

People Against Bureaucracy Group



Members' News Sheet

Dear Members and Supporters,

February 2023

A PLEASANT AND JOYFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.

THE AIR BALLOON PUB – CLOSED.

After decades of talk and speculation, the proposed three-mile dual carriageway will bypass the Air Balloon roundabout and provide an unbroken dual-carriageway from Brockworth to the M4 at Swindon.

Apparently, the Air Balloon pub, which is on the A417 near Birdlip, closed down at 5pm on New Year's Eve, which surprised many people, but confirmed that after decades of talk and the last pint of beer being pulled, it can safely be presumed that the multi-million pound Missing Link project is definitely going ahead.

The £460 million scheme is due to be opened in early 2027.

CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE.

The Cheltenham Festival will remain over four days despite rumours to the contrary.

Following the bad behaviour of some racegoers last March, talks were urgently set up between the Racecourse management, council officials, the Police and local stakeholders.

Plans were drawn up and agreed to deal with any future misbehaviour, and so far so good, but the real test will be during the March Gold Cup week when 260,000 racegoers are expected to attend over the four days.

Any misbehaviour should be reported to the Police and the local authority immediately.

PITTVILLE PARK LAKE.

We were very disappointed to learn that the beautiful swans on the lower lake, lost their cygnets not long after they were born.

Apart from speculation, there is no definite news about their disappearance – were they taken, or did they die?

Now we learn that the two swans who have brought joy to many visitors to the Pittville Park Lake over many years, were severely contaminated after cooking oil polluted the Cheltenham beauty spot.

The Facebook page of the Pittville Swans & Friends, reported that they had removed the swans just before Christmas because dirty cooking oil had polluted the boating lake, which had severely contaminated the swans and some of the ducks.

Who could have done such a thing?

The good news is that the swans are responding well to treatment and should soon be back on Pittville Park Lake.

Late News: We understand the swans are making good progress at a Swan Sanctuary near London although one of the swans was severely contaminated in more than just cooking oil. This meant that the swans had lost their waterproofing, which meant that they found it difficult to swim and they could not fly.

Whilst they may be enjoying the banks of the River Thames, we wish them well and hope to see them back on the Pittville lakes soon.

SEVEN DETACHED HOMES IN BADGEWORTH LANE, SHURDINGTON.

Seven detached homes could be built on a green field site on the edge of Cheltenham if a planning application submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council is approved. The land in question used to be Green Belt land, but was removed from its designation as part of the new Tewkesbury Borough Plan. The development, if approved, would be just across the road from Shurdington C of E Primary School, on a road coming off the A46 Shurdington Road. The planning decision will be interesting, if nothing else.

131 THE PROMENADE.

There are mixed views on whether the marquees at the front of the Georgian Hotel are good or an eyesore.

When their possible retention went before the planning committee, it was refused on the grounds that the marquees were an eyesore and detracted from the elegance of the Georgian buildings behind them.

We understand the planning application has now gone to Appeal.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ OPENS IN BENHALL AVENUE.

Keeley's Kitchen is a family-run independent café and serves breakfast, coffee, homemade bakes and lunch.

It sounds as though it is worth a visit, not least because it is an independently run family business, set up by a lady who has lived in Benhall all her life and, with the help of her family and friends wants to put something back in the community.

We wish Keeley, her family and the café well for the future.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY CHANGES.

Cheltenham Borough Council approves its response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's suggested changes to Ward boundaries.

The electoral review examines current arrangements and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority where necessary. The local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed?
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be where their boundaries are and what they should be called?
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division?

This has been a long process with the views of councillors, Parish Councils, partner organisations and the public being sought. The Council's response to the proposed changes was approved by the majority of councillors.

For Prestbury there are only two minor changes:

- Wheat Grove, Bushel Close and the whole of Furrow Close will now be included in the Prestbury Ward. All three roads are currently within the Parish of Prestbury.
- The whole of the University of Gloucestershire's Pittville Campus will now be in the Pittville Ward; previously about half was in Prestbury.

Changes to the boundaries, if approved, would come into force following the May 2024 Borough Council elections.

THE WORK OF PARISH COUNCILS.

We are often reminded by well-meaning residents that local parish councils should reduce bureaucracy to a minimum and concentrate more on the smaller local items leaving the major issues to Borough and County councillors. We couldn't agree more!

PAB ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY