Dear Member

**Farleigh Fields - planning appeal - delay in decision**

There has been what might be a significant development. The lawyer for Charles Church spoke at length at the Inquiry in March this year on housing numbers. Two days of the Inquiry can be condensed into two sentences!! He considered that North Somerset Council (NSC) had a poor record in delivering housing on land with planning permission. He also claimed that NSC had an inadequate supply of land for future housing as set out in their Site Allocations Plan. However, since the Inquiry, NSC has nominated a further 22 sites for more housing (across North Somerset, but none in Backwell), which allows NSC to meet the target for a 5-year land supply. NSC Planning Dept. has brought this to the attention of the Government's Secretary of State (who will make the final decision).

The Sec of State has decided to give the developers 2 weeks to comment/disagree with this conclusion (i.e. up to 13 October).

The Sec of State. has said that he cannot now hit the deadline of 17 October to make his decision, and so has postponed this date to **7 November.** We have no indication of which way the final decision will go.

**Station Road safety measures**

The main characteristics of this road have not changed in 50 years, when traffic levels were a fraction of the current numbers.

Earlier in the year, arising from long-standing public concern about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in Station Road, especially at school in/out times, Backwell Parish Council (BPC), with encouragement from BRA, formed a working party - comprising councillors and three members of the public. This Working Party has been in liaison with North Somerset Council officers and members. After several months of negotiation, and analysis on road safety by NSC, a number of improvements have now been agreed which should go some way towards making this very busy road somewhat safer.

These improvements include:

1. A dropped kerb in Station Road, opposite the existing one at the junction with Embercourt Drive, plus a School Safety Zone Triangle on the road
2. A “Keep Clear” sign on Station Road, opposite the entrance to Backwell School via Meadow Close
3. “Edge of Carriageway” white lines on Station Road running from Embercourt Drive to Backwell Common, to encourage drivers to slow down
4. Hedges on either side of The Crescent to be cut back, and maintained, to give a better area for students to wait by the bus stop
5. “Slow” markings on Station Road on the approaches to the existing pedestrian crossing, near the Westfield Road/Backwell Common junction
6. Dropped kerbs on both sides of Station Road at the Waverley Road junction, to create a safer crossing point
7. Hedges between Waverley Road and the bus stop near the bridge to be cut back to improve visibility
8. A footpath to be created behind the hedge to access the bus stop near the bridge, for those coming from the Waverley estate

BPC will work with NSC to implement these improvements (total cost £7,200) as soon as possible, whilst continuing to fight for more significant changes to this dangerous road.

Best wishes

From your BRA Committee