**Dear Member**

This bulletin follows less than a week after the last one, which was exclusively devoted to Coronavirus, which is affecting all of us. For some it is an inconvenience, for others it is a huge medical worry or a looming financial disaster. We hope that our community spirit helps pull us through.

There are also other matters to consider, and with us all spending more time indoors we hope you do not mind this update.

**CORONAVIRUS**

We received several offers of help from members which we have passed onto Backwell Parish Council (BPC). They are keeping a list of volunteers to give help and a note of vulnerable people who might need it.

Cllr. James Cousins from BPC says:

*We are delighted to say that at present we are ahead of the game with an ever-growing list of volunteers and at this stage limited requests for help, this will undoubtedly change and as a community we need to help those that are vulnerable near us where we safely can.*

Many local groups are offering support to the village. St Andrew’s Church has a pastoral group and would like to offer spiritual and emotional support to residents*. Please call the* church office between 9am and 12noon Monday to Friday and speak to Justine our Administrator 01275 463469.

BRA will provide support in this fast-moving crisis wherever we can.

**BRISTOL AIRPORT**

On 10th February North Somerset Council Planning & Regulatory Committee voted 18 to 7 to **REFUSE**plans for Bristol Airport to expand up to 12 million passengers pa.

On 18th March the same committee **RATIFIED** the decision to **REFUSE** expansion 18 votes to 5. The reasons for refusal include the application being against North Somerset’s core strategy in relation to noise, traffic, air quality and emissions, the adverse impact on green belt and inadequate public transport links in addition.  It was noted there is still capacity for the airport to expand by an extra one million people to 10million passengers within its current planning permission. Bristol Airport is likely to appeal to the Secretary of State and there will be a Public Inquiry. The Parish Council Airport Association (PCAA) covers 27 councils in North Somerset. The PCAA is committed to supporting North Somerset Council (NSC) with expertise and legal costs should it be necessary. The PCAA has provided BRA with much valuable research and information, which has enabled us to improve our knowledge of airport matters. BRA has made a donation to the PCAA to acknowledge this.

**CAR PARKING CHARGES**

**NSC is inviting comments on proposals to apply parking charges in many car parks, including some in Nailsea well used by Backwell residents**. This can be seen on:

<https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/carparkreview/consultationHome> .

The link has box ticking in response to questions, but contains a text box where you can make your points in your own words. **BRA has submitted a letter of objection to NSC’s charging proposals, which is attached to this bulletin**.

**Please make your views known to NSC** **by the closing date of Tues, 31st March**

**BRA AGM**

Our AGM was attended by over 100 people, who were treated to some fine aerial shots of the village taken by a drone operated by a member of Backwell Environment Trust. The BRA team and Lucy White (planning consultant), gave an update on major issues, followed by a lively Q and A session. The minutes of the AGM may be viewed on the BRA website under the “Other Information” tab.

**BRA MEMBERSHIP**

We are delighted that more than 300 of our 450 member households have paid their subscriptions for 2020, helping our funds, which were reduced by the fight against the JSP last year. We will almost certainly need to employ further professional help in the next year or so**. We should be very grateful if those who have not yet paid for this year could renew their subscription asap as it will save us reminding you again during the summer!**