

Dear Resident,

I am writing to invite you to become a member of the Bathwick Estate Residents' Association (BERA).

BERA has existed for many years, and until 2020 had a membership based on paper forms and cash collected at AGMs, organised with great dedication by Sylvia Ayers. Since 2020 this has not been feasible, and BERA has operated on a virtual basis with no membership system. Sylvia has now retired from her Treasurer/Membership role, and Wendy Powney has helpfully taken it on, and devised an online but still simple membership system. More detail on that below.

Why should you join BERA? The Association exists to help residents to work together to make life better on the Estate. Sometimes this means influencing BathNES about things local to us. One recent example was the Bath Clean Air Zone, where the initial plan was for our patch to be outside the CAZ, which would have left us as a convenient drop-off location for non-compliant vehicles delivering to central Bath. We successfully argued that we should be included. Another more recent example is the proposed Beckford Road cycle lane, where we have already succeeded in arguing for one safety improvement, and are currently seeking another. A rather different example is the brilliant Bathwick Estate Street Tree campaign devised and led by Alasdair Barron.

More broadly, BERA provides a forum where issues of concern to residents over issues such as traffic, pollution, transport, crime, safety, planning can be discussed and publicised, and possible actions agreed. Our committee meets every two months with our local Councillors for this purpose, and we communicate by email in between times. You will have seen some examples of this in emails such as this from me. And, once a year at least, we have a general meeting (virtually last year, but none in 2020) where all members are encouraged to come along and have their say. At Council Elections we organise candidate hustings to help you decide who to vote for. We also have links and regular meetings with other Bath Residents Associations.

You can see more detail about BERA on our website here: <https://www.bathwickestateresidentsassociation.org/>

Some of these things can be done to some extent by one of the very active WhatsApp Groups on the Estate. These are great for alerting residents to opportunities and issues, but are not enough by themselves to interact collectively with, for example, BathNES initiatives that directly affect us.

I hope you will decide to join BERA. It costs just £3 per annum. If you do, then please follow the Collectiv link below to become a member of BERA and to pay your membership fees. Please note that you don't need to download the Collectiv

app - all you need to do is follow the link. It is very simple but if you have any concerns or questions please contact Wendy on wendypowney@hotmail.com. We will only use your personal information for BERA related communications and it will not be passed on to any third parties. The only information we need to meet the membership requirements is your name, residential address and email address. (And we can set up paper based membership arrangements for those unable to use email.)

The Collectv link is here: <https://pay.collectiv.com/bathwick-residents-association-bera-86194>

Once BERA membership is re-established in this way I will use the new list for future communications.

Please pass this invitation on to other Bathwick Estate residents you know who do not currently receive these emails and may be interested in joining.

Best wishes and a Happy New Year,

Charles Draper
Chairman
BERA

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