

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

OCTOBER 2022



The 505 Bus Service

Good News - Look out for yellow buses!!

Big Lemon, a company running bus services in Brighton, has applied to the Traffic Commissioner for a licence to operate in the West of England and is planning to run four services in Bristol from 3rd October including the 505 service between Long Ashton Park and Ride and Southmead Hospital.

The Big Lemon Company, a community interest company, was set up in 2006 to provide affordable and environmentally sustainable bus services in the Brighton area.

Update on 99 Devonshire Road

Progress with 99 Devonshire Road is going well and it is certainly looking good from the outside (Let's hope that big, bright new flank wall is not too attractive to graffiti artists). We have asked the builders for a rough idea for how long it might now take to completion and they have suggested the end of the year. We might know more in a few weeks so do watch this space.

Update on St. Christopher's

Some of you will by now no doubt be wondering what happened to the planning application for an Extra Care home on the old St. Christopher's School land. It has taken ages for the planning officers to receive reports on the application from other Council departments (e.g. Transport, a very important one). After over 6 months, the reports are only just in : around 700 comments have been submitted, virtually every one being an objection – including five from WPCA covering different aspects - overdevelopment/design, parking, community engagement, financial viability and bio-diversity (very recent after the extremely late submission of a report from the applicants).

The comments from the Council's Transport Development Management Team were critical of the failure of the application to demonstrate that pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can safely access and move around the site and concluded that "If the applicant is not willing to withdraw the application then it must be refused on the grounds that it would be detrimental to highway safety".

It is looking increasingly likely that the application will be withdrawn because the likely outcome is that it would otherwise be refused. What happens next is difficult to call, but the rumour mill suggests that the developers are already preparing some new designs which will, presumably (and hopefully), aim to deal with the main areas of objection, though there are an awful lot of these and some look insurmountable.

Things can takes ages to move forward at this critical stage but we will let you know as soon as anything really important happens.

Max Minerva's

Some of you may have noticed that Max Minerva's, our lovely, local, independent bookshop has disappeared. Not entirely true! They have moved to the Henleaze shopping area, in the first stretch of shops on the left coming from Westbury Park (and unmissable in its established bright yellow style) – so not that far way.

The shop is clearly bigger and probably gets a better footfall than where they were in North View, and they still intend to do events such as talks. Independent bookshops remain too rare today (though Max must be doing OK because they are about to open a second shop in Portishead High Street) so please, please keep using them!

And their old North View premises? That's already on its way to becoming a specialist cheese and wine (and other things) shop. How times change!

Waitrose – Electric Vehicle Recharging Points

Some of you may have noticed that a number of electric vehicle recharging points are being installed by Shell in the Waitrose car park – it is believed that there will be two 50 kw and six 22 kw recharging points. This is part of a national plan announced by Shell and Waitrose to instal 800 recharge points in up to 100 Waitrose locations by the end of 2025.

Jeff Bishop and Kevin Chidgey
Westbury Park Community Association
3rd October 2022