Batheaston Parish Council

COMMUNITY MATTERS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

A number of issues that require Council attention have been raised consistently, either directly with BPC and/or indirectly through social media channels.

1. **Dog poo bags.** While dog walkers are increasing better at carrying poo bags out of the public space, some dispose them at the first sight of public road / housing, presumably thinking that street cleaners will take care of them from there. B&NES is rolling out an awareness campaign, and a question for Council is whether we believe these can work in the remoteness of some of our public spaces and without a realistic risk of enforcement (see flyer attached).

   Dog poo bags are a common problem across the country and councillors should note that some councils are experimenting with DNA tracing. An option is to issue a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which would allow access to a public space under conditions that dog owners leave a DNA sample at the vet. This allows for DNA checking of discarded poo bags. Fines would be steep to be consequential. PSPOs could be created for Bannerdown Common and Solsbury Hill. Leveraging the microchip framework, a simple dog DNA test costs c£30-50 including database storage. That could be e.g. funded from precept and fines. In addition, micro-chipping is a legal requirement and fines for non-compliance are £500. At those levels, minimal enforcement visibility may possibly be sufficient to make it work.

2. **Public place littering.** While almost certainly perpetrated by different group from the dog walkers, but the mindset is similar to the dog poo bag issue. The fact that all food and drinks these days are wrapped in 1-use plastic and cardboard obviously does not help.

3. **Bikes, motorbikes and 4x4.** As our public spaces have become more attractive and accessible, they are attracting more off-road vehicles (motorised or not). There is the issue of legality of such access in the public space itself, but also the issue of safety on and off of it. Racing down a hill track is obviously great fun, but it creates a real danger for other users of the track, especially where visibility is limited. On Saturday 4/7 there was a near-miss between a motorbike coming down from Bannerdown Common and a 7-year old child taking his pony up the footpath.

Underneath each of these manifestations may be a problem of people who feel no pride in being part of this community. The hard discussion is what BPC can do to remedy that. It must be doubtful that for people with that attitude signage without risk of getting “caught” will have much impact. And asking other residents to act as unpaid bounty hunters is not a valid option. New thinking is required and councillors are asked for their proposals at the September meeting.

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Bath & North East Somerset Council's

anti-littering campaign 2020

Bath and North East Somerset Council will be launching a new anti-littering campaign during July 2020.

Sadly since lockdown has been eased, we have seen a significant increase in litter, mainly in our parks and open spaces. During May and June of this year, our cleansing team dealt with over 120 littering incidents around Bath and North East Somerset.

Littering is illegal, anti-social and has a negative impact on our environment and costs thousands of pounds each year to clear.

We want to keep Bath and North East Somerset looking at its best to ensure our residents are proud of where they live and give a good impression to our visitors.

In order to encourage people not to litter, we will be installing new anti-littering signs in some of our parks and open spaces where littering has become a real problem.

The signs will carry the message 'DON'T BE A TOSSER, please use a bin or take YOUR litter home'. We wanted to make the message clear to people that their rubbish is their responsibility and to advise people that anyone caught littering will be issued a £150 fine.

Please note, these signs are of a temporary nature and will be moved when they no longer have impact.

Initially, will have the signs installed in the following locations:

Keynsham/Saltford

- **Keynsham Memorial Park** – By the café/play park and at the exit to Station Road
- **The Shallows, Saltford** – By the public toilets
- **Mead Lane, Saltford**
- **Bird in the Hand** – along the riverbank

Bath

- **Royal Victoria Park** – The 3 Acre Piece (near the bandstand), Lower Exit to 3 Acre Piece near Marlborough Buildings, BBQ areas next to Botanic Gardens and park offices, Footpath near Cow Lane
- **Brock Street** – By the recycling bins
- **Royal Avenue**
- **Alexandra Park –** By the viewing point
- **Alice Park**
- **Parade Gardens**
- **Pigeon Park and Lower Borough Walls**

If you would like some of these signs for your parish, please contact wastecampaigns@bathnes,gov.uk

Litter pick volunteers needed

We are really grateful for all the time the Womble groups and other volunteers give to litter picking but would like to get more volunteer groups involved in picking up litter from our open spaces, particularly from parks. We are working in partnership with Keynsham Wombles who can provide volunteers with lots of advice and all the equipment needed for litter picking. For more information, please email Erica at womble@transitionkeynsham.org