



# CARA Bulletin

6 February 2021

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## Local issues

- **A new operator for the Approach golf course?** Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) has announced plans to extend and enhance community leisure provision at the Approach golf course (and Entry Hill golf course) by appointing new operators. A report is to go to B&NES' Cabinet on February 11 recommending appointment of a company to run the site.

For further details, please visit: <https://newsroom.bathnes.gov.uk/news/appointing-new-operators-entry-hill-and-approach-leisure-sites-bath-reaches-final-stages>

Separately, CARA has been asked by Justin Draeger, the Chair of the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations (FoBRA), of which CARA is a member, to forward to our members a copy of his below letter relating to B&NES' plans for apparent change of use of the land at the Approach Golf Course. For the avoidance of doubt, this is that piece of unique land that is bounded on its east side by Cavendish Road and on its south side by Weston Road.

Justin's letter is self-explanatory but support is being requested in order to attempt to protect the current ambience and usage of this important leisure facility.

Please do respond, as requested, if you support the sentiments expressed in Justin's letter.....this an important issue for many residents who either live locally to this parkland area or make use of its current facilities.

"The High Common/Approach Golf Course

Dear All

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of the RA's neighbouring this park and those from other RA's that use the park, about a potentially very serious development and to enlist your support.

As you may know, the provision of golf on the Approach Golf Course ceased last year with the first lockdown and has not officially resumed. The Council put golf provision out to tender last year and then cancelled the tender process. It then restarted the process late last year. That process has now apparently been completed and it is tolerably clear from the signals residents have been receiving (inter alia from local councillors) that the council is proposing to accept the bid that has been received, which apparently will involve the end of golf as we know it on the Approach Golf Course and its replacement with "frisbee golf". This will presumably also entail the curtailment of residents' access to the park i.e. the end of the status quo which has golfers, dog-walkers, alpine walkers, the elderly and children alike using the park in happy coexistence. We also understand that frisbee golf will require the concreting in of facilities across the course, thus disfiguring it.

At a Zoom meeting with concerned residents last year, Cllr Paul Crossley gave an unqualified undertaking that a change of use on the 18-hole course would require a public consultation. Residents and golfers naturally took him at his word. It now appears that he intends to say the frisbee golf is a “golf-like activity”, that there is therefore no change of use and that no public consultation is required.

Most right-thinking people would say, I believe, that throwing golfers off a course they have used for 60 years or so and limiting or ending residents’ unfettered access to the High Common would amount to a change of use, regardless of whether or not such actions would amount to a breach of the County of Avon Act 1967 which granted the High Common to the residents of Bath in perpetuity.

As you can imagine, residents are up in arms about this. Many plan to speak at the Cabinet meeting on 11th February to insist on maintaining the status quo and/or putting the matter to a public consultation. There is a petition circulating demanding the maintenance of golf on the course. Residents will be writing to the press.

I would urge you to ask your residents who use the High Common, whether regularly or not, or who are concerned about the public’s access such a vital public space, to write to Cllr Crossley to insist on the preservation of the status quo and/or to sign the petition which demands the retention of golf (as we know it). The petition can be signed here:

<https://www.change.org/p/bath-and-north-east-somerset-council-keep-bath-approach-golf-course-open>

Kind regards

Justin Draeger  
Chair – FOBRA  
07799 658884”

- **Stay up-to-date with local news.** There are a number of ways to help you stay up-to-date with local news and events, such as that above. A selection of the main sites that you could use is as follows:
  - **B&NES Council e-newsletter.** This is a weekly e-newsletter covering latest Council news and guidance that is e-mailed to your inbox by the Council. To read past editions and/or to subscribe to receive the e-newsletter, please visit: <https://newsroom.bathnes.gov/leaders-blog>
  - **Bath Newseum.** This is a website of local news and events run by Bath resident Richard Wyatt. To read articles and to subscribe, please visit: <https://bathnewseum.com>
  - **Bath Live.** This is a website of local news. To read articles, please visit: <https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/all-about/bath>
  - **Bath Echo.** This is a website of local news. To read articles, please visit: <https://www.bathecho.co.uk/>

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