

Dear Member

We still await the decision on Farleigh Fields, which is expected by February 15th. Meanwhile there are several matters to draw to your attention.

BRA AGM Tuesday 20th Feb at 7pm -9pm Backwell School 6th form Lecture Theatre – entry from Meadow Close. There is ample parking

This has 3 elements:

- The usual matters of any AGM eg committee, accounts etc. This will be kept to a minimum.
- Presentations from planning experts and others on current issues, including the implications of the Farleigh Fields decision (if one has been made by then!!).
- An open forum for members to raise issues and ask questions.

Finance and Membership of BRA

We are delighted that many past and new members have paid up in late 2017 or this year. BRA has recently committed most of its opening level of reserves to the JSP fighting fund, spearheaded by Backwell Parish Council. Exactly what total sums will be needed will only be known when the BPC Working Party, on which BRA has representation, identifies the type and level of professional help needed.

We need to encourage a high membership of BRA to boost our reserves, and to enable our formal professional letters to carry the extra gravitas of representing as many households as possible. Ideally members would pay before the AGM, but if you do bring your payment to the AGM please place it in an envelope, with your membership form, to help with the busy admin immediately before the meeting. However, it is almost certain that more funds will be needed during 2018. We encourage members to recruit friends and neighbours to join BRA.

BRA website <http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk/>

Two items are of note, which can be seen on our website.

Joint Spatial Plan The BRA/ BR Representation can be viewed on the "JSP" tab. This includes the 23-page submission that our planning consultant, Lucy White made on our behalf. She will be a key speaker at the AGM. Additionally, we are expecting Taylor Wimpey to submit a planning application for Grove Farm in the very near future. This will, of course, require a response.

Jan 2018 Newsletter This was delivered to households as a hard copy, but can be viewed in the " Other Info" tab. It contains details of the AGM topics.

Backwell Parish Council Website www.backwell-pc.gov.uk

Members may also like to look at 2 recent updates on the Backwell Parish Council Website, which are at the top of the list of topics on the left-hand list.

Update on Moor Lane 5.2.18 This has some important information on the types of houses, and parking planned for this 65-house site.

BPC response to the Bristol Airport Consultation. This is a comprehensive comment on the various scenarios, from the point of view of Backwell residents. It makes the case for a preference for scenario C, which concentrates this major development on the South side of the airport (away from Downside).

.. and finally, Great Western Rail Franchise The Dept of Transport is carrying out a consultation on what do when our current local rail franchise expires. There is some uncertainty on when this might happen and the possibility of splitting it up has been raised. It has been brought to our attention over concerns that if different companies run the trains in and out of Bristol, this could reduce the number of through trains, especially from Nailsea/Backwell to Paddington. The link below gives access to the 57-page consultation document and how to comment (closing date 21st Feb)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/great-western-rail-franchise>

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM

Best wishes
From your BRA Committee

7th February 2018