

Message from your Chairman

It's only six months since we had our inaugural meeting in Bishop Road School. It's amazing that there have been so many issues to deal with in such a short space of time. I thought that we would have plenty of time to set up the society and then every now and then there would be an issue with which the society would get involved with. As it has turned out we've had our hands full with many different important issues to deal with all at once whilst at the same time trying to set up the society.

The big issue of course has been Bristol North Baths, where we have given support to the group of people who have successfully won a breathing space of two years in which to secure the future of the pool.

With regard to planning applications we see our main role as informing local residents but if a matter of principle is involved (such as backlands development) then the committee will respond on behalf of the Society.

We have also raised issues in order to improve our local transport and improve the safety of our roads.

We now have over one hundred members and the numbers are growing all the time. Many thanks to those of you who are supporting us. Please let your friends and neighbours know about the work that we are doing so that they may join as well. The more members we have, the more influence we can have, as well as resources to get things done.

And what about the future? On a practical level we need to get charitable status and then look at joining the Civic Trust. We will also explore the issues surrounding creating a conservation area.

Your Committee

Peter Newland (Chair)
Chris Stephens (Vice-Chair)
Jim Gillespie (Secretary)
David Brown (Treasurer)
Ian Donaldson
Pat Jones
Chris McConnell
Nigel Tibbs

Planning Report

We have a system in place to regularly check the planning lists to see what planning applications have been submitted for our area. If we feel that an application is of greater concern than to the immediate neighbours, who would be advised by the planning department in any case, then we let a wider area of people know.

Recent known outcomes include:-

- Land next to Bristol North Baths: Planning permission has been given to convert this land into a car park to offset the car parking to be lost by the creation of the new bus lane.
- 4 Berkeley Road: Planning Permission was refused for a new house in the rear garden area. The applicant is likely to appeal against this decision.
- Loft Conversion and Large Roof Extension and create a separate flat at 18 Berkshire Road: Planning Permission was refused.

Safety on our Roads

There has been much concern over the safety of both the road junction at the end of Berkeley Road where it joins Logan Road as well as the adjacent access into Friary Lane from Berkeley Road. The society has been supporting a current petition to the Council to carry out road improvements to the junction to improve safety. The Society has also been involved with the dispute regarding the security fence around 111 Berkeley Road in the hope that this will be removed soon.

Local Transport

We have received positive noises from the Council following our requests for a direct bus service from the Gloucester Road to Temple Meads station.

Bristol North Baths Update

We have given our support to the local action group to save Bristol North Baths. A very strong local action group lobbied hard to the Council at the end of last year. A reprieve of two years has now been given by Bristol City Council in order to find a viable way to retain the baths. A group is being formed to push this forward. Pat Jones from our Committee is involved with this. I am sure that the group would welcome any help that might be forthcoming.

Remember the most important aspect for saving the pool is its use. So 'use it or lose it'!

This is our first newsletter. We are hoping that it will become a regular feature and initially will be issued quarterly. We will gladly receive any article of local interest that you may want to submit to us. We also are keen to support local societies and groups. We would like to include a local listing of these in future issues. Please let us have details of your group if you would like us to include it.

Meeting

You are invited to a Society Meeting at 7:30pm on Thursday 20th March in the Silverthorne Hall at Bishop Road School.

What are the issues that particularly concern you? Please let us know!

Drop a line to our Secretary: Jim Gillespie at 50 Codrington Road. Tel: 9423710