

Bleadon Parish News Update – February 2024

Report Author: Cllr Jo Gower-Crane (BPN WG Chair)

This report offers a brief bullet point update, covering the period since the Bleadon Parish Council (BPC) update in November and publication of the new style Bleadon Parish News (BPN) in December 2023.

- The new style first edition of the BPN was well received at a cost of £392.
- As recommended by the WG and agreed by BPC in Sept 23, an internal “... *review and clarification of the ‘Parish News’ distribution mechanisms and agreements*” was undertaken. This resulted in a change of the distribution lead, to Jo Gower-Crane, and a new distribution mechanism put in place.
- Distributors now pick up BPN bundles from the Bleadon Farm Shop. I received positive comments from the shop and distributors.
- BPNs were delivered to households before the 1st December 2023 as planned. Remaining copies were left at the shop for customers to pick up.
- During the process delivery gaps were identified and covered, especially at the extremes of the parish e.g. Shiplate Road, Toll Road, Canada Coombe, Accommodation Road.
- New people came forward to be distributors, and we now have additional people for backup, should any routes be unable to be delivered on time.
- Distributors commented that the smaller A5 format was easier to carry and post through letterboxes, and that the process enabled them to pick up newsletters in their own timescale.
- Feedback from residents indicated that they also appreciated a return to the smaller format, event information and appreciated the council update articles.
- I didn’t receive any requests for digital only copies of the BPN, however a colour version is also available on the BPC website.
- I found Les Masters’ continued assistance as BPN proof reader beneficial.
- As discussed at the November WG the BPN now has a stiff cover, aimed for 100% coverage to include the extremes of the parish (no posting required), the Newsletter Survey responses were included, cover image reviewed and revised, quality print paper used and 600 copies of the BPN printed.
- As also discussed at WG, Taylor Thorne print company will continue to be used. A quick print turnaround was gratefully received.
- The A5 monochrome edition was improved with a colour front and back cover.

March / Spring Edition

- The 16 February 2024 deadline has now passed. I’ve received no additional comments, feedback or article suggestions from the WG following the last publication. As agreed by BPC previously, as the WG is not an editorial panel, I have decided that a WG meeting will not be required for this edition (especially as timescales are tight due to recent bereavement).
- I have received a number of articles from members of the public and I’m in the process of following up a few more.
- The Spring cover of the BPN will be yellow, as discussed by the WG.
- Following feedback, depending on contributions received, I aim to create a colour centre spread of photos from the events advertised in the last BPN.
- The March BPN aims to be delivered by Sunday 17 March 2024.