



# CARA Bulletin

2 May 2020

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## Local issues:

**CORONAVIRUS:** During the crisis, CARA is communicating more regularly with its members to ensure that everyone is aware of current guidance, volunteer support and other initiatives.

We hope that you are finding these Bulletins interesting & informative. Please also keep an eye on our website <https://carabath.com/community-coronavirus-response>.

- **Buses in the Circus.** Wednesday 6th May between 7am and 8am. B&NES Council (B&NES) is testing a two-way bus route in Broad Street. This will necessitate some buses entering The Circus area during the test (rather than going up to Lansdown P&R to turn around) We are told that there is no intention that it will be a permanent route, but only on Wednesday to facilitate the test. CARA's Committee has agreed to the test on this basis and also requested (again) that the yellow boxes should be repainted at the George Street junctions with Broad Street and Gay Street, to ensure better traffic flows and thereby reduce pollution.
- **Scams.** Beware: There are a number of scams taking advantage of people during the current situation. Several Bath residents recently received calls, some from 01225 numbers, offering face-masks for sale. These are scams and can expose you to premium rate phone charges if you respond. Please be wary of calls from unknown numbers or organisations. Never, ever, give personal information, or banking details, over the telephone in response to any unknown caller. Cyber criminals are unfortunately preying on fears of the Coronavirus by sending scam emails that try and trick people into clicking on a false web link so please be extra vigilant.

For advice about avoiding scams, please visit B&NES at: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/trading-standards/rogue-traders-and-scams/internet-scams> or the Police at: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news/2020/04/stay-safe-online-beware-of-computer-based-scammers-and-fraudsters/>.

For more advice on Scams : how to spot them and how to stop them, please see this link to the Which? website [https://www.which.co.uk/news/2020/04/coronavirus-scams-how-to-spot-them-and-stop-them/?utm\\_source=whichcouk](https://www.which.co.uk/news/2020/04/coronavirus-scams-how-to-spot-them-and-stop-them/?utm_source=whichcouk)

- **Coronavirus clinics.** 3 new COVID-19 Coronavirus Clinics are being run by Bath and North East Somerset Enhanced Medical Services (BEMS) at three GP surgeries: Oldfield Surgery (45 45 Upper Oldfield Park, BA2 3HT), Elm Hayes Surgery (Clandown Road, Paulton) and St Augustine's Medical Practice (Bath Road, Saltford).

The clinics are solely for seeing patients with coronavirus-like symptoms and access to the service is through referral by your usual GP. Appointments are available from 8 am to 8 pm, seven days a week. Residents should first make contact with their usual GP who will be able to book an appointment for the Covid Clinic from the available slots on the day.

For further information, contact B&NES Enhanced Medical Services (01225 560806) or see the Clinical Commissioning Group website: <https://www.bswccg.nhs.uk/news-events/news/262-separate-clinics-for-patients-with-and-without-coronavirus-symptoms-help-people-to-continue-accessing-care-and-treatment>

- **Council Tax Relief.** B&NES has made an urgent decision to reduce council tax liability to lessen people's financial burden at a time when they may already be on a reduced income due to stay-at-home measures. The decision authorises officers to immediately reduce the council tax liability for all working-age recipients of Local Council Tax Support during 2020/21 by the lower figure of their remaining liability for that year, or £150. For further detail, please visit: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-council-tax-support>
- **Parking Charges being reintroduced.** Parking charges are being reintroduced on Monday 4th May for B&NES' car parks and on-street paid for parking, after they were paused due to the coronavirus pandemic. NHS and health and social care workers & volunteers in Bath and North East Somerset are encouraged to apply via their employer for a new Government digital parking permit so that they can park for free with no time limits when undertaking official duties. The paper-based permit should be displayed clearly in vehicle windscreens. Residents are reminded that you will need a valid permit if using residents' parking bays from Monday 4th May.
- **Clap for the NHS.** Thursdays at 8pm. Are you joining your neighbours for the weekly clapping for the NHS and Care Workers, putting their lives at risk for the benefit of people suffering from the Coronavirus? It is also a good chance to have a chat with your neighbours – socially distanced, of course, keeping 2 metres away. It is also an opportunity to see that your neighbours, especially if old, frail or at-risk, are OK and not in need of any support. If they would like some help, please do contact Barry or Bernard (see below) and we will put you in contact with one of our 52 CARA volunteers who may be able to provide the support needed.

**Contacts:** CARA Chair: Barry Gilbertson on [barry@barrygilbertson.com](mailto:barry@barrygilbertson.com) 0771 007 3456 or CARA Secretary: Bernard Horn on [bph@bernardhorn.com](mailto:bph@bernardhorn.com) 07831493070, or any of the CARA Committee listed below. If any of the blue web-links do not work for you, please contact Barry or Bernard, and we will print the content and post it through your door.

**STAY SAFE...and remember to call us or e-mail us if you need support of any kind.**

CARA Committee 2019/20		Our email addresses are on our website <a href="http://www.carabath.com">www.carabath.com</a>	
Barry Gilbertson	Chairman	Bernard Horn	Secretary
Richard Brown	Vice Chairman/Traffic	Anne Love	Waste
Malcolm Baldwin	FoBRA	Mike Richardson	Treasurer
George Feiger	Traffic	Ron Temperton	City Centre Action Group