



CIRA Bulletin

27 July 2018

Consultations/updates

- **More Resident Parking Places secured.** CIRA has negotiated with B&NES Council to secure additional parking spaces in the CIRA area. B&NES is now consulting on the proposals which will introduce additional 'Central Permit Holder Only' bays in The Circus across the whole of the North and South-East terraces (roughly 15 more spaces) and an additional 4 'Central Permit Holder Only' bays in Bennett Street. These will operate Monday to Saturday between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the draft order which, together with a map and a Statement of the Council's Reasons for proposing to make the order, may be inspected at any one of B&NES' One Stop Shops. Please see <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/highway-improvements-traffic-management/traffic-regulation-11> for more details.

Objections and representations with respect to the proposal, together with the grounds on which they are made must be sent by 16th August 2018, or by email to transportation@bathnes.gov.uk.

We encourage members to support this proposal which removes on-street 'pay' parking spaces for the general public and introduces more badly needed 'residents only' parking spaces.

- **Update on Traffic Management Scheme.** CIRA seeks to achieve the optimal traffic volume for local residents. For many years, we have sought to reduce car traffic and eradicate coach traffic. Our efforts have been rewarded with a proposed trial Traffic Management Scheme (TMS) banning coaches from the CIRA area, restricting Gay Street to one-way traffic and introducing loading restrictions to facilitate traffic flow in George Street and reduce 'rat-run' traffic in the CIRA area. As previously advised, B&NES has budgetary approval for the scheme and is now working through the final details before 'going live'. Progress has, unfortunately, been slower than expected but we have just met with the council officers implementing the TMS and pushed for an early completion.

Local issues

- **Littering.** B&NES is introducing tough new fines for people who are caught dropping litter, fly-tipping or dumping their household rubbish by public bins. From Tuesday July 17th:
 - anyone caught dropping litter, including cigarette ends, will be handed a £150 Fixed Penalty Notice.
 - anyone caught fly-tipping, or disposing of bags of household or business rubbish next to public bins, will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Fine up to £400 or, on summary conviction, a fine of up to £50,000.

Stickers and posters advising people about the hefty new fines are going onto council bins as part of B&NES' continued work to encourage people not to litter the city, surrounding towns and countryside. Money from the Fixed Penalty Notices will be kept by the council to help cover the costs of enforcing and clearing up litter.

If a bin is full please report it on fix.bathnes.gov.uk or and quote the bin location number or call 01225 394041 or visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit.

- **The Circus Owl.** If you haven't already experienced it, do drop in on the Owl which has been installed in the middle of The Circus, opposite Brock Street. You may have to queue, such is its popularity!

Unlike many of the different Owls, permeating the streets of Bath (in daylight), "our" Owl is notably tasteful, if slightly sinister. It is not really ours, actually, having been sponsored and creatively evolved by a local firm called Complete Control. A very talented organisation, judging by its website, which is worth a look by itself: <https://www.completecontrol.co.uk/>

And the Circus Owl is actually a bird of play. It's a bit of fun to visit it, and even more so with someone else to act as its victim (it's quite safe, really). Because its glass eye conceals an interesting way it looks at things - a little like a giant fly's view. You can experience this by way of a device - a sort of eyepiece - which interprets the Owl's sensory perceptions from behind its head, and different aspects of it can be seen by gentle rotation of the end of this tube.

Gentle treatment is however necessary - the poor Owl had to go to an eye hospital in Salisbury for a few days recently, because this eyepiece had been damaged by rough handling.

If it's raining (at last), you could get an idea of the Circus Owl from the Complete Control website (above), but a visit in person is highly recommended. Go soon, though, because all the Owls have to fly away in September.

- **The High Common.** The Cavendish Road Society, a neighbouring Residents Association, has approached us for assistance in progressing their use of the High Common (now also known as the Approach Golf Course) for a small summer gathering for the society. Their initial application to B&NES to use the High Common has been refused as the council officers believe that this land has restricted access, limited to three pathways only.

The Cavendish Road Society believes that, for many years, local people have co-existed alongside the golfers in using the High Common for informal recreation. This includes picnics, ball games, dog walking and other activities.

The Cavendish Road Society is asking nearby residents for assistance. Have you used/do you use the High Common for recreational purposes other than golf? Do you have photos that you would be willing to share? If so, please let us know the details and we will liaise with The Cavendish Road Society. Please e-mail Richard Brown of CARA on mailbox@rbrown.co.uk.

- **HMO licensing.** The extension of Mandatory House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing comes into force on October 1st. The Government has now issued guidance to local authorities on the implementation of this Licensing. It extends Licensing to all HMOs with five or more occupants (if they are in two or more households), regardless of the number of storeys of the property (until now, it had to be three or more storeys).

New mandatory conditions to be included in licences have also been introduced, prescribing national minimum sizes for rooms used as sleeping accommodation and requiring landlords to adhere to council refuse schemes.

The extension of HMO licensing will not prevent new HMOs but, hopefully, it will discourage prospective landlords, it may change the minds of existing landlords (who are facing other restrictions) and it will crack down on many poor landlords. And it will increase the means of identifying numbers of HMOs.

For the HMO guidance, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/houses-in-multiple-occupation-and-residential-property-licensing-reform-guidance-for-local-housing-authorities>

