Backwell has seen a relatively quiet time of late, so we have not provided any bulletins in the last couple of months. However, we thought our members would appreciate a summary of what has happened, and where we stand on major projects prior to the main summer holidays.

**Farleigh Fields (15/P/0315/O)** Following the Inquiry, at Weston in March this year, into the appeal by Charles Church against North Somerset Council’s decision to reject their application for 220 houses, we understand that the Inspector's report is due in July. This will be passed to the Secretary of State, who has the power to either approve or reject it. How long this process will take is not clear, but it will probably be at least September before a final decision will be announced.

**Moor Lane (15/P/1916/O)** The planning application for 65 houses has been approved in principle, but will not be finally granted until all conditions are agreed. The likelihood is that final negotiations have been delayed pending talks on Taylor Wimpey’s plans for a major development on adjoining land to the west (Grove Farm) much of which is controlled by them.

**Coles Quarry** (**16/P/0674/F)** There isstill no movement on a decision about the more recent planning application for industrial units. The developer continues to work on the refurbishment of the old Weighbridge House, at a slow pace.

**Ettrick Garage and Red Cross Hall sites(15/P/2626/F)** Preliminary site works have started here with development anticipated to start this Autumn.

**New Inn site (17/P/0430/F)** Consent has now been granted for 7 new and refurbished houses, which will be added to the two already underway on land immediately to the rear of the old pub. It is hoped that work will start soon on this current eyesore site.

**BT Mast Site (17/P/0233/F**) Disappointingly, NSC has granted permission for 4 dwellings on this remote site on the top of Backwell Hill, with very narrow access including Long Lane and a track.

**Household Waste Recycling Centre and Kerbside Collections** in March BIFFA took over the operation of the Tip and kerbside rubbish/recycling collection.  We attended a Liaison Meeting in May with representatives of Backwell Parish Council, North Somerset Council and BIFFA.  There had been many complaints that skip lorries and kerbside collection vehicles had been operating in Dark Lane during School opening/closing times (8.30-9.00 am and 3.30-4.00 pm) which is specifically prohibited in BIFFA’s contract.  BIFFA has undertaken to correct this – however we understand that significant breaches of this condition have been observed very recently.  If you use Dark Lane at these times please let us know if you see any breaches in this requirement.

Now that the tip is closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and green garden waste bags are no longer being collected, there has inevitably been more traffic during the rest of the week and at weekends.  The Operators appear to have struggled to cope with the increased flow and there has been much adverse comment.  We would be pleased to hear of your experiences, particularly during the last couple of weeks since BIFFA have claimed to have solved their initial operating problems. The weekly kerbside collections seem to have settled down, but again we would welcome any feedback.

**Water Pipeline Project** Bristol Water has closed Church Lane, from the A370 to Dark Lane for approximately 16 weeks (into October) to **through traffic**. During this time residents’ access will be maintained, however there may be times when parking/deliveries will be restricted. Further information is available from customer.services@bristolwater.co.uk or Caroline Granville on 0345 7023797. They hope to carry out much of the work during the Junior School holidays.

**2026 - 36** We have been invited to join the Backwell Parish Council Working Group, which will be looking at the far-reaching planning issues which will affect Backwell. We have been advised that it may also be desirable to update our Neighbourhood Plan in 2018, once we know the outcome of the Farleigh Fields Appeal. Sadly, plans need updating almost as soon they are produced!!

**The new link road**. Several members have pointed out that there have been major queues in both the morning and evening rush hours on the approach to the new roundabout on the A370/ Link road junction. We would welcome any comments on this, which we can pass on the NSC, though the problem may only manifest itself after the summer holidays. The Metro seems to be a long way from completion!

**Membership** Many thanks to all those who have paid their membership for 2017. We now have 376 households as members (our highest ever) which reinforces our case whenever we comment.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.

Best wishes

From your BRA Committee 21st June 2017

Visit our website on [www.backwellresidents.org.uk](http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk)

**Email us at backwellresidents@btinternet.com**