

Chairman's Report – 14 February 2022

1. Freshford Station Sign

The replacement of the old sign on the platform is progressing well. The sign has been removed and a replica new sign is being produced by GWR engineering.

The new sign is expected to be installed this financial year.

Estimates for repainting the posts have not yet been received.

There is the possibility of the old sign being located in the Galleries café after the extension has been completed.

The Galleries is willing to house the old sign, and have suggested the following points of agreement:

1. There are two possible locations-either inside the new cafe room, or outside on the front wall. There are security concerns placing the sign externally.
2. The sign will be displayed in a purpose-made wooden case, with Perspex front. The case will be bolted to the wall, so it will be reasonably secure. The case will be designed with ventilation to minimise moisture.
3. The creation and maintenance of the wooden case is the responsibility of The Galleries.
4. Initial preparation and maintenance of the sign itself will be the responsibility of the Parish Council.
5. The sign will be insured under the Galleries buildings policy.
6. The sign and it's case will remain the property of Freshford Parish Council.

Request: That the PC Approves the above agreement with The Galleries.

David Wright has kindly offered to store the sign temporarily in the interim period.

2. Village Agents

A Village Agent has been recruited covering Freshford and surrounding villages in BANES.

She will be starting officially in May, but hopes to get more involved earlier than that.

3. Freshford Website

One item that is missing from the new Freshford website is an events calendar.

This functionality is available within the website framework that is licenced. Bringing this functionality online is being progressed with Zonkey.

4. Bathavon Forum

The Bathavon Forum is building an issues list taking input from each Parish Council of their 3-5 main issues in relation to B&NES. The intention is to help set the agenda for future Bathavon Forum meetings and also to help B&NES understand the wider issues across the communities.

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The main issues identified for Freshford are:

1. Street Lighting
 - a. It would be helpful if BANES provided support for Parish Councils that own their own street lighting
2. Communications
 - a. At times communications from higher authorities, i.e. B&NES, WECA and others, can seem to be a bit disjointed with some messages not coming through and some messages being received multiple times.

It is also being suggested that support from B&NES in the following areas would be helpful:

- Community Health
- Transport
- Traffic

The issues log is a living document and all councillors input is welcome. The above points are a starting point.

5. Ownership of the Verge outside of the Memorial Hall

BANES Highways have not yet responded to this application.