

People Against Bureaucracy Group



News Letter - January 2024

Dear Prestbury Residents

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

PRESTBURY BY-ELECTION – 12TH OCTOBER 2023.

Congratulations to Stanley (Stan) Smith for winning the Prestbury by-election. Unfortunately, the turn-out was low, but it attracted a number of political and independent candidates, all claiming to work wonders for Prestbury given the opportunity. PAB is proud to stand on its long record of delivering for residents on matters important to them. Many members will recall our efforts to control the devastating flooding, to protect the Green Belt and to ensure Prestbury concerns were highlighted within the Borough wide Joint Core Strategy plan.

IDSALL DRIVE CAR PARK.

We are very disappointed to report that the purchase of Idsall car park has been rejected by Prestbury Parish Council.

In 2021, Cheltenham Borough Council offered to sell the car park to Prestbury Parish Council for £40,000 which was significantly less than the market value, but this offer was rejected. Recently, after discussions with PAB Councillor Ian Bassett-Smith, the Borough Council again agreed to sell the car park to the parish council for the original offer price of £40,000. This offer was discussed at the parish council meeting on Monday 20th November 2023. However, in spite of the best efforts of Cllr Bassett-Smith, supported by his colleague Cllr Stan Smith and former councillor John Payne, the offer was again rejected by the parish council.

The car park is now likely to be sold at the commercial value and the site as a car park will be lost forever. This is sad news for the village and it's community.

STOP PRESS

Councillor Fifield (County Councillor for Pittville & Prestbury) has organised a petition in the hope of gaining enough local support to reverse the Borough Council's decision to sell Idsall car park. The target is 750 signatures by the end of January to be able to call a meeting of Cheltenham council to review the decision. The PAB group totally support this campaign as part of their ongoing efforts to save this valued village facility. Petitions are available to sign in various ways including:

- a. visiting one of the shops in Prestbury village to sign
- b. visiting tinyurl.com/idsallpetition
- c. emailing your name and address to stephan.fifield@gmail.com

Please sign the petition if you agree that Prestbury should retain Idsall Drive car park as a valuable village asset.

PLANNED MOBILE MAST ON PRESTBURY ROAD.

The planning appeal for the installation of a new mobile mast on Prestbury Road has been dismissed which is good news for local residents.

TRAFFIC WARDEN PATROLS IN PRESTBURY VILLAGE.

For those residents & visitors who park their vehicles in Prestbury village, please be aware that Traffic Wardens are now actively patrolling the Village.

SPEEDING – SOUTHAM ROAD (B4632) ON ENTERING PRESTBURY VILLAGE.

At a meeting between Councillor Stan Smith and the local police, a request has been made for the installation of speed monitors on Southam Road (this includes two wires across the road) which will check the speed of vehicles and record how many are over the speed limit. PAB have also asked for the installation of flashing speed warning signs on entering the 30mph zone, prior to Mill Lane / Mill Street.

REMINDER - PRESTBURY BLACKSMITH LANE ALLOTMENTS RENT INCREASE.

The new prices from 1 April 2024 are: Half plot £35.00 Full plot £55.00

For a full report please go to: prestbury-pc.gov.uk/pc.gov.uk/notices/blacksmith-lane-allotments-rent-increase

HISTORIC LAMP POSTS – PRESTBURY ROAD.

Just in case you didn't know, there are four unusual and historic lamp posts at the lower end of Prestbury Road between Pittville Circus and Windsor Street.

Another unusual fact is that the four lamps are surviving remnants of the Cheltenham District Light Railway which operated an electric tramway service in Cheltenham between 1901 and 1930. The last we heard about the lamps was that they were due for refurbishment in late 2023 and would take 3 months to complete.

PITTVILLE PUMP ROOM STEPS.

Cheltenham Borough Council, with financial help from Friends of Pittville and a grant from the Enover Community Trust, have restored and reinstated the 200 year old steps outside the Pittville Pump Room. This will improve and define the path down the central lawn. This conservation work and much more will enhance the historic landscape at Pittville Park, which will be welcomed by everyone. Friends of Pittville have been foremost in dedicating their efforts to the restoration and maintenance of the Park, which is greatly appreciated.

THE GREEN BELT.

England's 14 Green Belts cover just a tenth (12.4%) of the land mass, but it provides a breath of fresh air for the people who live close to or in these precious areas.

It came as a surprise to read the comments of the chairman of Natural England who suggested that 'building on the Green Belt should be part of the answer to the housing crisis, providing more effort was put into improving the quality of urban green spaces.'

Sound words, but considering there are nearly 300,000 empty properties in England and recently a record number of brownfield sites have been identified that could provide 1.2m homes. It seems that a closer analysis of the situation needs to be undertaken.

There are plenty of options to meet any housing demands without taking the Green Belt.

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.