



CARA Bulletin

22 April 2018

Local issues

- **Policing.** A CARA Committee member has raised, following the recent spate of break-ins and burglaries, the very legitimate concern about the lack of visible policing in the CARA area and in Bath more generally. You might have seen Lucy Simon's letter in the Bath Chronicle on the same topic. As a result, CARA has written to a wide range of people of influence locally including Wera Hobhouse, MP, Tim Warren, Leader of the Council, and Ashley Ayre, CEO of the Council, to raise its concern. Two of these recipients serve on the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel (and have raised the issue, we understand, with Sue Mountstevens, the local Police & Crime Commissioner) and the local Independent Advisory Group. We wonder whether the closure of the Manvers Street Police Station is a contributory factor (although we recognise that there is a Police Desk in the One Stop Shop in Manvers Street and a new Police Station on the Lower Bristol Road). That said, there was only a 6-minute response time with each of the recent break-ins, at Beau Nash and at the Museum of East Asian Art, but the thieves were in, out and gone before the Police arrived.

It is, we believe, worth repeating an extract of the response from the Chief Inspector, who is the B&NES Local Policing Area Commander:

"With regard to crime and anti-social behaviour, despite being a 'World Heritage City' Bath is not immune to the crime trends and behaviours that all our cities experience. Nationally crime has risen by 13% recently. In B&NES in the last year (16/17 compared with 17/18 financial year) crime rose by 3.4 % (397 offences). In the city centre it rose by 1.1% (33 offences). Any rise is not acceptable and we do all we can with the resources we have to prevent, reduce and detect crime. Rest assured that locally we are attune to the status of Bath as a major tourist destination. Action is taken against aggressive begging and anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately Bath provides rich pickings for the 'street community' and Bath is attractive to them. We work with the local authority and charities to divert people away from this lifestyle and take appropriate enforcement action. Homelessness is however a growing national problem and not one that can or should be solved by the police alone.

We have had significant success in disrupting the local drugs market that fuels many types of crime. Again Bath is not exempt from national trends which have seen drug dealers from London come to places like Bath and other more rural towns to establish themselves and widen their networks. We rely on information from the public and whilst we may not always be able to guarantee a swift response all information contributes towards building the bigger picture and a stronger evidential base on which we can and do take action.

I am sorry that your residents feel unsettled by what they have seen and heard recently. Bath really is a safe place to live and work and the police together with the local authority and other partners do all we can to keep it that way despite some significant challenges."

David Simon and your Chairman have been asked to speak at the Council's relevant Scrutiny Panel on 12th July, and also been asked if we would like to accompany the Police on various 'ridealongs' with the local Neighbourhood Team Leader to see policing in action. We welcome input from any member of CARA in advance of these events. Please contact barry@barrygilbertson.com and/or gallery@davidsimoncontemporary.com.

- **Street trading.** B&NES Council is reviewing its policy on Street Trading and is keen to engage with stall holders, residents, businesses and other stakeholders to ensure that this revision is comprehensive and supportive of local strategies. B&NES is also exploring the development of markets which it hopes will increase the vibrancy of our streets and support local businesses. B&NES welcomes comments on this policy online via <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/consultations/street-trading-policy-review>. Draft copies of the policy are available on this webpage, along with copies of the conditions and guidance notes. If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please telephone 01225 477533.

The consultation will run from 11 April to 6 June inclusive. After this 8 week period, all comments will be reviewed and the final version of the policy will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet for approval.

- **B&NES Plant sales.** Did you know that B&NES Parks and Green Spaces department opens its doors to the public once a month with a pop-up plant shop? The next sale date is Sunday 20th May from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at Royal Victoria Park Nursery. Other dates are shown at right. For further details, please see <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks-green-spaces-information/plant-sales-royal-victoria-park>.
- **Gulls.** Urban gulls are an issue for many towns and cities throughout the South West. To address the problem in Bath, B&NES has agreed further funding for its programme of egg and nest removal (previously delivered in 2016 and 2017). Residents and businesses in Abbey Ward, amongst others, are eligible for free roof treatment. For further details, please see <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pests-and-infestation/gulls>.
- **Christmas Market 2018.** Visit Bath (VB), the event organiser of the Bath Christmas Market, has announced that the 2018 Bath Christmas Market will run from Thursday 22nd November to Sunday 9th December. Confirmation of the 2018 dates coincided with the announcement that an estimated 409,000 people visited the event in 2017 and that the spend was an estimated £10.7 million within the market (supporting over 200 stallholders) and an estimated spend of £29.4 million outside of the market. CARA has advised previously that, like 2017, the market's footprint will need to be expanded this year due to the proposed works at Abbey 'Footprint' project and the adjacent 'Archway' project. VB plans to locate stalls in the (temporarily closed for the purpose) Milsom Street, but apparently not in Queen Square nor (after lobbying by CARA and other Residents Associations) in Royal Avenue.



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PLANT SALES

15th April	20th May
10th June	8th July
12th August	16th September

10am - 4pm
ROYAL VICTORIA PARK NURSERY, MARLBOROUGH LANE, BAT 2LZ