

People Against Bureaucracy Group



Members' News Sheet

Dear Members and Supporters

March 2025

Swindon Road Recycling Centre - Now Closed

Unfortunately, Swindon Road Recycling Centre has now closed as no agreement could be reached between Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council on who should continue to pay for running the site. To help alleviate the additional pressure on the Wingmore Farm recycling centre, Gloucestershire County Council are considering reverting to a 7 day week opening schedule.

Gold Cup Race Week



On the 4th February, PAB Councillor Stan Smith attended a meeting set up by the management at the Racecourse in anticipation of March Race Week. Firstly, they wanted to assure us there will be a good, strong police presence throughout. In addition more stewards will be on hand to deal with issues quickly and locally. Management are aware that some of the more unacceptable 'events' are caused by walk-in customers (particularly when fueled by alcohol). There will again be tight restrictions on car parking in and around the race course. A new Park & Ride bus service will be tried out from the Arle Court Hub, as well as the one from the train station, in the hope of both reducing walking numbers and car congestion.

The Racecourse is also going to monitor parking in & around Southam & Bishops Cleeve as concerns have been raised in both areas in previous years. Once again this year we get the strong impression the Management are trying really hard to make the influx of people much more acceptable (or at least less unacceptable) to local residents. So if you identify any serious problems do please use the Racecourse contact phone numbers which will be distributed locally or go on the racecourse website to find who to get in touch with. We guess that if they don't hear from us they will assume everything is working well.

Evesham Road

A reminder that after Race Week, Evesham Road between Hyde Lane/Southam Road junction & the New Barn Lane / Swindon Lane roundabout will be subject to temporary closures and diversions for a 14 week period in connection with the Cycle Way work. We believe the signposted diversionary route will be via Swindon Lane and Hyde Lane. We were pleased to note that the earlier and totally separate long term work on the road slip opposite the GWR

station was carried out in a timely and efficient manner and it has to be said very demanding weather conditions.

Old Idsall Road Car park

We were surprised to note that the site of the Idsall Road Car park in Prestbury that was sold in 2024 by Cheltenham Borough Council for £240,000 is now back on the open market for sale at around £650,000 with planning permission for a single dwelling. There are no covenants in place. More details can be found at:

https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/157843223#/?channel=COM_BUY

Opening of New M&S Food Store

The new M&S Food store, located in the Centrum Retail Park, Tewkesbury Road, and sandwiched between Dunelm & The Ranger is anticipated to open its doors on Wednesday 9th April. The store will have a fifty percent bigger floor space than it's predecessor at Kingsditch Retail Park.

Closure of North Place Car Park

North Place car park in Cheltenham town centre closed on 21 February to make way for 147 new homes. Last August Cheltenham Borough Council approved planning permission for this development. There are concerns that the closure of the car park will exacerbate the parking problems within the town, together with the loss of long term income for the council.

Fly-tipping

If you've witnessed littering or public fly-tipping, please contact Cheltenham Borough Council who will arrange for the rubbish to be removed. Gloucestershire police recommend taking a photograph of the discarded items if possible. Incidents of fly-tipping should be reported by contacting CBC on 01242 262626 or via the Website form at :

<https://cheltenham.idoxds.com/dsfx/xp/form/launch?xps=DSFX1740521216864#>

Albemarle Gate car park

We were very pleased to see this small but very useful local car park re-opened. It had been used as a pound for the contractors working on the Cycle Way. The agreement was they would flatten and resurface before handing back and this has been done. We understand CBC has agreed that as in previous years, Friends of Pittville will now be able to use it during Race Week as a pay car park for racing fans. We gather having this facility gives a big boost to FoP funds and the splendid work they organise, as volunteers, in the area. They are always looking for new volunteers.



Visit the PAB web site: www.pab.org.uk
email: cllr.stan.smith@cheltenham.gov.uk
in writing: c/o Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA

PAB ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

Published by Patrick Durkan, Linden Avenue, Prestbury, Cheltenham on behalf of PAB Group.