



CARA Bulletin

23 May 2020

CORONAVIRUS: During the crisis, CARA has been communicating more regularly with you, our members, to ensure that everyone is aware of current guidance, volunteer support and other initiatives. We hope that you have found these Bulletins interesting & informative. Do let us know – contact details are below. As the lockdown begins to soften, this edition will be the last of our weekly bulletins, at least for a while. We will, of course, collate new bulletins as the need arises, especially if a ‘second wave’ emerges.

- **Domestic waste and rubbish.** Following on from last week’s information about the risks of putting domestic waste into commercial waste bins, our friends at Bath Business Improvement District (‘Bath BID’) have also said that *“putting domestic waste into public litter bins is a breach of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 s46 : a civil offence with £100 fine. However, if it went to court, it could also be treated as fly-tipping. If domestic waste is placed next to a litter bin, then s33 applies with a £400 fine, a criminal offence, or unlimited fine or imprisonment if prosecuted. If the domestic waste is moved by a third party and not disposed of correctly, then Duty of Care s34 applies, for losing control of waste with a £300 fine and a criminal offence.”*

The gulls are back. When putting out your domestic or commercial waste for Council or Commercial Collection, please make sure that any food waste is placed in the Council-provided black food-waste bin. These bins are free and can be ordered on Council Connect <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/content/council-connect>. Leaving food waste in any kind or colour of plastic bin-bag simply encourages the gulls, pigeons, rats and foxes to break into the bag and, inevitably, spread the contents across the pavement. We have all seen the mess it creates. These birds and animals are getting ever-bolder in their search for food as there is less food litter, discarded take-away cartons, etc in lockdown. The mess has to be cleared up by the Council’s hard-pressed small team of street sweepers which costs the Council (and all of us Council Tax payers) money every day. The Council’s Enforcement Team is aware and will be looking for culprits every day.

- **B&NES reallocation of road space and other measures to support walking and cycling.** As many towns and cities across the UK begin to re-open, temporary measures are being introduced to widen pavements, remove traffic from some roads, improve cycling space and to better facilitate walking in safety. Work is already being done in Bath, and in some surrounding towns and villages across B&NES, subject to finance availability.

The Government has introduced Emergency Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) that enable Councils to take these measures, without consultation, for the protection of the public.

It is really important to get resident support for the Council's plans to widen pavements and other social-distancing protective measures <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/highway-improvements-traffic-management/traffic-schemes-2>

Please do respond and copy us into your views to our contact details below.

These measures are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve our immediate environment for the benefit of all. The more responses received from CARA residents about our streets, vehicle speed reduction measures, eliminating rat-running, deterring destination parking from taking up spaces for residents, etc right across CARA then, simply, the more chance that work will be done here in CARA.

Finally, a plea for your own safety; just because the lockdown appears to be softening, that does not mean that the virus has gone away. A 'second wave' could be more devastating than the 'first wave', with people feeling more relaxed about the virus. Although the total number of Coronavirus infections across B&NES was only 232 as at 29th May, we all know that relaxing our own personal and family safety measures can simply expose each of us to infection.

Bath, as a beautiful Roman & Georgian World Heritage location, is very likely to soon experience more and more visitors arriving from elsewhere in the UK (and maybe even from abroad) possibly bringing the virus with them. We all need to be aware and prepared.

Think very carefully about maintaining your own social-distancing and awareness.

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

CARA Contacts: CARA Chair: Barry Gilbertson on barry@barrygilbertson.com 0771 007 3456 or CARA Secretary: Bernard Horn on 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.

CARA Committee 2019/20		Our email addresses are on our website www.carabath.com	
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