viewpoint is.

Cllr Clarke's statement came at the same time that the Council is refusing to answer any P&R questions, as it has been deemed a 'contentious issue' that cannot be discussed during purdah (The pre-election period); the elections concerned being Newbridge and West of England Mayor.

Now we cant deny that the Park & Ride is a controversial issue, with five of the six mayoral candidates publicly opposing a Park & Ride on Bathampton Meadows. But we will therefore be pointing out that Cllr Clarke was in breach of purdah by stating untruths about said contentious issue.

Cllr Clarke made these untrue statements regarding the Meadows and the visual impact of P&R on surrounding communities to the whole of the West of England Radio Bristol listening public. Few of these listeners will know the Meadows and may take Cllr Clarke at his word.

West of England Mayoral Election

The election matters! Your vote could help to save Bathampton Meadows

On May 4th we will vote for a 'Metro' mayor for a new combined authority covering Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. The new mayor will have **responsibility for transport strategy** across the whole region, as well as plans for housing and adult education/skills. They will have a £900-million investment fund over 30 years.

The new mayor's position on a Park & Ride for the east of Bath is crucial.

You have **two** votes. Please give both those votes to someone who has promised to protect the Meadows

There are six candidates. Five have come out publicly against a Park & Ride on Bathampton Meadows. They are:

Green Party - Darren Hall: **Liberal Democrat** - Stephen Williams : **Labour**- Lesley Mansell : **Independent** - John Savage: **UKIP**- Arron Foot

For what it is worth, Ladbrokes have the Lib Dems and Tories neck and neck.

Vote! Vote! Vote! to save the Meadows (or, strictly: Vote! Vote!).

26th April sees the Transition Bath Mayoral hustings 19:00-21:30 at Bath Royal Scientific and Literary Institution (BRSLI) Queens Square. Unfortunately this is now booked out but the organisers will be filming the event and posting the questions online afterwards. We have one ticket if people are interested in attending? Please email fionamedrum2004@yahoo.co.uk. Click here for more info.

<http://transitionbath.org/event/transition-bath-west-england-mayoral-hustings/>

Leafleting

Just to repeat: You can do your bit as we need volunteers to deliver leaflets before the 4th May. Getting the right Mayor could change everything....

Please contact Emma or Christine at emma7.adams@hotmail.co.uk or christine.boyd@hotmail.co.uk to offer help

General Election

This has, of course, thrown a spanner in the works! We have tried to stay, as far as possible non-party political in this campaign, welcoming support from wherever. Locally Jacob R-M has supported us and he has a fairly safe seat. Those of you who are in the City constituency may care to consider for whom you will vote, bearing views on the P&R in mind. Ben's seat is marginal. You can make a difference.

Bath Deserves Better

Public Meeting and potential vote of no confidence:

Following on from gaining 1% of the Bath electorate on our joint petition with Save Bath Library and other local groups on recognised petition platform 38 degrees, we are working with the other groups to run a public meeting at which we will make our case for the Meadows and the total disregard the Council is showing for evidence and due process. It will be a good chance to get our messages across to a wider Bath audience.

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/campaigners-are-demanding-answers-from-council-leaders-over-deeply-unpopular-proposals/story-30290173-detail/story.html>

As you'll see from this article, Tim Warren is not responding positively to the invitation, which is no surprise! We continue undaunted and his reaction may well fuel the desire for a vote of no confidence on the day...

More details to follow, but this will be a great chance to show the Council and residents again just how frustrated we are at the continued spin and refusal to use evidence-based business cases.

Transition Larkhall/Uni of Bath research meeting

The Transition Larkhall and Uni of Bath traffic and school run research team is to talk to the public about their initial findings. Two meetings are being held next Thursday, 27th April at the New Oriel Hall at 10am and 7pm.