

CABINET MEETING 20th July 2021

STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

1. Lily Hughes - Stopping glyphosate being sprayed in BaNES (statement and petition)
2. Kari Erickson – Tourism and Business in Bath
3. Simon Marshall – City Centre Security
4. Ian Perkins – City Centre Security
5. Susan Charles – City Centre Security
6. Julie Gregory – City Centre Security
7. Lindsay Holdoway – City Centre Security
8. Lynda Lloyd – City Centre Security
9. Harry Tedstone – Parking Permits Consultation
10. Sylvia Sinclair – On street parking permits and charges

Councillors:

1. Councillor Jess David – Use of Glyphosate for street weeds
2. Councillor Eleanor Jackson - Parking permits for traders and medics
3. Councillor Vic Pritchard - City Centre Security

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M	01	Question from:	Councillor Shaun Hughes
<p>We understand that as a result of the clean air zone ALL taxis in the B&NES area are required to meet the omissions standard regardless of whether the taxi operates within the clean air zone.</p> <p>However, it appears that only those taxis permitted to use the clean air zone have access to the grant system to upgrade their vehicles.</p> <p>The current scheme appears to give the Bath based businesses an unfair advantage.</p> <p>If we are imposing the same regulations on all vehicles in B&NES surely all should equally have access to the grant system?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor Sarah Warren
<p><i>The revised taxi licensing policy agreed in 2018 required all taxi vehicles licensed by the Council to be compliant with the terms of any future Clean Air Zone to ensure consistent enforcement across all sectors of the local trade and that all areas of the authority could benefit from improved air quality from cleaner engine technology.</i></p> <p><i>Any licensed taxi owner, irrespective of where they are based, is able to access help from the CAZ financial assistance scheme if they meet the relevant eligibility criteria which includes travelling into the CAZ on an average of two or more times a week over a minimum 60 day period. This also applies to owners of taxi hackney carriage vehicles, which although not licensed to ply for hire from ranks within the CAZ, may still be travelling within it to fulfil customer journeys. Taxi owners who fit these circumstances have benefited with assistance from the scheme.</i></p>			
M	02	Question from:	Councillor Shaun Hughes

Recently I have seen an increase in residents raising concerns over feeling unable to object to planning applications through fear of intimidation and repercussion, particularly elderly residents and people within small communities. The result of is they don't raise objections in fear of creating fall out or backlash. We understand from our officers that present legislation does not offer an informal way to comment on applications. I am not sure what the solution is but is this something that the Cabinet could review?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

Local Planning Authorities cannot take anonymous comments on planning applications because the planning legislation and process is designed to be deliberately open and transparent. Officers can only take into account comments that are made by real and traceable people allowing the officer to contact contributors to find out more about their views. We publish the contributor name on the website so it is possible to see who is making multiple or follow-on comments, which becomes relevant when proposals are updated as the views of contributors may change too. There are data protection considerations as well which we are careful to comply with.

M 03

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

Is the administration planning to hold a by-election in Lambridge following Cllr Wright's move from the Liberal Democrats to the Green Party?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

Councillor Pritchard will be aware that the decision to hold a by-election is not a function of the administration.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

Please confirm how many new waste truck drivers the Council has recruited to address the staffing issues in the kerbside

collections team over the past four weeks?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

We have secured an additional 4 agency drivers and have daily rolling adverts out for both permanent recruitment and agency staff. We are working closely with our network of recruitment agencies. We have also enrolled 6 current members of staff in the LGV driver training programme.

We have recruited an additional 12 loaders and have restructured a large proportion of our rounds so that we need less drivers and more loaders. This means that the vast majority of our collections are being collected to schedule, thanks to the hard work of our crews and their supervisors.

The national shortage of drivers will continue to be a problem for this country for some time. The government have announced some national interventions to address this such as a relaxation of drivers hours regulations, and an increase in the number of slots through driving assessment centres. We will continue our efforts to make our workplace an attractive proposition for drivers, and to invest further in training our workforce.

M 05

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

Does the Council have any plans to provide recycling bins at public places in the district's rural areas to help residents re cycle? If so, would the cabinet member be willing to meet with ward councillors to discuss the best locations for recycling bins in their wards?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

Every resident in B&NES has a weekly kerbside collection of a comprehensive range of recyclables and most larger

supermarkets offer a range of facilities also. If ward councillors feel there is a need for additional facilities for specific waste streams in their area and have suggested sites, then I would be pleased to hear from them on this so that we can work with officers to identify where the waste is originating from and to find the best solutions.

M 06

Question from:

Councillor Sally Davis

A resident has raised concerns about pets – mainly goldfish, though not exclusively – being used as prizes at events such as funfairs or fairgrounds. Does the Council have an official position on the use of pets as prizes and does the Council have any powers to restrict the use of pets as prizes at events hosted in B&NES? If so, does the Council currently have any plans to restrict the use of pets as prizes at events hosted in B&NES?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

Bath and North East Somerset Council does not permit animals to be given away as prizes at events and funfairs on council-owned land. Of the three established funfairs which visit the Bath and North East Somerset area, two have never given pets as prizes in the history of their funfair and one has not permitted this activity in many years (more than 10 years).

Here is the link to the Council's Events Policy <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/events-policy> and the section on restricted events is at S 20.1. We state we have the right to refuse permission and this includes activities which cause harm to animals.

Not all funfairs are members of the Showmen's Guild but for information, here is the section from the Showmen's Guild Rules 2020 <https://showmensguild.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2020/08/Showmens-Guild-Rules-2020-for-WEB.pdf> which refers to 'Animals as Prizes' at Page 68."

M 07

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Can you outline in detail exactly what your 'economic development' responsibilities are in your Cabinet portfolio?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

The portfolio responsibilities are wide ranging and include:

- *Developing the local labour market in terms of skills and lifelong learning (with Cllr Romero)*
- *Creating the conditions for business growth and enterprise (With Cllr Ball)*
- *Establishing high quality trading space and public realm (With Cllr Romero)*
- *Ensuring our poorest communities and residents have adequate welfare support*
- *Using cultural regeneration as a key driver in the local economy (With Cllr Romero)*
- *Maximising the use of the council's property holdings to drive regeneration*
- *Closing the inequality gap between our richest and poorest communities*
- *Ensuring sustainable transport is available for employment and education (With Cllr Warren)*

All these diverse work streams contribute to economic development and later this year will be drawn together into a new Economic Development and Regeneration strategy for B& NES.

M 08

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Following the recent reshuffle of Cabinet roles, are you going to undertake a review of Scrutiny committees?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The changes to Cabinet roles and their impact on the terms of reference of PDS Panels will be addressed as part of the LGA Scrutiny peer review.

M 09

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

The Local plan revision is due to be considered by Council following a correct and proper consultation process. Will paper copies be available for people without computers and will the consultation period be extended to allow for the school holiday period?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

Consultation on the Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) will take place from 27th August to 8th October. Given that this only marginally overlaps with the school holiday period it will be the statutory six week consultation period. This is necessary in order for the Council to adhere to the preparation programme and adopt the partial update as quickly as possible. In line with central government policy the Council is focussing preparation of and consultation on the LPPU using on-line methods. However, in recognition that some people will not have computers paper copies of the LPPU and a summary leaflet can be made available on request.

M 10

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

As the representative of Whitchurch Village, I was pleased to see it included in Phase One of the Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme. It was a complex bid, with the parish council even offering to part fund the crossing for the A37. This is a big project, so can timescales be planned for please?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

Whitchurch village is well-deserving of liveable neighbourhood measures and I was pleased to be able to include this area within

our phase 1 liveable neighbourhoods programme.

We are currently in the process of procuring consultant support to assist with delivery and we expect public engagement to commence in September/October. Given our commitment to co-design with the community, schemes will progress at different rates. Therefore, we will not be setting target dates for the implementation of any individual scheme until a concept design has been agreed.

M 11

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

With the strategic planning function now residing with WECA, is the Council prepared to withhold its support if WECA tries to impose undeliverable housing targets on B&NES? If this happens, how vulnerable is the green belt to challenge by developers?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

I will provide an answer in 5 clear working days.

M 12

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Can you inform me how much extra funding the Government has invested in SEND support in the last three years?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

The revenue increases in our education budget are illustrated below.

<i>DSG High Needs Block Funding totals</i>			
	<i>£000s</i>	<i>£000s</i>	<i>% increase</i>
<i>18-19</i>	<i>23636</i>		
<i>19-20</i>	<i>24095</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>1.9%</i>
<i>20-21</i>	<i>26071</i>	<i>1976</i>	<i>8.2%</i>
<i>21-22</i>	<i>28852</i>	<i>2781</i>	<i>10.7%</i>
<i>22-23 est</i>	<i>31160</i>	<i>2308</i>	<i>8.0%</i>

Alongside this the government has provided £979,547.76 of SEND Capital.

M 13

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Renewable energy is important for the future but can have negative community impacts. Will the Council commit to a cost/benefit calculation before agreeing any proposals?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

In formulating its planning policies on renewable energy, the Council needs to take into account its objectives, consider the evidence and look at the options. It needs to consider a range of issues such as the impact on landscape, ecology, heritage, feasibility and on local communities. These options are appraised and consulted on before arriving at the preferred approach which is then publicly tested at examination. The adopted policy is therefore the outcome of a thorough and transparent process which has taken into account the relevant interests. Councils do not use a cost/benefit calculation approach to formulate such

planning policies. Planning applications must then be determined in accordance with the adopted policy.

M 14

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

The current cabinet seems to be quite large. Can you supply the current annual cost in comparison with the former Council annual Cabinet costs?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The present size of the Cabinet and the annual allowances paid are as follows.

PREVIOUS CABINET	<i>[Budget year 20/21]</i>
Leader	1 x £32,445
7 x Cabinet Member allowances	7 x £19,484
TOTAL	£168,833
CURRENT CABINET	<i>[Budget year 21/22]</i>
Leader	1 x £33,337
7 x Cabinet Member allowances	7 x £20,019
TOTAL	£173,470

Where a Cabinet portfolio is split in a job share arrangement, the allowance is split.

The increase in amount of allowance paid between the present and current Cabinet is due to the inflationary uplift applied by Payroll, in line with the pay award for staff.

M 15

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

At next week's Cabinet meeting, members will be asked to approve an extra £13.6m of funding for the Waste Infrastructure programme on top of £16.3 already earmarked. Please explain why this extra £13.6m wasn't already budgeted for, why it is required and how it is to be spent.

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

The project budget has been allocated in milestone phases so that costs can be determined with more accuracy at each stage. The last round of approved funding took the project up to planning application stage. This stage is now complete with the application due to be determined in July. The Cabinet is now being asked to allocate the funding to award the construction tender. Exact costs will be determined through the tender process. The full scope and design detail have been developed to include additional operational elements and key contributions to the council's climate and nature priorities.

M 16

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

What further public consultations are due to take place for the City Centre Security proposals and will local residents get a say in such matters as the design of cycle lanes or Blue Badge drop off spaces?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The public will have an opportunity to have their say when the Traffic Regulation Order is advertised, in a local newspaper and notices posted within the relevant area. The documents will be available for inspection from the date that the notice of proposal is first published until six weeks after the proposed Order has been made. Anyone may object in writing to an order within 21 days of the notice being published. Any objection must be considered and a response in writing provided giving the reasons for the decision taken. If the TRO is made a further notice must be published in a local newspaper. Any change coming forward as a result of TRO consultation, will need also to be compliant with our PSED.

M 17

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

I note in the Cabinet report on the City Centre Security proposals the plan to use CCTV to allow Blue Badge holders access to some streets. Please explain how this will work in practice – for example will the camera pick up the Blue Badge on the person's dashboard or will they be required to call the control room ahead of time?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

Blue Badges are issued to the person, not the vehicle and therefore it will not be possible to use CCTV to automatically allow a person holding a blue badge through the barriers. An Operational Management Procedures document is being produced which will detail the process and Officers will work with access groups to ensure the process is as seamless as possible. The proposal is for a blue badge holder, or person transporting a blue badge holder, to present themselves at the vehicle access point, where a video messaging service or equivalent access service will be located. The driver will request access and the CCTV operator will request sight of the blue badge before permitting access. In effect any blue badge holder, or someone transporting a person with a blue badge will present themselves at the barrier and have to show the blue badge to an operative in the CCTV control room to gain access. A similar schedule will operate for emergency trades access for city centre residents.

M 18

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

Residents have recently been advised not to put out their rubbish and recycling the night before it is due for collection to avoid it being left out too long. Since the kerbside collection service have been hampered by delays, with the result that daily collections

are being missed, residents have been told to keep their uncollected rubbish out for return collections the next day. Please could you confirm the current guidance on how long before collection residents should put out their rubbish?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

Our crews are working exceptionally hard to complete the scheduled collections each day. The national shortage of drivers combined with increased amounts of waste to be collected due to the impact of lockdowns is well documented in the national press. If any collections remain outstanding then they are collected the following day, with all collections being completed by end of the Saturday working day. Residents are asked to leave their rubbish out for 1 day only. Please bear with us and thank you to all of our residents who show support for our hardworking crews. They very much appreciate it. A thank you means a lot to them too.

M 19

Question from:

Councillor Chris Watt

In March, the Government passed the Covert Human Intelligence Sources Act. The Act amends the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by creating a statutory process for public bodies to authorise covert human intelligence sources (undercover agents) to engage in criminal activity with impunity. In what circumstances might this Council be involved in the exercise of such powers in conjunction with other relevant authorities, either through the provision of intelligence or access to intelligence, and what safeguards does the Council have in place if indeed it is to be involved in the exercise of such powers?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The Council is currently unable to anticipate the circumstances where it might be involved in an investigation, in conjunction with a relevant authority, exercising such a power. Exercise of the power by a relevant authority is unlikely to ever be disclosed to the Council by virtue of the fact that operating a covert human intelligence source (CHIS) is, by its nature, on a need to know basis to protect the CHIS' identity and safety. However, if the Council were ever to be made aware of the identity of a CHIS with a criminal conduct authorisation the Council could seek an undertaking that the exercise of such a power by a relevant authority complied with the safeguards in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In particular, compliance requires evidence of

necessity and proportionality, balancing human rights considerations, monitoring and review. Ultimately exercise of the power is subject to oversight by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner.

M 20

Question from:

Councillor Robin Moss

What percentages of the population have had 1 or both vaccinations, broken down into age bands?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

By 11th July, 80% of adults in B&NES had received their first COVID vaccination dose and 57% of adults has also received a second dose.

Amongst people aged 50 or older, more than 90% of all these age groups have had their first vaccination.

For second doses amongst people aged 50 or older, the figure varies from 87% of 50-54 year olds to 96% of people aged 80 and above.

For people under 50 years of age, uptake is lower because these age groups were only invited for vaccination more recently and many younger people are not yet eligible to receive second doses as it has been less than 8 weeks since their first dose.

For first doses:

- 58% of 25-29 year olds have had their first dose*
- 69% of 30-34 year olds*
- 76% of 35-39 year olds*

- 83% of 40-44 year olds
- And 87% of 45-49 year olds

For second doses:

- 17% of 25-29 year olds have had their second doses.
- 23% of 30-34 year olds
- 27% of 35-39 year olds
- 48% of 40-44 year olds
- And 64% of 45-49 year olds.

With many university students leaving B&NES in the last few weeks, and others returning from across the country, there are challenges with the accuracy of data for the 18-24 years age group. So we have not included a figure here.

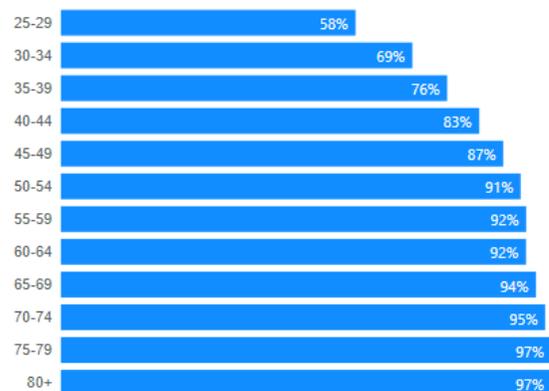
However, second doses for adults aged 18-24 years is likely to be slightly lower than the 25-29 year old uptake, so that's less than 17%.

This is because they are the youngest group and the last to have been invited by the national programme.

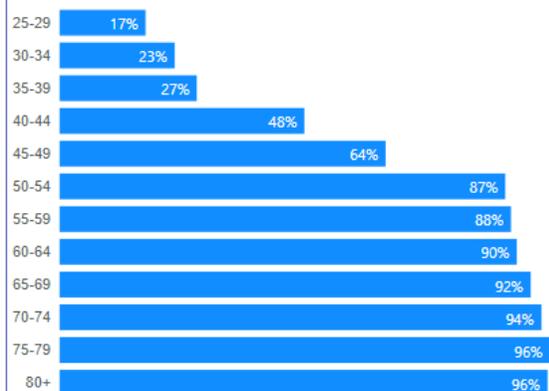
COVID-19 Vaccination (B&NES) - by Age Range

As of 11th July a total of **136,062 (80.3%)** people had received their first dose of their vaccination (2,768 more than reported last week) and a total of **96,148 (56.8%)** people had received their second dose (2,804 more than reported last week).

Percentage of B&NES population vaccinated for COVID-19 with first dose, up to 11 July 2021



Percentage of B&NES population vaccinated for COVID-19 with second dose, up to 11 July 2021



Note 1: Due to the highly transient nature of the 18-24 population, uptake rates for this cohort are not accurate enough to provide meaningful intelligence

Note 2: NHS England have now released the recommended National Immunisation Management System (NIMS) population denominators, and these have been used in these calculations.

Source: NHS (2021), COVID-19 Vaccinations, available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/> downloaded weekly on Thursday

M 21

Question from:

Councillor Robin Moss

Considering that over 90% of all infections are in the 15-25 yo age band, what steps are being taken to encourage take up of vaccination by this group?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

Firstly, I would like to thank Cllr Moss for highlighting this crucial and timely issue, especially as cases are rising both locally and nationally amongst this age group. We are all aware of the huge success of the vaccine roll-out and I would like to take this

opportunity of thanking all those involved, including both staff and volunteers. It is about a month since the vaccine became available to everyone over 18 and so naturally the rates are not as high in the younger compared to older age groups, although as of 14 July our percentage uptake of the first dose for 18-24 year-olds was 60%.

The NHS and council have been working closely together to get as many of our young people jabbed as possible, using social media and other channels to get the message out. We've been sharing social media and videos aimed specifically at 18-30 year olds and are continuing our "get vaccinated" message on our local community radio stations including BA1 Radio, which is staffed by and aimed at young people. BSW CCG also held a "myth-busting" Q and A session for 18-30 year olds which included younger clinicians and to which social media influencers were invited, with a local influencer sharing this content. BSW CCG have also produced a video aimed at young people telling them what to expect, which we have also shared.

It has also become clear that we need to encourage more "walk-in" facilities to encourage young people to get the vaccine. So a walk-in Pfizer-only vaccine centre has been set up at the Pavilion from 14th-18th July, available to all aged 18 or over who have not had their first dose, and those who had their first Pfizer dose over 8 weeks ago. Again, this was publicised through social media, flyers and other channels such as through our third sector organisations, particularly those that work with young people, e.g. Off the Record and Youth Connect. Bath Racecourse are also offering daily walk-in clinics and there is a regular free bus from Bath Bus Station to the Racecourse. There are also 3 pharmacies in B&NES offering Pfizer vaccinations, including walk-in appointments when capacity allows. Through social media we have promoted other clinics available outside of B&NES too.

Naturally, this is taking place alongside more general vaccine take-up messaging such as making it clear that women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying for a baby can have the vaccination and also targeted work with BAME communities and other vulnerable groups. The vaccine bus and vaccine boat have also had a big impact in extending our reach into as many communities as we can, and we are also working directly with people in supported living. The vaccine bus was picked up and covered by BBC Points West recently.

We are also working with our Universities to make sure there is enough accessible provision in place for returning students who have not had first or second doses by the beginning of the new academic term. Can I end though with a final plea that if elected members themselves have any influence at all over young people in this age group that they urge them to get their jab and also their second one, there is plenty of capacity in the system.

M	22	Question from:	Councillor Robin Moss
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As the decision has been taken recently to extend the Xmas market from 18 to 25 days in 2021:

- (1) What is the assessed financial risk if there has to be a cancellation, comparing 18 & 25 days?
- (2) What will be the additional cost to B&NES, again comparing 18 to 25 days?
- (3) What consultation has taken place with Bath residents?
- (4) What consultation has taken place with individual Bath businesses?
- (5) What consultation has taken place with other cities also running Xmas markets?
- (6) Has there been any assessment on the numbers of additional visitors the extension may attract?
- (7) Has there been any consultation with coach & tour operators as to their assessment of additional organised groups the additional days will or will not attract?
- (8) What discussion took place in Cabinet to change the time span of the market from 18 to 25 days?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

(1) What is the assessed financial risk if there has to be a cancellation, comparing 18 & 25 days?

- a. *Whilst the financial risk moving to 25 days has increased, there are key gateway decision dates leading up to the Market to mitigate the risk*

(2) What will be the additional cost to B&NES, again comparing 18 to 25 days?

- a. *The additional cost will be £157k, however, this is expected to be offset by the income*

(3) What consultation has taken place with Bath residents?

- a. *Prior to the Cabinet Report, FOBRA and TARA were both invited to consultation, neither responded*

(4) What consultation has taken place with individual Bath businesses?

- a. *Prior to the Cabinet Report, Bath Business Improvement District and several key independent traders were*

consulted, particularly Abbey Quarter Traders Association

(5) What consultation has taken place with other cities also running Xmas markets?

- a. *Other cities look to Bath to lead the way in Christmas Markets, and were waiting for us to make our decision – we were aware via social media that York, Winchester, Salisbury, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow were looking to proceed with their plans*

(6) Has there been any assessment on the numbers of additional visitors the extension may attract?

- a. *An assessment was made and changes to the design and layout of the site was updated*

(7) Has there been any consultation with coach & tour operators as to their assessment of additional organised groups the additional days will or will not attract?

- a. *No, currently coach and tour operators are putting their packages together and we were not in a position to have those conversations*

(8) What discussion took place in Cabinet to change the time span of the market from 18 to 25 days?

- a. *Appropriate conversations took place*

M	23	Question from:	Councillor Robin Moss
What money has been awarded from central government to support Low Traffic Neighbourhoods? And, is it anticipated that all this money will be retained & used?			
Answer from:			Councillor Sarah Warren
<i>No central government funding has been awarded to B&NES to support Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. The liveable neighbourhood programme is currently funded from the council's own resources, supplemented by community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding, received in connection with new development.</i>			

