

People Against Bureaucracy Group



Members' News Sheet

Dear Members and Supporters,

April 2023

... snowdrops and crocuses, followed by lovely golden daffodills – what better start to the forthcoming Springtime?

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 it is now 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.

Following on from the 2022 Festival, which was marred by well-publicised anti-social behaviour, the Jockey Club, in partnership with Cheltenham Borough Council, were determined to address the issues.

A PAB councillor attended a number of meetings and reports that there was a clear determination to make the March 2023 Festival as 'trouble-free' as possible.

From the Prestbury perspective the Festival was a success.

There was no evidence of any inappropriate parking, and only a few reports of public urination. One or two reports of this misbehaviour took place in New Barn Lane.

We are aware that there were a number of other issues that have been fed back to the Jockey Club.

Paddocks Lane, once again, was a focus for taxi drop-offs, often by unregistered taxis.

As many as 10 unregistered taxis in a 40 minute period was commonplace.

Despite previous claims that there would be an increase in toilet facilities, we can report that there was a reduction of these facilities on New Barn Lane compared to last year.

Those that were available were hidden behind a sign on the Campus.

The much publicised 'racecourse marshals' were in evidence, but they did not seem to have much idea of what they were supposed to be doing. Those undertaking traffic control were certainly in need of some training.

MOBILE PHONE MAST – CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE.

A proposed 20metre high mobile phone mast in the Racecourse's 'Green Car Park' has been rejected by the Borough Council.

The formal reason for refusal was: "The proposed mast, by reason of its size, siting and appearance, would have a detrimental impact on the design and character of the area and would result in unacceptable harm to the openness and character of the Green Belt."

It is good to know that the precious Green Belt continues to be protected.

RECENT ROAD CLOSURES IN HATHERLEY ROAD.

In spite of the inconvenience of road closures and diversions, the road works at the junction of Alma Road and Shelbourne Road near Dean Close School, have improved road safety at this much-used junction.

The widening of the traffic island together with footpath improvements will be beneficial to the children using both Dean Close School and Bournside School.

SIX FLATS AT CAERNARVON COURT – UP HATHERLEY.

A planning application to construct six flats behind the shops at Caernarvon Court has been submitted to Cheltenham Borough Council.

The application is for a two-storey block of flats next to the existing parade of shops.

There is no provision for car parking spaces for the occupants, which will put added pressure on the existing retail shops and their customers.

Not a good idea for additional development, we would say.

INVITATION

The Annual General Meeting of the
PAB Group will take place at the
Prestbury Library on Monday, June 12th
Starting at 7.00 p.m.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

NEW BOUNDARY SIGN IN PRESTBURY.

The new boundary sign in Windyridge Road marking the boundary of Prestbury parish has not gone down too well with the residents.

After all, the centre of Prestbury village is more than two miles from Windyridge Road, and the fact that the Boundary Commission might easily revert the area back to Swindon Village should not be forgotten.

ROAD RESURFACING WORK IN PRESTBURY.

PAB Councillors have been in discussion with Gloucestershire Highways in connection with the poor state of several roads in Prestbury. In particular, Finchcroft Lane, Roberts Road, Linden Avenue and Brymore Avenue are in a very poor condition.

In response, Gloucestershire Highways have indicated that the resurfacing of Finchcroft Lane and Roberts Road has been scheduled for the financial year 2024/2025 subject to available resources, but some temporary repairs may be undertaken between now and then.

Meanwhile, we welcome the recent resurfacing of Mill Street.

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATOO AT FAIRFORD.

The three-day event will be held from Friday, July 14th to Sunday, July 16th.

We understand that the dynamic Red Arrows elite display team will be soaring through the Gloucestershire skies once again, and they will be joined by aircraft from other European countries.

Aircraft from the Finnish Air Force, the Lithuanian Air Force and German Army helicopters, will be on static display over the three days, or taking part in some of the flying performances.

180 HOMES COULD BE BUILT ON THE EDGE OF SWINDON VILLAGE.

We understand that plans have been submitted to the Borough Council to build 180 homes at Home Farm on the edge of Swindon Village.

The outline planning application site covers two arable fields in Quat Goose Lane.

This is not good news, especially as the application follows the recent approval to develop 266 homes at Swindon Farm just outside the village.

This new development is to be called Elm Park.

PAB ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

Published by Les Godwin, 10 Long Mynd Avenue, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham.