



CARA Bulletin

Summer 2022

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.

Note from our Chairman

Welcome to the latest issue of our CARA Bulletin.

Since our Spring 2022 Bulletin issue, I am pleased to say that we have evidenced significantly improved momentum in two of our key priority action areas.....specifically those of “**Liveable Neighbourhoods**” and implementation of improvements to our catchment area’s public realm.

Some members will recall that CARA initiated preliminary discussions with our local councillors, as far back as September 2019, in order to assess their appetite to support the potential introduction of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood within our catchment area.

Subsequently, for those perhaps less familiar with the ensuing process, the following key ‘milestones’ marked the roll-out of the current Council’s strategy and CARA’s approach to it:

- **September/October 2019:** As a ‘back-drop’ to its developing policy B&NES introduces “Bath’s Clean Air Zone” public consultation document “BreATHe” creating foundations for its later “Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy”.
- **June 2020:** CARA authored a paper “A Low Traffic Neighbourhood in Lower Lansdown [/Kingsmead]” to set out the case to introduce Bath’s first Low Traffic Neighbourhood in the CARA catchment area.
- **July 2020:** B&NES introduces and adopts a “Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN) Strategy”, including 3 key elements:
 - Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
 - Residents parking improvements
 - Electric vehicle strategy.

- **November 2020:** CARA distributes to all members and households within its catchment area a detailed consultation document and organises workshop discussions via Zoom to review proposed Low Traffic Neighbourhood/Liveable Neighbourhood concepts.
- **January 2021:** CARA undertook consultations via Zoom with a number of neighbouring residents associations in order to present its Liveable Neighbourhoods concepts and to further adjust a number of traffic-flow elements where appropriate.
- **February 2021:** CARA submitted, via its Ward Councillors, a "B&NES Request Proforma/Application" which highlighted more formally traffic and traffic-related neighbourhood issues within our catchment area, together with some solution concepts derived from our own catchment areas' consultation process.
- **March 2021:** CARA forwards a supplementary paper to B&NES Council setting out specific criteria for consideration of a Liveable Neighbourhoods implementation within our CARA catchment area.
- **December 2021/January 2022:** B&NES Council following its Autumn 2020 public consultation, undertakes the next phase of its Liveable Neighbourhoods consultation focusing on 15 selected areas.....in which our CARA catchment area is included within the "Lower Lansdown/Kingsmead" grouping amongst the 15 areas 'nominated' for earlier particular consideration.
- **July 2022:** Following a more general Zoom meeting with B&NES, its officers and consultants, in March of this year, a co-design Liveable Neighbourhoods' Workshop was held on 27th July, open upon application to the general public, to discuss in detail issues and potential solutions to traffic and public-realm related traffic aspects within our 'Lower Lansdown/Kingsmead' designated area.

So, quite a challenging journey for all parties involved in the process to date, but one which hopefully highlights the importance of the input that has already occurred and how important also are the next stages towards any potential Liveable Neighbourhoods' implementation for our CARA area.

The next stage:

Wednesday 14th September 2022
between 4pm and 8pm
at
The Army Reserve Centre (Upper Bristol Road, BA1 3AE)

An exhibition to showcase the ideas for a more Liveable Neighbourhood generated by recent consultations and workshops.

I would encourage as many CARA members as possible to attend the above event. It is a 'drop in' session for all residents, local businesses, family and friends to attend.

If you were unable to attend the recently held co-design Liveable Neighbourhood's Workshop, this is the opportunity to catch-up on current thinking on this important topic for our community and to provide your own viewpoint. If you did attend last month's workshop then it is an opportunity to restate your views or perhaps you have adapted your viewpoint since and would just like to make an additional comment/input on this important subject.

Members of the B&NES Liveable Neighbourhoods Project Team will be present to answer your questions and guide you through the exhibition boards and feedback form.

With best wishes,

Malcolm - Chairman

P.S. Phew!! This "CARA Bulletin" edition now gets 'lighter' in content, promise!

Update on our Activities

1- Public Realm

Julian Road

Mentioned in our Chair's above report, recent months have evidenced an increased level of activity in actually implementing some of the targeted improvements within our local community's public realm. As indicated in our "CARA Bulletin" - Spring edition, Council funding and resources were secured towards repairing the long-damaged pavement area on Julian Road between the Gloucester Street junction and the Co-op store.

This damaged and excessively uneven pavement surface, likely caused by regular parking of commercial and other vehicles on this regularly used pedestrian pavement area, has now been completely repaired. A re-levelling of this pavement with new paving slabs and the addition of kerb bollards now makes this a much safer walkway for local residents.

CARA's efforts and representations to B&NES Council's representatives and officers, particularly energised by our Committee Member - Sabrina Earnshaw's involvement, for this long required pavement improvement reflects a meaningful success in our on-going efforts to improve all aspects of our neighbourhood's public realm.



Julian Road pavement repairs underway.



Julian Road pavement repairs completed.

Margaret's Buildings

The mutual efforts between CARA and traders/businesses in Margaret's Buildings to jointly adopt and improve the appearance of the four 'font' planters, together with this season's particularly attractive hanging-basket floral displays has helped to make this local passageway more popular than ever.

Our particular thanks to those B&NES officers/staff who, following CARA's representations, 'turbo-charged' the long-needed repainting of the lamp-posts in Margaret's Buildings. This work, together with the repainting of the passageway's entry-bollards earlier this year and the repainting of the bench more recently by CARA volunteers, has created a much improved environment for residents and visitors alike.....part of a more "Liveable Neighbourhood" perhaps?



*A 'regenerated' Margaret's Buildings
(part of a more 'Liveable Neighbourhood?')*

Saville Row

CARA has also used the opportunity of its recent dialogue with appropriate B&NES officers to organise the refurbishment/repainting of the sadly neglected lamp-post in Saville Row.

As our dialogues continue for the foreseeable future and into next year with the National Trust, concerning their intentions in respect of the Assembly Rooms and its immediate surrounding area, our focus will likely move towards additional public realm improvements to the Saville Row/Alfred Street/Bartlett Street 'quarter'.

"Clean and Green"

In terms of more general public realm improvements throughout our CARA catchment area, we are currently also actively engaged with the [B&NES "Clean and Green" campaign](#) to re-focus specific Council funds/resources on additional key areas of our public realm requiring attention.

2- Milsom Quarter Plan

B&NES Council during the Summer initiated a public consultation entitled "A Masterplan for Milsom Quarter - Bath" [see ref. [Have your say/Bath and North East Somerset Council \(bathnes.gov.uk\)](#)]. Whilst the defined "Milsom Quarter" zone within this public consultation only included, from our CARA catchment area, the northern side of George Street, a response to this particular B&NES consultation was nevertheless forwarded on behalf of CARA [[www.carabath.com/archive](#)].

It should be recognised, however, that the Council's aspirations in terms of this regeneration concept for the "Milsom Quarter" appears to represent, if adopted, a potential 10-20 year implementation timescale.

3- Filming activity

Filming activity within our CARA neighbourhood now appears to have tailed off, following reasonably intensive activity earlier this Summer, with production crews active on behalf of both Netflix and Ralph Lauren's Autumn/Fall fashion range.

Discussions continue on all pre-notified filming occasions with film production crews and the Bath Film Office to mitigate as much as is possible any adverse impact upon CARA residents and local businesses.



A prequel to 'Bridgerton' filming in The Circus.



'Bridgerton' extras snack on our village green!

4- Social Activity

Particular thanks to Rosie Tunstall and her 'team' and all those who so kindly supplied refreshments/canapés for our Georgian Garden Event earlier in the Summer.

Weather, as often, challenging but this social event was much enjoyed by all attendees with a number of new members for CARA being generated by the occasion!

5- Annual General Meeting 2022

Circus Area Residents Association Limited

Annual General Meeting

All members and associate members of CARA are, with pleasure, invited to attend our Annual General Meeting which will be held:

at 6pm on Thursday 29th September 2022

at

Cafe Lucca, St Andrews Terrace.

(Refreshments will be provided!)

Note: An agenda, together with accompanying documents, will be issued at least two weeks prior to the AGM.

CARA Committee 2022

Our email addresses are on our website www.carabath.com

Malcolm Baldwin	Chairman / Traffic	Sabrina Earnshaw	Secretary / Public Realm
George Feiger	Vice Chairman / Planning	Rosie Tunstall	Social Secretary
Mike Richardson	Treasurer	Karen Baldwin	Community Care / FoBRA

