

People Against Bureaucracy Group



Members' News Sheet

Dear Members and Supporters,

October 2023

Knowledge and understanding are faithful companions.

IDSALL DRIVE CAR PARK.

We understand that Prestbury Parish Council refused to purchase the car park recently, on what can only be described as 'reasonable terms'.

The news that the Liberal Democratic controlled Borough Council are intending to sell the car park for housing is something that the PAB Group will not support.

The car park, which is situated in the centre of the village, has always been valued as a useful community asset and Stan Smith, the PAB candidate will do all he can to protect it.

GIVE STAN SMITH YOUR SUPPORT ON OCTOBER 12th 2023 (see overleaf).

131 THE PROMENADE.

The company appealed against Cheltenham Borough Council's decision to refuse planning and listed building consent for the marquees, but lost its fight to retain them.

The main issue, readers will recall, was the effect the marquees had on the adjacent Grade II Listed Buildings.

The main issue for the Planning Inspector was whether the marquees "...would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area".

Clearly, he did not think so.

Some people will be disappointed, but others will be glad, as we reported in the February issue of the News Sheet.

CYBER PARK – CHELTENHAM.

The town is already a leader in cyber with the presence of the GCHQ establishment.

But the addition of a cyber park in Cheltenham will well and truly establish the town as a hub for the IT industry.

The cyber park will provide more than 12,000 jobs for local people, which is good news for the local economy.

CHARGROVE LANE – UP HATHERLEY.

It was good news to read that Tewkesbury Borough Council's Planning Committee refused planning permission, albeit by just 6 votes to 5, for a new road access off Chargrove Lane.

Chargrove Lane is a narrow lane affording lovely countryside views and is much used by local residents for walking, jogging and cycling.

The new access was stated to be for agricultural purposes, but the scale of it was huge in order to allow for 50 foot long HGV lorries to enter the fields.

If the application had been allowed, it would have meant the removal of some 60 metres of hedgerow, plus the addition of a large hard surfaced turning area within the field.

Many thanks to the six members of the TBC planning committee who saw the good sense in protecting the appearance and amenity of this green belt landscape.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Just to remind everyone that we live in one of the most unique counties in the country. We have two areas of outstanding natural beauty – the Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean, plus a city with a beautiful cathedral and a Regency gem in Cheltenham.

Cheltenham is famous for hosting the world's oldest literature festival, which takes place in October. Many other events of note too.

BUS GATE – STARVEHALL FARM, NEW BARN LANE.

Barley Road was intended to be the "Prestbury Bypass" but Cheltenham Borough Council's planning committee objected to the proposal.

Gloucestershire County Council responded by inserting the Bus Gate. This was designed to allow specific vehicle access only, which included emergency vehicles, utility vehicles, buses and cyclists.

Despite repeated representations from both Borough and County councillors the Bus Gate has remained firmly closed.

Imagine the surprise when to avoid congestion at Tatchley Corner roundabout due to the Marathon, there was a last minute change of route and the Bus Gate, miraculously, was opened. But, like the Red Sea it closed again after the last runner had gone through.

STATE OF THE ROADS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

One of the most favoured subjects on the doorstep is the state of the roads in the County.

Apparently, the County Council have a new "pothole busting jet" that can fix up to 100 potholes in a day.

With the addition of a programme of road resurfacing this summer, we should see quite an improvement in the condition of our roads.

However, the state of some roads after they have been 'repaired' leaves a lot to be desired.

Several potholes are not sealed meaning that the roads easily become pot-holes again very quickly.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME.

Gloucestershire is committed to an ambitious tree planting programme, which hopefully will see enough trees planted by 2030 that the canopy at maturity will be more than enough to cover our area.

This information will confirm the County Council's aim to plant one million trees by 2030 and hopefully will encourage landowners to come forward and offer land during the course of the tree planting project.

JOHN PAYNE.

Sadly, we have to report that due to increased caring responsibilities John has resigned as the Borough Councillor for Prestbury.

John has been an excellent Councillor since 2014. He has helped many local residents during his time as a councillor and brought about many useful changes to the parish.

Thanks John.

BY-ELECTION 12TH OCTOBER 2023.

We are delighted to tell you that Stanley Smith, who lives in New Barn Lane, has kindly agreed to be the PAB candidate in the forthcoming by-election on 12th October.

You will have received Stan's leaflet from which you will appreciate that he is a very capable candidate to carry forward the continuing good work of the PAB group.

Prestbury is a special place and the PAB Group of individuals have kept it so for the past 47 years by putting people and communities before 'party politics' at every opportunity.

Long may it continue.

VISIT THE PAB WEBSITE: www.pab.org.uk

PAB ALWAYS WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

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