

# People Against Bureaucracy Group



## Members' News Sheet

Dear Members and Supporters,

June 2024

### **CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

Well done the Prestbury Team and to Stan Smith for winning the Prestbury seat in the recent local elections. The win was even more delightful when one compares the quality of the PAB literature against that of the Green candidates.

### **THE GREEN BELT AND UP HATHERLEY WAY.**

The Green Belt is a policy for controlling urban growth. The amount of Green Belt in the total land mass for England is approximately 12% much of which is in Gloucestershire, so its continual preservation is important.

The creeping development that is taking place along Up Hatherley Way needs to be challenged in a very strong and serious way by those who represent us.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out quite clearly what would constitute appropriate development in the Green Belt and no way does the development on the south side of Up Hatherley Way meet the requirement.

### **CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP WEEK.**

Whilst the 'residents only' parking restrictions were successful in the Swindon Lane/St Nicholas Drive area, we were disappointed to learn that there was still unacceptable levels of bad behaviour by some racegoers in this area during the race week.

Discussions have been held with Racecourse representatives and it looks as though further improvements to the situation will be undertaken before the next 'big meeting'.

The occasional 'police presence' would be a welcome sight.

### **PRESTBURY HIGH STREET WALL.**

The Cotswold stone wall in the High Street has, as a result of tree roots from a Holm Oak, been bowing towards the pavement and is considered a danger to the public.

Following negotiations between Cllr Bassett-Smith, CBC and the owner, it has been agreed to remove the tree and the wall repaired sometime during the summer months.

### **CAVENDISH HOUSE.**

The Promenade without Cavendish House is like 'a king without a crown'.

Established in 1823, it soon became well-known across the country and played a large part in establishing Cheltenham's reputation as a leading shopping centre.

Cav, as it was known affectionately by local people, closed in April 2024, after 201 years.

### **SANDFORD PARK.**

With thanks to Friends of Sandford Park, we can report that a new lighting scheme has been installed, which makes it safer for pedestrians and cyclists who use these routes to and from the town centre.

Plans for the lighting came about following a petition containing 1,540 signatures to Cheltenham Borough Council in 2022.

It will make the pathways more usable and safer.

### **PAB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The AGM was held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May but the attendance was down on previous years, which was disappointing. Perhaps the answer is to hold the meeting in the afternoon. Any comments on this would be welcome.

Members attending heard that good teamwork produced two excellent election successes in spite of the determined and hostile opposition, which included untruthful comments from one of the PAB's opponents in the recent local elections.

PAB Councillor Stan Smith set out a clear view of his continuing role in taking local concerns to the heart of Cheltenham Borough Council.

Any comments would be welcome – please write to [pab.admin@pab.org.uk](mailto:pab.admin@pab.org.uk)

### **PRIORS ROAD – PRESTBURY.**

Good news from Councillor Ian Bassett-Smith who reports that Priors Road has been given top priority for resurfacing this month. Possible dates for the resurfacing are 17<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> June. Please note traffic diversions will be in place.

### **180 NEW HOMES ON CHELTENHAM-OWNED LAND.**

We understand that a Tewkesbury-based building company have purchased two parcels of land owned by Cheltenham Borough Council and the County Council on land on the Old Gloucester Road in Cheltenham.

This development, if it is on brown field land, would provide a much-needed range of affordable houses, which would be most welcome, but if the land is in the green belt, then the application may not get planning permission.

### **ANNUAL CHEESE ROLLING AT COOPERS HILL 2024.**

In spite of a number of injuries last year and a police warning that the event is unsafe, the annual cheese rolling event took place on Coopers Hill on Bank Holiday Monday (May 27<sup>th</sup>). Once again dozens of people chased a big wheel of cheese down a very steep hill, and like previous years, a number of participants suffered injuries, but none serious, we understand.

### **RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW.**

The world's greatest flower show was opened in May for a week and was up to its usual high standard. How the contributors can produce such wonderful creations in just three weeks is simply remarkable.

It is always worth a visit so make a note for a visit next year.

### **WINCHCOMBE STREET REDEVELOPMENT.**

We understand the parade of shops with offices above in Winchcombe Street came under the hammer at auction last month.

In its place will be a hotel we understand, which will be an interesting project.

### **PRESTBURY PARISH PLAYING FIELDS.**

A project involving new works and conversion of parts of the existing community building is taking shape on the parish playing fields.

The works will include a facility for the Little Explorers play group and other improvements.

### **JOTTINGS.**

The marquees outside 131, The Promenade have now been removed.

Gloucestershire's poor ambulance response times to be reported to Secretary of State.

Disappointing that Idsall Drive car park could not be retained as a valuable village asset.

The County Council have declared a timescale for traffic measures in Hatherley Lane.

VISIT THE PAB WEB SITE: [www.pab.org.uk](http://www.pab.org.uk)

**PAB ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY**