**BRA BULLETIN – May 24th 2020**

These are difficult times for all. No one knows what the future rate of infections will be, or the financial impact of the disruption. We hope those most affected will see some improvements in the weeks ahead. Many people have commented on the benefits of Backwell with rural surroundings, yet with good facilities. We are pleased that Backwell Lake has recently re-opened for residents to enjoy.

Much has been on hold in recent weeks, but there are some matters that require an update.

**Update on Local Plan consultation**

Following the demise of the ill-fated West of England Joint Spatial Strategy, North Somerset Council (NSC) has embarked on its own new draft Local Plan (looking ahead up to 2036).

A consultation process was due to start in April, but a combination of the realisation that their earlier attempts at public consultation were flawed, and the Covid-19 disruption has led to a postponement of this process.

We are advised that a two-stage public consultation process will start “in early summer”. Your committee is keen to ensure valuable and informed local opinion is relayed to the NSC Planning Authority at an early stage. We shall ensure our members are told as soon as we have more details of how this consultation process will operate.

**Bristol Airport**

It is strange to look back to earlier this year, when NSC refused permission for Bristol Airport to expand to 12 million passengers pa, given the current almost clear skies. There is however still the outstanding application for Bristol Airport to become a Coordinated Airport. Comments may be made up to Friday 26th June. BRA members were sent a bulletin dedicated to this topic on April 20th, which is attached to this bulletin.

**Backwell Recycling Centre**

There has been much anticipation and concern at the announcement by NSC of the opening of the Recycling Centre on Friday 29th May. At first it will operate very differently. Many similar sites around the country have seen long queues due to social distancing and other requirements. It seems sensible to avoid the Recycling Centre for a couple of weeks if possible. NSC has stated that:

* The centre should only be used if storing at home is a health hazard.
* Only one person will be allowed to get out of the car, and there will be no help to put things in a skip.
* Only one visit per month will be allowed.
* No trailers will be allowed.
* Users must obey social distancing of two metres.
* Users must wear gloves.

It will operate on the former hours and days, but a new ‘odds and evens’ scheme is to be introduced. Different days will be allocated to restrict the number of vehicles using the site. This will be based on the last number on the vehicle’s number plate and whether it is odd or even:

* **Odd:** For example -AB5**9** REY (1,3,5,7,9) - Monday & Saturday.
* **Even:** For example- CD6**2** WST (0,2,4,6,8) - Friday & Sunday.
* **Both:** Odds and Evens are allowed to enter on Tuesday.
* **Backwell is closed on Wednesday & Thursday.**

You can find all of the other rules and policies about travelling to the recycling centre by following this link:

[**https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/waste/recyclingcentres/about-recycling-centres/**](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/waste/recyclingcentres/about-recycling-centres/)

**The operation of the Recycling Centre may change and potential users are encouraged to check the NSC website before going.**

**Backwell Motors**

This site has been closed during the lockdown, but BRA has been provided with its re-opening details as follows:

**Backwell Motors will be re-opening for petrol, shop sales and workshop activities on Tuesday 26th May 2020.**

Please note the revised opening times:

* Monday - Friday - 7am - 6pm.
* Saturdays - 7am - 1pm.
* Sundays - CLOSED.

Measures have been put in place following government guidelines to keep everyone safe. Although the government has given MOT's a 6-month extension, please do not wait until then to book a test as we will have a backlog after the extension period ends.

Best wishes

From your BRA Committee 24th May 2020

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

**Email us at** [**backwellresidents@btinternet.com**](mailto:backwellresidents@btinternet.com)

**N.B. attach airport bulletin**