The B&NES Lib Dem administration has taken action to identify £21 million of savings (deferring projects, not filling vacancies etc) in this financial year to counter the major impact on both income (projected loss of £42M) and expenditure brought about by the Covid19 crisis. The Council also has to address the longer term implications for income as a consequence of the global pandemic. Foreign tourism to Bath is expected to reduce substantially as an example which would affect the income to the Council from Bath’s heritage locations e.g Roman Baths. Councils are legally obliged to have balanced budgets.

The reduction in the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph on the A39 eastern approach to Corston is in the Transport Improvement Programme and is likely to be implemented in **2021/22.**

Mr Kelvin Packer, B&NES Highways officer, has retired. Craig Jackson is Team Manager, Highways maintenance and drainage.

Mr Martin Shields, a corporate director, left B&NES at the end of June.

Shelly Dewhurst, has been appointed as B&NES WaterSpace Manager. A major task is the “Bath River Line” project from Batheaston to Newbridge. Shelly is also tasked with identifying possible locations for 14-day moorings along the river.

Cllr Singleton and I wish to hear any suggestions about how the positive aspects of the lock-down in Corston can be sustained such as cleaner air, fewer traffic movements, increased walking and cycling, increased community spirit, and increased concern for others. We seek a “green” recovery and a sustainable and thriving local economy.

The national Clean Air Action Day is taking place on Thursday 8th October.

Existing garden waste stickers remain valid until 18th July.

The Old Welton, Midsomer Norton, Recycling Centre re-opens on 9th July using an appointment system and this should help take pressure off the Pixash Lane site.

There have been no complaints received so far this year about the programme of grass-cutting by B&NES in Corston.

There is increased provision in the Libraries West service with an additional 800 e-books and 1400 audio books [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk)

The concessionary travel scheme reverted to standard hours of operation from 15th June.

Marriages can be arranged to take place at the Guildhall on Sundays.

The publicised millions from the Department for Transport to enable safer walking and cycling, and social distancing measures following the phased return to work such as pop-up cycle lanes has resulted in additional funding to WECA of which B&NES can expect to benefit by £800K.

Keynsham High Street is being fully pedestrianised temporarily between the hours of 9am and 5pm from Monday 13th July.

WECA is appointing consultants to conduct a Bristol Mass Transit Study and consider an arm from Bristol to Bath. This major study is anticipated to take18 months to report.

95% of planning applications were delegated to B&NES Council officers to determine during the twelve months “May to May”. This left the B&NES development management (planning) committee to consider 60 applications. In 37 of these cases, the committee upheld the officers’ recommendations, in 20 the committee overturned the officers’ recommendations, in 1 case a site-visit (ZOOM VIDEO) was awaited, and in 2 cases the committee added conditions before supporting the officer’s recommendations. 5 cases have so far gone to appeal - 2 are in progress, in 2 the decisions were upheld, and 1 was overturned.

I have asked that Policy RE7 “Visitor Accommodation” is included in the Local Plan partial review. An updated and clarified policy for large properties could help in controlling the proliferation of “party houses” in the B&NES area.

B&NES Council held its AGM on Tuesday 26th May at 5pm (ZOOM). The new Chair of B&NES Council will be Cllr Andy Furse (Lib Dem) and the new Vice-Chair will be Cllr Lisa O’Brien (Conservative).

Cllr Singleton and I “attended” the Saltford Business Network AGM (ZOOM) on 30th June. SBN covers the ward area including Corston. We also “attended” an SBN presentation on 23rd June in which Newton Farm Foods explained how the business adapted in the Covid-19 emergency.

B&NES has produced its own version of an anti-litter poster “Don’t be a Tosser!” This poster design is one being used by a number of local authorities around the country. There is a twitter handle #DontBeATosser.

The Local Government Association is consulting on a “Model Member Code of Conduct” until Monday 17th August. <http://www.local.gov.uk/code-conduct-consultation-2020>

Casework continues