

Update Report District Councillor – March 2024.

Bridget Petty

A number of different aspects of Backwell life and the needs of the residents are provided in this councillor update.

I continue to liaise with the Tree team at NSC regarding Tree Protection Orders for trees and hedgerow habitat at Moor Lane and Long Thorn, this is taking up the request from a local resident.

I met with Mike Bell and Mark Canniford after the Grove Farm and Burnt Farm application deadline to highlight the level of community engagement and concern over this site and it being allocated in the Local Plan. I asked them to review if there might be scope to have it removed, especially if they choose to take this version of the local plan out to consult again. I also submitted a detailed objection to Grove Farm and reminded residents to also comment if they so wishes.

I met with Hannah Young to discuss the latest status of BSIP proposals in Backwell, Given the scale of concern about the Dark Lane one-way system I lobbied that this was not the right solution for Backwell. She was then going away but I expect the coming month to bring some clarity and thinking it is very unlikely this proposal will go any further. This does not mean transport hubs should not be considered and potential improvements to the A370 and Station Road to support walking, cycling and bus use in our communities.

I am working with Green Party Councillors and others (Barbara Harland and PCAA) regarding the change in the latest version of the Local Plan to take Bristol Airport out of the Green Belt, it is felt this is not in the best interest of Backwell residents, the surrounding landscape and the protection that Green Belt status provided.

I sent further email to chase signs for Chapel Hill/Backwell Bow that better highlight the risk of water levels under the railway bridge, ideally with a height marker to limit the number of accidents drivers get into there after heavy rain.

I have alerted Enforcement that there is some concern about the site at the end of the Backwell Common and Backwell Bow, where it is possible to see that some trees have been felled and landscaping taking place.

I have reported blocked drains up at Church Town but am sure heavy rain will mean many drains are at capacity or need a clean. This can be easily reported online and I really recommend it, likewise reporting of potholes.

NSC proposed a reduction from National speed limits on Backwell Bow/Common, I have petitioned for this to be lower than 40mph. I have been informed that Department of Transport guidelines are rigid and a council can not easily move away from. This is highly frustrating and may need a different approach to resolution. 40mph is better than remaining at national speed limit.

Chased officers around bus stops for Downside Road residents – this is three-fold –

1. Safety of Home to School Transport children on Downside Road (near The Batch) – no answer yet as forwarded to different team member.

2. Opportunities for the A3 to have a stop on Downside Road -the officers will be meet with the Airport this week, the airport runs the A3 bus and decides, he said in the past they haven't been interested to add stops but he will come back to me.

3. Clear information about how bus stops will be positioned and signed during the current works at A38 junction with Downside Road. Carl knows it has been damaged and it is currently an insurance claim, waiting to add a new shelter or flag. He said 'We have had no reports of buses not serving this stop since the shelter/flag have been removed.' If people are NOT picked up then please contact the district councillor or NS Customer Service so it is logged.

Myself, Bob T and Bob M met with the airport, we agreed that potentially if I worked with Bob T to list the signage we thought would benefit the community in the surrounding area we could approach NSC Highways (David B) to discuss then BPC decide if this is a suitable application to the community fund to cover the cost of local roads signage to improve safety for local residents.

I am in the process of reviewing the new Airport Environmental and Amenity Improvement Fund (AEAIF) terms as this is the new version of the Airport community fund following the planning permission. It is due to be discussed in March 2024, then applications will be received based on the new criteria. Details to follow and I expect the airport staff to update the website with the information.

A number of parking restrictions that have been long awaited have been confirmed and I expect these to be implemented in the next few months.

Backwell

Street Name	Description of Proposals	
Moor Lane	Make existing parking restrictions permanent	
Oatfield	Double Yellow Lines around all the junctions	