

People Against Bureaucracy Group



Members' News Sheet

Dear Members and Supporters,

August 2023

Looking for peace and tranquility.

PAB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The AGM was a little delayed this year. Attendance was higher than 2022 but still slightly disappointing in view of the total membership of the PAB Group.

Councillors gave their annual reports. This was followed by a healthy discussion of how PAB should move forward in the world we have today.

Communication was agreed as key to carrying forward successes of previous years.

The view of the meeting was that we should construct a two pronged approach.

1. Continue with our traditional ways of getting in touch with people.
2. Develop an approach through social media type platforms.

The Committee will endeavour to move forward in both areas during the upcoming months, but we still need new ideas and we need help in identifying possible candidates to represent PAB in future local elections.

If PAB is to progress further we need people to come forward.

PITTVILLE PARK.

Cheltenham is lucky, in as much it has several large open parks in various parts of the town. Pittville Park, which is located to the north of the town, is the largest ornamental park in Cheltenham. It was opened in 1825.

The park is divided in two by the A435 Evesham Road.

Most local residents know that the eastern side of the park is overlooked by the Pittville Pump Room, as well as a popular children's play area, which is well-used.

The western park is much larger and has a larger 'lower lake' where fishing is allowed as well as other activities.

One of the main attractions in Pittville Park is its family of swans.

Regular visitors to the park recently found that one of the swans had breathing difficulties and subsequently took the swan to the Wildlife Hospital in Beckford, near Tewkesbury, where a 'bait ball' was removed from the swan's throat.

This prompt action saved the swan's life.

THE PURPLE FLAG AWARD.

Cheltenham has been awarded the Purple Flag for an eighth time.

This is excellent news because the award is only given to towns and cities that have an appealing, safe and a welcoming feel about the place.

The news that Cheltenham has been assessed as excellent and a safe place to live does not surprise local residents.

This situation does not come about by accident, but by the invaluable work and support of the Police, the Cheltenham Guardians, Street Pastors and the Council.

Well done everyone – it is greatly appreciated.

CAERNARVON COURT, UP HATHERLEY.

Readers will remember that we reported on a planning application to build six flats at Caernarvon Court in our April News Sheet. The application was refused.

A revised application has been submitted, but in our view, it still falls short of what would be a satisfactory outcome.

CAR PARKING CHARGES AT CLEEVE HILL QUARRY CAR PARK.

We are told that a fixed car parking tariff of £2 per 24-hour period is to be introduced by the Cleeve Common Trust at the Cleeve Hill quarry., which has been an open space of common land for decades. Apparently, this is to bring it in line with similar charges now planned at the nearby golf club free car park, which is owned by the Cotswold Hub Limited.

FARM LANE AND CHURCH ROAD – LECKHAMPTON.

A scheme to build 30 homes on the outskirts of Cheltenham is soon to be considered by planning inspectors.

The consultants working on the scheme claim they have followed 'robust design principles' on the site and the surrounding area. We shall see.

The plan looks good and we are particularly impressed with the proposal for green open spaces, which will enhance the development.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES TO BE SOLD.

The latest news about the Council offices in the Promenade is that steps are being taken to put the offices on the open market.

The news is not a surprise because the use of the offices over recent years has dropped down to little more than 200 people, using approximately only 25 per cent of the grade II listed building.

FARM SHOP SITE ADJACENT TO THE DISTRIBUTOR ROAD – UP HATHERLEY.

As we thought possible many months ago, the Farm Shop/Car Wash site appears to be getting out of control.

As we all know, the site is in the Green Belt and it now has a coffee shop, as well as a 'bouncy castle' and a fencing operation.

Tewkesbury Borough Council really needs to get their act together and do something about this 'breach of planning control'.

CHELTENAM RACECOURSE.

A planning application has been submitted for a 20m mobile phone mast on the green car park to the west of Evesham Road in Prestbury.

Apparently, a new location is needed to replace the existing radio base station at the Hunting Butts Farm.

A DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE BURGAGE.

Full marks to the 1st Prestbury Cubs who have been raising money for a defibrillator to be installed at The Burgage.

They recently completed a sponsored walk where the target was to walk the equivalent distance from Prestbury to London.

To do this, the two packs, between them, managed to walk 364 laps of the Prestbury Road playing field, or 121 miles, which is very commendable.

The Prestbury Group are also raising money to upgrade their Scout hut, so please support them financially, if you possibly can.

PAB ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

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