Dear Member

We hope everyone has had a good summer. The recess has come to a sudden end! This bulletin covers 4 topics

* Joint Spatial Plan (JSP)
* Land between the Scout Hut and West Leigh Infants School
* Proposals for major development at the Cumberland Basin
* A370 road night closures later this month

Joint Spatial Plan (JSP)

You will recall that this is a Regional Plan which included 700 houses on land around Grove Farm in Backwell. Government Inspectors examined this at hearings in Bath, and produced a brief letter which was highly critical of the proposals. A further, more detailed, letter has now been received which strongly recommends the withdrawal of this JSP. North Somerset Council (NSC) has yet to respond. However, it is inevitable that a Plan will need to be prepared for North Somerset and this could still include significant housing at Backwell and Nailsea. We will keep members informed.

Western Harbour and Cumberland Basin

Bristol City Council has produced a consultation document on a range of possible developments for this area. The 8-page document can be viewed on <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/growth-regeneration/western-harbour/> or can be download here.

The document concentrates on the impact to that local area, and has invited comments by 15.9.19. We did not think it necessary to ask Backwell residents to make individual comments given this is so early in the process. The BRA committee however considers that the major transport requirements of North Somerset have not been given sufficient weight. We have submitted a letter to this effect on behalf of members, which is also attached to this email.

**A Complex Problem**

* The current infrastructure, created in the 1960’s is ageing and expensive to maintain.
* The Maritime Act ensures that vessels are allowed to pass through the locks.
* The Avon Gorge and Suspension Bridge are major landmarks. Historic England has expressed concern over some of the proposals.
* Flooding risk needs to be managed.
* The proposals have attempted to maximise the likely use of walking, cycling and public transport. The capacity for other vehicles will be reduced.
* The area, including the Riverside Garden Centre, will provide 2,500 new homes.
* Bristol has problems with achieving air quality targets already.

**Impact on Backwell**

The Cumberland Basin is a key part of many journeys made by Backwell residents, whether for work, access to the city centre, en route to the M5 North or the M4. It is currently often very congested, and the cause of much frustration.

**Next Steps**

We encourage members to read the proposals, and the accompanying BRA letter. Any future proposals for North Somerset will be affected by decisions on the Cumberland Basin area. We do not think there is a need for immediate action from Backwell residents, but will communicate future developments as they occur.

Land between the Scout Hut and West Leigh Infants School

There is a public footpath between the Scout Hut and West Leigh Infants School which runs close to a hedge with fields on the left. These fields are not in the Green Belt, but are outside the settlement boundary. In the last few days there has been significant activity here with surveyors using poles and theodolites, which suggests that proposals for development could be being prepared. We understand that the field next to the Scout Hut (which adjoins Grove Farm) is in the control of Taylor Wimpey.

Until an application emerges, there is not much point in speculation, apart from noting that any access onto Rodney Road would be adding to a very difficult traffic situation.

A370 Night Closures Mon 23rd Sept to Mon 30th Sept from 8pm to 6am

This will affect the A370 from its junction with Church Lane below The George Pub, up to the junction with the quarry entrance at Stancombe Lane. It will be closed for 6 nights in both directions. Marshals will be present to help with local access requirements. The main task will be carriageway surfacing, along with road markings, signage and drainage improvements. The plans may change as work proceeds. No work will be carried out on Sat and Sun nights.

Village Show – Parish and WI Halls 2pm – 4.30pm Saturday 21st Sept

BRA will have a stall in the WI Hall at this popular event where we will be delighted to meet anyone.