

People Against Bureaucracy Group



Members' News Sheet



Dear Members and Supporters

December 2024

Our Heartfelt Thanks go to Les Godwin For over 48 years of dedication to PAB



We make no apology for starting this edition by paying a HUGE tribute to our great friend and colleague, Les Godwin. Reluctantly, in his mid nineties, Les has stood down from both the PAB Committee and from his role as compiler and editor of the bimonthly newsletter.

As most of you will know there simply would not have been a PAB without Les. He was its founder, its spirit, its energy and although he has recruited many fine people to work alongside him over the last 48 years, still for the vast majority of members PAB will always be Les.

Les, we thank you for the vast amount of work you have put into supporting our members, our voters, our supporters and the Borough - you most certainly have made a big difference to Cheltenham.

Thank you and thank you Pam for your unfailing support and drive.

Closure of Swindon Road Recycling Centre in January

You may have heard the news already that the Swindon Road household recycling centre will close on 10th January. At this stage, it is not known whether this is a temporary or permanent closure. It will depend on the outcome of any agreement between Cheltenham Borough Council, who currently run the site, and Gloucestershire County Council.

Wall Repaired - Prestbury High Street

After some considerable time, the north side footpath between Noverton Lane mini-roundabout and the War Memorial is now fully opened again following the removal of a large tree and the repair of the leaning stone wall. Our thanks go to all those involved in helping to achieve a successful outcome, including PAB councillors past and present.



Racecourse Roundabout

The contractors seem to have completed their work for now in this immediate area. Let us hope that traffic flow is not too badly affected if/when the cycle lane starts being more heavily used with traffic lights controlling the three main entrances to the roundabout. Cllr Smith had to chase up Highways when the first attempt at the new road markings appeared incorrect and was causing confusion to drivers.

Pavilion Coffee Shop

We are very pleased to see that Whiskers Coffee shop, located in the Pavilion at Prestbury Playing Field off New Barn Lane is very popular & such a success. If you wish to support this local business, opening hours are 9am-5pm Monday – Sunday.

Resurfacing of Finchcroft Lane

The much needed resurfacing of Finchcroft Lane was completed on 14th November and should benefit the residents of the six tributary roads.

Prestbury Library – Have Your Say

More library customers in Gloucestershire will be given access to services outside of libraries' core opening hours under plans to introduce new technology. The technology, called 'Open Access' is already on trial and will be introduced to Prestbury Library, among others, next year. Residents are being asked to take part in an online survey to help identify priorities for their local library. For more information and to also take part in the survey before 31 January, please visit the link below:

<https://gloslibraries.uk/news/have-your-say-plans-access-library-services-out-hours>

Racing

We have now (as of November) had the first major race meeting of the season. Although we gather that crowds were high we have not had any reports of major bad behaviour by racegoers in our area. Let us hope that the considerable efforts the racecourse management have made to better supervise their 'walking in' customers are paying dividends.

ICE RINK – IMPERIAL GARDENS

The indoor Ice Rink has returned to Imperial Gardens this year from 29 November until 5 January and includes an on-site cafe.

Evesham Road

Due to road subsidence just before the GWR station heading north, work is currently planned for approximately another 3 months. PAB Councillor Stan Smith has established that Evesham Road from GE to the Racecourse roundabout is currently scheduled for full closure on 6th January 2025 for one day so preparations can be made before the 14 week closure in March after Gold Cup week. The signposted diversionary route will be via Swindon lane and Hyde Lane.

JOTTINGS

PAB endorse the initiative of the cross-party group of Councillors publicising a reminder to apply for Pension Credit in time to get the Winter Fuel Payment if you are eligible. Eligible residents need to apply for Pension Credit by 21st Dec. www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

Just a reminder that PAB is very much in business and their PAB Councillor remains totally committed to taking on residents' concerns in caring for Prestbury throughout his term and not just at election time.



Stan Smith and the Management Committee send seasons greetings to all PAB members & supporters

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PAB ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

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