



CARA News

Spring 2019

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

Why join CARA? 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.

From the Chairman's laptop

Welcome to our latest issue of CARA News. Due to the popularity of the earlier colour-printed issues, and with so much going on, we have continued our four pages format. As last time, we are distributing a copy to all homes and businesses within our catchment area, not just CARA members. **So, if this copy was put through your front door, you are eligible to join CARA – only £7.50 per household per year, with details at the foot of this Newsletter.** Your support enables us to work on your behalf to improve things in our community, alongside our adjacent residents associations. You will see new dates for your diary in this Newsletter – do come and join in, at social events and the 'business' meetings.

As a Residents Association, we exist only to represent you, and other people living locally. There are various opportunities to meet up, to be sociable or to raise issues that concern you. Do come along – you will be made very welcome.

With my thanks to everyone involved in the production and distribution of this Newsletter. We all hope that you enjoy reading it and learning more about what the Committee are doing on your behalf. Do you have any new ideas for action or concerns? Just e-mail one of the Committee and we will explore how best we can help.

Barry Gilbertson, Chairman CARA, 2016-2020

Talking business, we could be open to local businesses sponsoring the production of the Newsletter – does that interest you? We could include a quarter- or half-page advert in recognition of your support. You would be surprised how little it costs, perhaps £50 for a half page. Contact one of the Committee by e-mail if you would like to discuss.

Update on our priorities for 2018/19 (See AGM below for 2019/20 Priorities)

1. **Traffic management.** We are pleased to announce that, after over 20 years of effort by CARA and its members, B&NES Council introduced a bus restriction (including coaches) in The Circus area on May 2nd 2019. New signage at the end of Gay Street, Bennett Street, Rivers Street, Gloucester Street, Upper Church Street and Crescent Lane limits access to 'authorised buses' only. The only permitted coaches within the area will be those accessing the Assembly Rooms for events/tours. Also, as the red hop-on hop-off tour buses are a regulated bus service (as well as for tourists) there is little we can do about their presence.



For further details, please visit: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/highway-improvements-traffic-management/traffic-regulation-11>.

We are hopeful that this coach restriction will improve the environment for local residents. However, as a traffic regulation order, much will depend on enforcement (a police matter). Whilst we shall work to ensure that coach firms are advised of the ban so that they can amend their routes accordingly, we may see coaches particularly in the early stages of the ban. If you do see one, please note the coach company name and the date and forward same to Richard Brown at mailbox@rbrown.co.uk. We shall take the matter forward.

CARA's work on traffic management has been a multi-year effort by many committee members, past and present. We thank all who have played a part; without their contribution, we could not have achieved the coach ban, which (as I am sure you have noticed) has already made a significant difference to our lives.

2. **Air pollution.** B&NES Council will be introducing a 'Class C' Clean Air Zone in 2020. This is to meet the requirement for the Council to achieve compliance with Nitrogen Dioxide limits 'in the shortest possible time' and by 2021 at the latest.

This 'Class C' Clean Air Zone will charge drivers of all higher emission vehicles, except cars, to drive in the zone. Charges are as follows:

- £100/day for higher emission buses, coaches and HGVs
- £9/day for higher emission LGVs/vans, private hire vehicles and taxis

Unlike the original intent by the Council to charge drivers of higher emission cars – called a Class D zone - there will be no charge on higher emission cars. However, to ensure that the lower part of Gay Street, a high pollution area, does see improvement in air quality, the Council will install new traffic lights at the other junctions on Queen Square. This is designed to delay traffic in this area and incentivize drivers to use other routes.

Please note that all of the CARA area will fall within the clean air zone.

Other local issues

- **AGM.** On 9th May, CARA welcomed over 40 residents to its Annual General Meeting. The Chairman, Barry Gilbertson, presented a report on CARA's many and various activities over the last year. In addition, CARA members identified priorities for the next year as: *Traffic Management, Parking, The Circus lawn (care and maintenance) and Public Realm.*

The new committee elected was Barry Gilbertson (Chairman), Richard Brown (Vice Chairman), Bernard Horn (Secretary), Mike Richardson (Treasurer), Malcolm Baldwin, George Feiger, Anne Love and Ron Temperton.

Following the AGM, members enjoyed food and refreshments, giving everyone a chance to chat and to meet the Committee informally. We think that a good time was had by all, don't you ?

- **New electoral ward councillors.** At the B&NES Council ward election on May 2nd, Andy Furse and Sue Craig (both Liberal Democrats) were elected to represent the new, enlarged Kingsmead Ward and Mark William Elliott and Lucy Jane Hodge (both Liberal Democrats) were elected to represent the amended Lansdown Ward. CARA's catchment area sits within both wards giving CARA access to four councillors rather than two previously in the former Abbey Ward. CARA is a non-political association and looks forward to working with all councillors to benefit its members and other local residents.

- **Visitor Parking permits.** In March, we advised that CARA has, along with two of our neighbouring residents associations, secured new visitor parking arrangements for our members and other local residents.

Since 4th March, residents have, under a 12-month trial, been able to apply for electronic visitor parking permits that they can use for their guests to park in the Lower Lansdown Central Zone. Residents will be eligible for up to 100 hours per annum of visitor parking permits. The cost will be only 10 pence per hour (compared to the existing CARA-only scheme at £5 per day). These arrangements will replace the previous paper-based permits available (note: existing paper Visitor Parking permits will remain valid until the expiry date printed on the permit).

For further details on how to register and how to use the electronic visitor parking permits, please visit: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/bathnes_leaflet_residentsvisitors_002.pdf.

- **Litter enforcement.** In February, we advised that B&NES Council has awarded a new Environmental Crime and Enforcement contract to company 3GS to tackle litter. Since March 1st, litter and dog fouling enforcement officers have been working across B&NES and will issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) to people who deliberately litter streets, parks and public places.

Under the 12-month agreement, which is at zero cost to the council, 3GS enforcement officers are working from 7am to 7pm seven days a week. It is operating a fixed fee model, which limits what 3GS can earn from the enforcement contract. Any funds received above cost will be passed on to the council or used by 3GS for education and promotional purposes. Last July the council adopted the maximum £150 FPN for dropping litter, including cigarette ends and people, caught on camera, throwing litter from vehicles. Anyone caught fly-tipping in the area can be issued with a FPN up to £400.

For full details, please visit: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/latestnews/council-awards-litter-enforcement-contract-3gs>

- **Road re-surfacing.** Following a discussion in our Committee and a subsequent request to B&NES Council, the Highways Team will be reconstructing and resurfacing the Circus road commencing Monday 17th June 2019. Work will be carried out under a road closure between 09.00 and 19.00 hrs. It is expected to take up to 5 days to complete. The road closures will mean restricted access, diversion routes and parking suspension. B&NES is delivering advance notification of the resurfacing works with full details to local houses.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/roadworks/major-transport-schemes/carriageway-resurfacing>

- **CARA Litter Pick.** CARA volunteers undertake occasional litter picking to help keep our neighbourhood clean. Would you be interested in helping? If so, please e-mail: barry@barrygilbertson.com. Our litter pick earlier this year filled 11 sacks in an hour. Thanks to all who took part.

- **Trees and Grass in The Circus.** The 5 London Plane trees in The Circus date to the very early 19th century and were planted thanks to the financial contribution of many Circus owners at that time. The trees are now at record heights and their dominance over The Circus buildings (and, to some, the mere presence of the trees) has created much debate over the years. Indeed, in 1961, Bath Parks Committee considered, but voted against, removing the trees despite the City Planning Officer noting that they were 'out of scale'. Some minor tree management was undertaken last year but we continue to ask B&NES to undertake more meaningful tree management to ensure that these trees remain healthy and safe to all. This includes minor raising of the lower canopy of the trees to allow views across The Circus.

Further, we are investigating how we can improve the general condition and appearance of the Circus lawn.

- **New Social Events Team.** Following our Social Secretary, Jackie Hampton stepping down at the AGM after four years of exemplary service, we are delighted to announce that we have a new Social Events Team of (in alphabetical order) Caroline Brown, Rosemarie Tunstall and Santosh Chaston. Rather than sit on our Committee the team will report regularly to the Chairman and the Secretary, who report onwards to the CARA Committee. Their first event is the Georgian Garden Summer Drinks Party – see below. Do please come and join us, and thereby encourage our new team. Thanks.

Future CARA social events

- **Ladies social:** CARA Ladies meet on the last Thursday of each month at Hall and Woodhouse. Starts at 6pm. No need to book; just turn up. Please feel free to bring your friends (CARA membership not essential).
- **Georgian Garden Summer Drinks Party:** Thursday 13th June at 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm at the Georgian Garden at rear of No.4 The Circus, access from Gravel Walk. Please join us for drinks (including soft drinks), canapés and the opportunity to socialise with your local community in the beautiful setting of the Georgian Garden. Cost: £20 per person for members and guests. Please send your name/contact details and payment (cheques payable to CARA, or cash) to Rosemarie Tunstall, 10, The Circus, Bath, BA1 2EW.

Please book before 7th June. Looking forward to seeing you – if you have not been before you will be made very welcome.

CARA Committee 2019/20		Our email addresses are on our website www.carabath.com	
Barry Gilbertson	Chairman	Bernard Horn	Secretary
Richard Brown	Vice Chairman/Traffic	Anne Love	Waste
Malcolm Baldwin	FoBRA	Mike Richardson	Treasurer
George Feiger	Traffic	Ron Temperton	City Centre Action Group

CIRCUS AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (CARA) Membership form

I wish to join CARA.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____

STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION FORM

Please complete details to instruct your Bank/Building Society to make a standing order payment. We will do the rest.

To the Manager, Bank/Building Society _____

Postal Address _____ Post Code _____

Name of Account to be debited _____

Sort Code _____ Account Number _____

Please pay to the credit of CIRCUS AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED at Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 47 Milsom Street, Bath, BA1 1DN, Sort Code: 30 90 54 Account No: 56601468 on receipt of this order and on 1st April each year the sum of £7.50. I will inform the Bank/Building Society in writing if I wish to cancel this instruction.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please cut out and return the form to Mike Richardson, CARA Treasurer, 10 Crescent Lane, Bath, BA1 2PU