



# CARA News

Autumn 2021

**The Circus Area Residents Association (CARA) represents the views of local residents and local businesses.**

**CARA:**

- **C**onnects you with your community.
- **A**rranges a calendar of social events. Meet your neighbours and make new friends.
- **R**epresents the collective interests of its members on local issues.
- **A**dvises and updates members on news and issues. We issue regular e-Bulletins and twice-yearly Newsletters.

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## Note from our Chairman

Welcome to our latest issue of CARA News.

Following our CARA Annual General Meeting, held in September, your newly appointed Committee has now firmly settled into its role with renewed focus. Our thanks and appreciation is extended to those Committee members who stood down at this year's election process for their past service and contribution to CARA. In particular, Ron Temperton served for many years with varied roles and responsibilities over a 20 year period. It is appropriate to reiterate our significant thanks to Ron for all of the work that he has undertaken on behalf of our CARA membership and our neighbourhood in general over so many years.

The structure of our current CARA Committee, going forward, very much reflects an appropriate balance in terms of representation of our particular household and street 'topography' together with a more useful and important gender balance.

As a reflection of the above, whilst our Committee members of course represent the interests of all our members throughout our particularly wide catchment area, those streets from which our current Committee members/attendees are drawn include : The Circus, Circus Mews, Crescent Lane, Brock Street, Rivers Street, Russell Street, Montpelier and Queen's Parade.

All the above being said, our priorities as a Committee have not changed. They remain, as we come towards the close of 2021 focused upon:

- Improvements to the parking 'regime' for residents throughout our CARA catchment area.
- Implementation of the best aspects of B&NES Council's "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy", notably that relating to the introduction of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) concept within our catchment zone.
- Continued monitoring and improvements to our streets and areas of our 'public realm' in general.

A more detailed update on these above priorities, together with other matters of expressed concern by our members, may be found below.

In summary, your renewed Committee remains focused on the key issues within our community and carries forward the excellent and extensive activities of many previous CARA Committees and their respective members.

With best wishes,

Malcolm - Chairman

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## Update on our priorities

**1- Traffic management.** The arguments in favour of improved traffic management throughout our CARA catchment area have been well rehearsed in previous CARA News and Bulletins.

The introduction of selective and hopefully carefully assessed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) remains a key element in B&NES Council's "**Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy**".

As we know, in June 2021 our own application and concept for an LTN was selected for first phase consideration by the Council in a 'loopage' [combination] termed "Kingsmead and Lansdown". The combination of LTN applicants in our particular 'loopage' being defined as: Circus [area]/Lower Lansdown /Marlborough Buildings/Royal Victoria Park/Cork Street area. In total, 15 'loopages' or areas within Bath and North East Somerset were listed in June of this year for 1st Phase assessment by the Council and appropriate officers, of an initial 48 applications.

We have very recently been made aware that the potential introduction of the "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" is now entering an important stage which we bring to your attention.....because of its particular importance to our local community.

It would appear that within a matter of days (likely w/c 29th November) letters will be forwarded to all households in all those areas that, like CARA's catchment, are under consideration for Liveable Neighbourhood programmes. Such programmes include, of course, both Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes as well as requested improvements to the residents-only parking facilities.

These letters from "Sustainable Communities - Bath & North East Somerset Council" will invite you to engage and participate in this important stage of the Liveable Neighbourhoods consultation process.

It is worth re-stating here what a liveable neighbourhood is:

**A liveable neighbourhood is the name given to the residential areas in which new consideration is given to how street space is allocated, creating healthier outdoor spaces for everyone to share, as well as vibrant places where people want to live and spend money..... Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and improved residents-only parking facilities are important characteristics of such liveable neighbourhoods.**

As highlighted in our own detailed CARA consultation document of 6 November 2021 (see [www.carabath.com/archive](http://www.carabath.com/archive)) Bulletin 070, our CARA area with an effective liveable neighbourhood would include a number of the key characteristics of a successful Low Traffic Neighbourhood. Such characteristics could include:

- Improved traffic management with what are termed 'modal filters', such as attractive planters, bollards and selective no-entry signage.
- Carefully selected and designated one-way streets.

- Traffic calming restrictions alongside reduction in 'rat-running'.
- A dominance of residents-only parking spaces.
- Time limited but specific parking bays for business and commercial deliveries.
- General street improvements for residents, pedestrians, disabled and cyclists (with effective cycling controls).

We would strongly encourage all members, as indeed we will encourage as many local residents as possible, to join in and respond to the important consultation and advisory process that is due to commence.

We currently anticipate the key steps in the consultation to be as follows:

**Summary of consultation/advisory process:**

- Week commencing 29th November - Letters from B&NES to all residents in the potential liveable neighbourhood areas asking them to engage in the consultation advisory process.
- Week commencing 29th November - consultation website live with online survey and mapping tool to gather residents and other stakeholders views.
- Thursday 9th December - a public information event in Margaret's Buildings (running from 2pm to 7pm).
- Wednesday 6th December - Wednesday 8th December and Tuesday 14th December - online "advisory/consultation" events.
- 19th December 2021 - consultation closes.
- January 2022 - analysis of findings from consultation process by Council and officers.
- February 2022 - continued and more in-depth co-design work by Council and officers for those Liveable Neighbourhood schemes that might be appropriate for implementation for potentially early Summer 2022.

**Additional Note from our Chairman**

*A great deal of the above key information was only received by CARA in the last 24 hours just as we were about to finalise our CARA News - Autumn edition.*

*Because of the importance of the information and the tight time-frame of this consultation we have re-structured this particular CARA News at short notice, in order to allow you all to be as fully up to date as possible on the Liveable Neighbourhood process.*

*Also as Chairman I would hope that as many members, as well as other residents and stakeholders within our community, will recognise the importance of being part of this particular consultation which is so important for our neighbourhood.*

*Of course the letter that you should all receive from our Council will provide more detailed information on this matter than we are able to cover in these few pages.*

**2- Parking.** In terms of our priorities your Committee remains continually focussed upon relating to parking matters and issues. We recently updated members in our e-mail note of the 2nd November 2021 of the current status in respect of the Council's issuing of TROs (Traffic Regulation Orders) and the consultation process attached to those orders.

A useful summary, the details of which remain current, are included in that e-mail. In the absence of any other additional information we assume implementation of this new parking 'regime' early in 2022.

**3- Public Realm.** CARA and its Committee continues to monitor and whenever possible mitigate, if not always completely eradicate, anti-social behaviour such as litter, fly-tipping, graffiti, etc.

With the addition of some new members to our Committee we are now able to broaden the responsibilities of taking more remedial action in respect of these issues.....probably on a more local area basis throughout the CARA catchment. (Beware! A CARA litter pick, with volunteers, sought, coming early in the New Year).

Other public realm matters:

- Bollards were repainted at both ends of Margaret's Buildings by local volunteers.
- Circus trees - lower 'canopy' to be sensitively pruned - December.
- Repainting of lamp posts in Saville Row and Margaret's Buildings now on the Council contractor's schedule, the first necessary stage in getting the work done!

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## CARA social events

### CARA CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Sunday 5th December 2021 - 12.30pm at Clayton's Kitchen.

£39 per head for a 3 course lunch plus complimentary glass of prosecco.....a few places still available.

Contact for enquiries or booking: [rosietunstall06@gmail.com](mailto:rosietunstall06@gmail.com)

Tel: 01225 465064

### CARA LADIES' SOCIAL

New Year's Eve - 6pm to 9pm Friday, 31st December at Hall & Woodhouse in Old King Street, Bath.

Please feel free to bring your friends and 'guys' or even gentlemen also invited! There is no membership fee for what is normally a monthly, last Thursday of the month, event. Just buy yourself a drink at the bar. See you there!

### CAROLS IN THE CIRCUS

Friday 17th December 2021 - 7pm to 8pm.

To all CARA members, neighbours and friends.....do come along to our "Carols in The Circus" and join in the carols with the Salvation Army providing the music. There will be a charity collection at the event, with all profits going to the Salvation Army Fund.

CARA Committee 2020/21		Our email addresses are on our website <a href="http://www.carabath.com">www.carabath.com</a>	
Malcolm Baldwin	Chairman/Traffic	Rosie Tunstall	Social Secretary
George Feiger	Vice Chairman	Stephen Taylor	Planning/FOBRA
Mike Richardson	Treasurer	Karen Baldwin	TBC
Sabrina Earnshaw	Secretary		