

## WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT TO NEWTON ST LOE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING 14/9/23

1. Councillor Streatfeild-James apologises that she is unable to attend the meeting on 14 September. Please do get in touch with any matters on which I can be of assistance and I will endeavour to help as necessary.
2. Please note that most B&NES committees do not meet in August and many officers take leave at this time so there is not a long list of matters to report.
3. The WECA consultation on the A4 Bristol/Bath corridor developments has opened and will continue until 1 October 2023. Parish Councillors and villagers can find the consultation at [www.haveyoursaywest.co.uk](http://www.haveyoursaywest.co.uk) together with details of drop in events and information about the scheme. Newton St Loe Parish Councillors may wish in particular to make comments in relation to the access to the bus stop from the village as well as any thoughts they may have on how the scheme will affect travel by car and bus along the A4. ASJ has attended a meeting on the proposals with a presentation from the officers (as the PC may also have done) and is happy to discuss any details of interest.
4. BANES new Local Plan. The consultation on the options document due to be produced in around October 2023 is likely to open in the next few weeks. Information about the local plan process can be found at :  
<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s74352/E3363%20Annex%201%20Lau%20Document.pdf>  
The options document will set out the plots of land which landowners are putting forward to be considered as considered suitable for housing development and this will affect the Parish Councils in the Saltford Ward including Newton St Loe. ASJ will inform the NSLPC when more is known and in any event your clerk is likely to receive information on this from BANES to inform Parish Councillors of when the consultation will open and how it can be engaged with.
5. WECA e-scooters  
There will be a new provider for the WECA e-scooter trial. This Autumn e-scooters will be changing colour to green and will be branded WESTscoot. WECA has negotiated a contract with a new provider TIER which takes over from VOI. Alongside 4000 WESTScoot e-scooters there will also be 1500 e-bikes, and 20 e-cargo bikes available to hire. Note that this scheme remains a trial as part of national trials to inform future government legislation. At present e-scooters used on the highway (including pavements) that are not part of a trial scheme are illegal. There are two types of hire – hop on/hop off in designated zones, and longer period rental.
6. Discovery cards

There were 30,000 free Discovery Cards issued in B&NES in 2022 which gives free entry to many local attractions and other discounts. Residents can sign up for their Discovery Card on-line at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-residents-discovery-card>

Criteria as per website:

#### Residents' Discovery Card

If you live within Bath and North East Somerset, you can get a Discovery Card, which entitles you to certain offers and discounts in the area eg to Roman Baths, Victoria Art Gallery and Parade Gardens – all details on website

#### Eligibility

To be eligible, you must live in Bath and North East Somerset, and belong to one of the following groups:

Adults (18+) who pay Council Tax to Bath & North East Somerset Council, or can provide another proof of residency (please see the list below of types of proof that we can accept)

Children aged 14+ (children under 14 do not need their own cards, as they are included with an adult card holder)

Students in full-time education on a course which lasts for one year or more

Alison Streatfeild-James