



CARA Bulletin

12 December 2020

Note from our Chairman

Dear members, as this year draws to a close, we can only hope that 2021, at some stage soon, will see us returning to a reasonable degree of normality.

That being said, we regret that your Committee feels that it has had little alternative but to decide not to hold this December our usual CARA "**Carols in The Circus**" event. I am sure that everyone will recognise the logic of this decision, bearing in mind the current prevailing Covid-19 Government regulations and recommendations. Potential attendance of up to 900 people, as occurred last year, would we believe be impossible to accommodate safely to current social distancing constraints. However, it will certainly be our intention to hold the carols event next year with, hopefully, a few new additional 'performance' elements.

Despite the various lockdown scenarios during this year your Committee has remained active in pursuing a number of the key issues which continue to be of concern to our members and our neighbourhood in general.

The feedback gained from our recent consultation in respect of a potential Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) for our catchment area is now being carefully considered by your Committee members in order to assess the options and comments provided to us by the feedback that we have received. I would like to particularly thank all those members and others who very helpfully contributed to this particular stage of our consultation process.

With B&NES Council now having 'signed off' their "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" for implementation, albeit involving further on-going public consultation, there will be much to occupy us in 2021. The need, for example, for much greater residents-only parking throughout our catchment area remains a key focus for your Committee. Within the Council's "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" significant elements relate both to the concept and possible implementation of LTNs as well as to the future direction of residents and general parking policy.

We remain not only pre-occupied with issues relating to traffic and parking issues but also with other important aspects relating to the general well-being and improvement of our neighbourhood. These include, for example, the general condition of our public realm as well as the effectiveness of some of our more important environmental services. A brief indication of some of the work undertaken by two of our Committee members, Sally Rothwell and Sabrina Earnshaw, is alluded to later in this Bulletin.....key areas in which we are endeavouring to have some positive impact!

In the meantime, myself and your Committee send their best wishes to you all for what we all hope will be, even in these challenging times, a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Malcolm, Chair.

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Other local issues

- **Public realm.** CARA has undertaken a number of initiatives concerning the public realm recently.

One of the most obtrusive issues is graffiti – our beautiful heritage city being defaced by vandals. The Council will only remove graffiti from its own property. Other occurrences have to be addressed either by the private property owner or by the public body whose installations have been scrawled upon. There was a particularly obtrusive set of so-called tags on the Western Power installation at the corner of Julian Road and Upper Church Street. This was brought to their attention, and they have made an excellent job of cleaning and repainting (see below images).

BEFORE



AFTER



Two other cabinets which require attention are owned by Open Reach. A formal complaint has been lodged, and case numbers allocated to each. Hopefully we shall see some progress soon, but the current lockdown situation means that everything takes much more time than hitherto.

CARA has also been in touch with the Council Tree Manager to enquire whether or not the trees in the Circus currently require attention. The reply was at the moment they did not see a need to do any form of remedial work – again the coronavirus situation means that resources are very stretched, both financially and in terms of the appropriate personnel. We shall continue to monitor this.

If members identify any public realm issues they wish to see addressed, please get in touch.

- **Environmental Services.** We have continued to report to the Council various litter issues including residential bin bags being left near public bins and causing issues. The Council appears fully aware of these on-going issues and are looking at replacing, at some time in the future and where appropriate, the current bins with the solar ones that have sensors to trigger early collection. Fly-tipping in our catchment area and apparent lack of awareness of rubbish disposal 'protocols' by Airbnb establishments is also very much on our radar.

CARA Litter Pick. Our last CARA litter pick, at the end of September, was most successful. We are hoping that the next litter pick up will be in the New year, on-going lockdowns restrictions permitting. Our thanks to those members and others who joined us during our September litter-pick (see images below).



- Christmas and New Year waste collection.** B&NES Council has announced revised waste collection dates for the Christmas and New Year period. Residents will receive a leaflet from the Council advising them of collection dates, along with details about how they can recycle their real Christmas tree. The council is also highlighting that wrapping paper can no longer be collected and is suggesting using a sustainable alternative, to avoid creating unnecessary waste for disposal.

There will be no recycling or rubbish collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, December 28 or New Year's Day. Garden waste collections will pause from December 7 to January 15 inclusive.

For full details, please visit: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/webforms/waste/collectionday/>

- B&NES Council consultations – Have your say.**

- 1) 'One Shared Vision'.** Residents are being asked for their views on B&NES Council's 'One Shared Vision'. One Shared Vision is part of B&NES Council's response to the Covid crisis to address the wide-ranging impacts experienced across our community and how we ensure that recovery and rebuilding helps achieve a stronger, more resilient, fairer, greener, and by 2030, net zero place.

For full details of the proposals and to comment, please visit: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/help-us-create-one-shared-vision>

Please respond **by Friday 18 December 2020.**

- 2) Bath City Centre security consultation.** Residents are being asked for their views on proposals to strengthen on-street security within Bath City Centre's busiest streets and spaces. B&NES Council & the Police have developed a proposal that seeks to provide appropriately improved security whilst continuing to allow the city's businesses and service providers a viable, level of vehicle access.

For full details of the proposals and to comment, please visit: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-city-centre-security-consultation>

Please respond **by Friday 15 January 2021.**

CARA Committee 2020/21		Our email addresses are on our website www.carabath.com	
Malcolm Baldwin	Chairman/FoBRA	Sally Rothwell	Licensing/Public Realm
Richard Brown	Vice Chairman/Traffic	Stephen Taylor	Planning
George Feiger	Traffic	Ron Temperton	City Centre Action Group
Mike Richardson	Treasurer	Rosie Tunstall	Social Secretary