

Farewell to Summer

Despite the pretty awful Summer I hope that you and yours managed to find some relaxation – and as I write you are enjoying the Autumn (but not autumnal) sunshine. We were indeed fortunate with the weather for the RCV party in July and I think that all who attended enjoyed it – certainly the band, Magpie and the Shiny Things, showed a high standard of musicianship which was appreciated by all. Our Councillor June Player showed a wonderfully flamboyant technique in cutting the ribbon to officially open the Queen's Canopy (The 5 liquid Ambar trees on the west side of the Park). We have funding to put a memorial bench with a suitable inscription in the arc of trees but have not yet selected a suitable bench.

The Dripping Tap The big news recently has been the Licensing Application to turn most of the space under Royal View into a vertical bar called 'The Dripping Tap' supplying craft beers and ciders with live music. A 'vertical bar' is one that does not supply proper food, so there is no real need for customers to sit down. Live music was applied for between the hours of 12 noon and 11pm.

Not long after the application appeared Ian Quekett and Lindsay Bray formed the group [Protect Bath Riverside](#) and launched a campaign against the venture. This had RCV support and was highly successful, leading to over 100 objections to the plan under all the categories of objection: public safety, prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, and protection of children. We (RCV) submitted our own objection.

Things became more serious when it was decided to hire a lawyer and such was the general feeling that the amount pledged quickly exceeded the amount required for his services. Things took an interesting turn when a notice attached to the window of the Royal View premises said that the appellant invited residents to meet him on Friday 8th September to 'clear up misconceptions' about his application. He didn't arrive and we learnt later in the day that he had withdrawn his application.

There is a curious coda to this saga: Graham Burwood, one of our more active members, subsequently wrote to the applicant asking him why he hadn't turned up. He had the following reply: *"I placed the sign [advertising his forthcoming visit] in the window [of Royal View] on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday morning I received an email to tell me that the landlord had struck another deal without my knowledge. This was a huge shock to me, given how much money I have spent to date on the project, as well as so much of my time".*

We now hear that the local dentist who was to have taken the smaller plot available at Royal View is to install his surgery in the larger southern plot and the smaller plot (1400 sq ft) is still available. If you have any ideas how this could be used in a way which will enhance our community, please let us know.

AGM 2023 at the Army Reserve Centre Upper Bristol Rd

We very much hope for a good turnout for the AGM on Thursday 2nd Nov at 7pm. It should be an interesting evening – we very much hope in a good way. I have made no secret of the fact that I

intend to step down at this AGM and the question of a successor is still under discussion, but I am hopeful we will have a successor to vote in. (I am also looking for a volunteer to take over from me as web-master – it takes a little IT knowledge but not at expert level.)

Our guest speaker on the evening will be Riverside resident Francis Pike. Francis is an eminent historian, economist and columnist. His book 'Hirohito's War' was deemed 'oceanic in scope, comprehensive in detail, subtle in dissection... and consistently readable' by one critic. Tonight he will be giving a 'Ted Talk' on the subject of AI. The format is a 15 min talk followed by 15min Q & A. A glass of wine will be available for all attendees. I look forward to seeing you there.

Garden Group

Hilary Lee's Garden Group has recently had a walking meeting in the Park with Will Stops, Managing Director of Landscape Services South West. Among items discussed were the condition of the wild flower meadow, the provision of 500 new dogwood plants along the riverside walk roughly between the orange Destructor Bridge finial and the stone bench, improving the grasscrete area next to Cassia, replacement of 2 dead trees and the removal of the central dead tulip tree to the south of the sofa sculpture. Expenditure on all these items will have to be approved by Pinnacle Manager Francesca and planting should take place this year.

The webmaster will put Hilary's full report of the meeting on the website shortly.

St William

St William, developers for the Gasworks site, held a mini exhibition in Casia one afternoon in early September. The design has been improved since it first saw the light of day – the buildings have been lowered in height using several stratagems and as they incorporate several finishes are more interesting and attractive. There is now some imaginative landscaping with suitable space for large canopy trees to flourish.

Photo voltaic panels will be fitted on all roof tops where possible and an air pump system will provide energy. The ratio of car spaces to dwellings will be approximately 0.33 (cf Riverside .7). All parking spaces will be provided with EV charging.

There is provision for a nursery but alas no community centre or building that could be used for the purpose.

For more detail see BANES Planning portal Ref: 22/03224/EFUL

Paddy Doyle

Chair

Riverside Community Voice

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If you have any comments or queries about this newsletter please email bj.doyle@btinternet.com