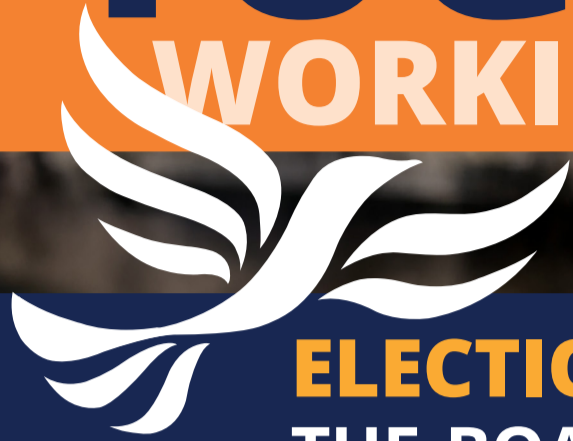


# WORKING TOGETHER

## WORKING WITH YOU



**ELECTION NEWS FROM SAM BLACKWELL AND THE BOA NORTH LIBERAL DEMOCRAT FOCUS TEAM**  
[www.boalibdems.org.uk](http://www.boalibdems.org.uk) • [www.facebook.com/boalibdems](https://www.facebook.com/boalibdems)

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### Factfile

**When are the elections?**

Thursday 1st May.

**What are we voting for?**

Wiltshire Council and BoA Town Council. Bradford North Ward has one Wiltshire Councillor and six town councillors.

**How do I vote?**

You can vote on the day at a local polling station or by post. To register for a postal or proxy vote contact Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0112 or <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-register-to-vote>

**Who runs the councils at the moment?**

Wiltshire Council is Conservative run with the Liberal Democrats the largest opposition group. Bradford's current two Wiltshire Councillors are Lib Dem. The current town council is formed of seven Liberal Democrat councillors and five Ideal Bradford councillors.

**What do the councils do?**

Lots of things that affect our daily lives! Wiltshire Council is responsible for social services for adults and children, roads and pavements, rubbish collection and recycling, planning, housing, special educational needs provision, transport, libraries and more. The town council is responsible for our play areas, parks and other green spaces, buildings such as St Margaret's Hall, the youth centre and public toilets. Its role includes the youth service, events, encouraging tourism and allocating grants.

# Sam Blackwell

**is standing to be your next Wiltshire Councillor in the elections on May 1st. He is also standing again for the town council.**

### About Sam



A town councillor for the past four years and deputy mayor for the past year. Is a keen cyclist and fitness enthusiast. Serves as a trustee of the Mount Pleasant Centre.



Led the town council's support for the Ukrainian community, worked to set up the council's subsidised children's summer club and helped deliver two successful fireworks displays.



As Chair of the council's Resources Committee, has helped to expand the youth service, with the addition of a youth café.



Sam with retiring councillors, Tim Trimble and Jennie Parker, stewarding at the fireworks.

Sam says: "Over the past four years, the Lib Dem led town council has worked to help families across the community to be able to take part in what our town has to offer, despite the cost of living crisis. We have put on budget winter films, subsidised the summer club and kept our events free of charge or low cost. We got the skatepark built for our young people and supported activities for older people. I want to continue that work and contribute more by working as a Wiltshire Councillor too."



## Update on traffic

Wiltshire Council, responsible for highways, has now said that any one-way system for traffic in Bradford must maintain Silver Street as two-way for buses. Last autumn the whole town council agreed a motion asking Wiltshire Council to introduce a new traffic system with wider pavements in the town centre. The response from Wiltshire Council, in a briefing note issued just before Christmas, also said a detailed technical study will be needed to investigate the viability of a bus contraflow system, without which one-way will not be acceptable. The town council has asked Wiltshire Council to proceed with this study.

Sam Blackwell says, "Traffic is a thorny topic in Bradford on Avon, and safety of pedestrians has been our top priority throughout our negotiations with Wiltshire Council. Ten years after the vote rejecting the historic core zone for Bradford, the town council has succeeded in bringing Wiltshire Council back to the table. Repeated changes of Cabinet member for Highways over the past four years haven't made it easy, but we have kept them engaged. If elected to Wiltshire Council, I will continue the work to get the best deal we can for our town."



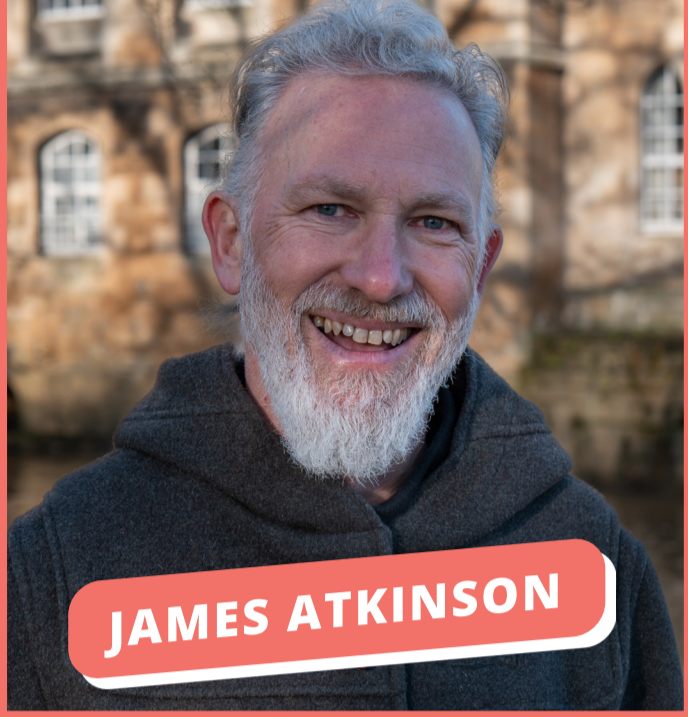
Local MP, Brian Mathew is backing a new pedestrian bridge.

## Progress on a new pedestrian bridge

Last year, the town council sent Wiltshire Council the strategic outline case for a new pedestrian bridge. Wiltshire Council has now responded offering engineering and bid support to help the project progress and secure funding. Local MP Brian Mathew has written to Wiltshire Council offering to help progress the project. Katie Vigar says, "It's great that the town council has secured this support from Wiltshire Council and from our MP. As well as making crossing the river safer, a new bridge should help keep the town connected at times of flooding."



# Our campaign team in Bradford on Avon North



**JAMES ATKINSON**



**KATIE VIGAR**



**SAM BLACKWELL**

## Walker runs for council

New to the team, James Atkinson is a keen walker and standing for election to the town council. He says, "The walking wheel map was the best £5 I ever spent." As well as using our local footpath network, James is keen to help our town become safer for all users of our roads and pavements.

He says, "As a pedestrian, I tend to notice all the little things around the town from minor issues such as uneven paving slabs and dog waste to major hazards such as finding a way to cross the top of Market Street to Newtown and the town bridge safely on foot.

"As I see it, lots of issues intersect: air quality, traffic speed, pavement parking and obstructions such as untrimmed hedges and dog fouling which combine to make the experience of walking through the town a difficult and sometimes dangerous one. If elected to the town council, this is something I'd be keen to work on."



## A record of action, a promise of more...

The Liberal Democrat led town council and our Wiltshire Councillors have worked on many projects over recent years, including:

- >>> Getting the skatepark built
- >>> Introducing a subsidised summer club
- >>> Refurbishing Poulton play park
- >>> Planting over 3000 trees
- >>> Introducing 'Snippets', an email newsletter
- >>> Initiating and supporting the Men's Shed project
- >>> Campaigning to protect the old golf course
- >>> Completing the living green wall
- >>> Expanding the youth service and supporting the Aldhelm Court 60+ Club
- >>> Developing a new music festival and taking on the fireworks displays
- >>> New litter bins with recycling sections
- >>> New noticeboards at the top of Whitehill and at Poulton
- >>> Setting up an e-bike loan scheme
- >>> Setting up a consultative residents' panel
- >>> Buying a speed indicator device
- >>> Extending re-wilded areas, having taken on grass cutting from Wiltshire Council
- >>> Introducing live-streaming of full council meetings

Former Mayor Katie Vigar says: "As a town council we have worked together with staff and volunteers to achieve a great deal over four years. At a time of great change and immense financial pressures, it's been a joy to see what can be done when we pull together. It's true community politics."



## Practical politics

The local Lib Dems promote people to be town councillors who prioritise practical politics over party politics. Many of our candidates were not Liberal Democrat members before deciding to stand for the council. Our councillors are not told how to vote but share values of community, freedom and equality of opportunity. We care about our environment and believe in the importance of decisions made locally. We stand candidates for the town council to contribute to our local democracy, provide choice and because we believe in supporting people to become involved in decision making.

