

SWANDS JULY NEWSLETTER- a short one!

First, a big welcome to our new members who have joined via Facebook. We look forward to meeting up in person in the future.

LIVE MEETINGS: It's frustrating that we still have constraints on meeting up from Covid-19 . There's a lot of conflicting advice coming out on mixing indoors with people not in our household group or bubble. With a view to returning to live meetings and talks as soon as we can,

***please send in your ideas for speakers and topics, and we will make some provisional bookings.

***If you would like to take part in a distanced BAT WALK or other nature focussed walk, please get in touch.

CONSULTATIONS: Locally , all these consultation projects issues have an impact on our sustainability, and wider sustainability. Please do log on and get involved with these.

1. Banwell bypass consultation on the preferred route- ends 16th August . New roads are extremely carbon costly, and this major project will have a massive negative impact on North Somerset Council's ambition to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. There is discussion about this, and a link to the consultation here: <https://winscombeandsandford.org.uk/category/banwellbypass/>

There are live consultation events at Banwell and Churchill, none for our parish.

Yesterday, after many requests, some environmental and other studies on the Bypass impact were posted online here:

<https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QVXLHHL01600>

Please do take a look, and post any comments or queries you have so we can all discuss these.

Proposals for a Banwell Bypass Greenway- 'The Emerald Necklace'- We are lucky enough to have a presentation by Dr Lincoln Garland, who lives in Winscombe, with some initial ideas about mitigation and achieving 10% biodiversity net gain. The slides, and a recording of the Zoom meeting which took place, are here:

<https://youtu.be/UpeuWIEJfFw> and

<https://winscombeandsandford.org.uk/the-emerald-necklace-a-proposal-to-mitigate-some-effects-of-the-banwell-bypass/>

Hopefully we can summarise our views about the Bypass, and possible mitigation, by the end of the month.

2. Winscombe Community Centre consultation, about a possible new centre, and how this can be funded, end on July 31st- this can be accessed here: <https://winspace.org.uk/>

3. 20 mph Parish Council scheme proposals- closed last month. We have yet to have the results disclosed by the Parish Council, but it is thought to be YES to 20 mph. There is an ongoing North Somerset campaign, as well as a local campaign, for county-wide 20 mph limits in residential areas,

and where motorised traffic mixes with pedestrians and cyclists, more details online on the village website and Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1404083953292502>

EVENTS:

Bristol Airport's Appeal against the Council's refusal of permission to expand. The Appeal starts on 20th at Weston Town Hall. Details on how and when to attend or take part are online:

<https://www.airportwatch.org.uk/2021/07/bristol-airport-expansion-for-2-mppa-more-public-inquiry-to-will-start-on-july-20th-for-10-weeks/>

The decision will have major implications locally and nationally.

To contact the independent Programme Officer about speaking or taking part, even at this late stage, email joanna.vincent@gateleyhamer.com The documents are available at

<https://gateleyhamer-pi.com/en-gb/bristol-airport/inquiry-news/>

COP 26 focus event: RELAY TO COP 26, a relay walk organised by the Young Christian Climate Network which sadly we heard about too late to include as a future event open to all. Walkers set off from Naile and Bradley Stoke on Monday 12th July heading to Bristol. On Saturday 17th July they leave Bristol for Keynsham, and onwards in relays to Glasgow. Take a look at the itinerary and details;. <https://www.yccn.uk/>

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE OF Parties, the big Climate Change conference, takes place 31st October 12th November this year. All over the country climate action groups are taking part in events aimed at raising public consciousness about the gap between government action on climate change and the increasing climate and ecological threats we are facing, and enlisting support from those in power.

FULL NEWSLETTER: There have been many events this month worth noting. It's been a busy month, so the usual full newsletter will take a little longer.

For a treat, why not log on to the Inkcup Journal ? It's a compilation of the latest news on nature and conservation in Britain. It's free to read, but subscriptions are welcome..