

RCV Newsletter Feb/March 2022

Development of Bath Gasworks

At the public consultation held in February 2022 it was felt by some of our members that some of the questions asked were not satisfactorily answered. Most prominent amongst these questions related to vehicle access to the site. Some of those manning the exhibition are reported as saying that car access would be available from Windsor Bridge Rd or from the Dick Lovatt site but consultation board 6 shows access only by the Destructor Bridge, and exit into Midland Rd which will involve all traffic leaving the site to turn left up Midland Rd and back across the Destructor Bridge. All residents living on Midland Rd and particularly those by the Destructor Bridge will suffer from the constant flow of traffic into and out of the site. This problem should be addressed.

The new St William site covers 3.25 Hectares and will comprise up to 675 homes. It is encouraging that 3 bed apartments are to form 20% of the homes, thus attracting families to live in the new development. The density, however, will be markedly greater than at the CN site as the latter is much bigger. This will not encourage positive opinions about the wellness of future tenants. The exhibition indicated only that the development could “potentially include an early years facility” - hardly a positive commitment to build a community.

There seems to be space for a co-working centre, but nothing about any sort of community meeting place or hub – a ‘Village Hall’, which riversiders might remember was promised to be built when development took place west of Midland Rd. (To make a comparison, Mulberry Park in Bath, a relatively new development (admittedly off city centre) has 700 dwellings and a superb and much-valued community centre and a school.) Provision of a school was included in the original plans for development west of Midland Rd. This requirement seems to have been forgotten. Even if local schools could cope as of now, we should be looking to the future and trying to attract families to enrich the mix in this new development.

RCV committee members will be making their thoughts on this subject clear individually, and I would invite all our members and residents to do the same. If you agree with the above, feel free to borrow from it! You can email info@bathgasworks.com to make your views known.

Meeting on Adoption of Midland Rd and Stothert Avenue by B&NES – 24th Feb

Present: Fran Taylor - Crest Nicholson SW Infrastructure Manager
Frank Daley – B&NES Highways Engineer
Francesca Hill - Pinnacle PM Manager Bath Western Riverside
June Player – Westmoreland Councillor
Paddy Doyle – Chair Riverside Community Voice (RVC)

Fran Taylor described briefly matters that were outstanding: She and B&NES Highways have been working on a plan of action to bring the roads up to adoptable standard. Kerbs, street lighting and lining need to be attended to as well as getting the TRO's (Traffic Regulation Orders) implemented on site - including those for yellow lines and bus gates. She is currently waiting on her contractors to get back to her with a programme of works and a date to start,

Crest will also be carrying out works on sewers to get these into regular maintenance.

Highways Engineer Frank Daley said that work by B&NES on yellow lining should start within 2 weeks which will be a relief to those who suffer from thoughtlessly parked cars. He is very aware of the problems in the Sovereign Point area and the need to ensure that buses are not obstructed. (By 'work starting' I'm assuming in retrospect he means drawing up plans for yellow lines etc).

One question that arose was the desirability of double yellow lines on the south side of Stothert Avenue. I agreed to canvass the residents, which in fact Trish Fosbury kindly agreed to do, and the result was unsurprisingly overwhelmingly in favour of narrow (50mm) double yellow lines to run the entire length of the south side of Stothert Ave. This could even have the added benefit of preventing parking on the pavement which presents a risk to services underneath.

All works should be completed before October – possibly optimistic, but there is no doubt the will is there to make progress.

Party 5th June

Work on organising the Party continues apace. All residents are invited to our 'Party in the Park'. We have the necessary permissions from Crest and Pinnacle, and all being well the party will be declared open by Lady Margaret – reportedly a very distant relative of Her Majesty – who as good fortune would have it lives not far from Riverside. Full details should be revealed soon. The aim is to make this a BYO free event for all residents of Bath Riverside. We will be engaging a band and there will be other expenses, so any donations you might like to make would be welcome. To donate or to renew or become a member of RCV email Treasurer William Hobhouse Treasurer@Riversidecommunityvoice.org.uk

Paddy Doyle

Chair

Riverside Community Voice

6 Mar 2022

Chair@Riversidecommuniyvoice.org.uk