

Bower Ashton Community Plan

Last Amendment 2nd November 2015

Contents

1 Introduction Page 2

Background to the Community Plan, Bower Ashton Context, About Bower Ashton, History of the Residents Association, Existing organisations within Bower Ashton, Shops and Facilities, Local Sports Facilities & Play Areas & Public Events.

2 Heritage Page 9

History of Bower Ashton, Best Buildings & grade II listed buildings and structures in Bower Ashton.

3 Transport Page 11

Foot & Cycle Paths, Bus Stops & Bus Services, Metrobus

4 Green Spaces Page 13

Good Garden Awards, Community views on developments

5 Community Safety Page 14

6 Older People Page 14

7 Festivals and Major Community Events

Security Plan (separate document) Page 14

1 Introduction

Background to the Community Plan

The purpose of this community plan is to provide a comprehensive view of what we want for our community over the next 5 to 10 years.

The plan will identify the things we like and want to protect as well as improvements that we want to make.

We can't prevent change but we can attempt to ensure that future developments are well managed and that any changes that take place where ever possible enhance our community.

A community plan is a living document produced by the community that sets out its shared vision for the future. It contains a series of community objectives and an action plan of what we want to do and how we are going to do them.

Some of the identified issues and opportunities can be dealt with by the local community however other things will require outside intervention and resources. Potential resource sources include Bristol Council, Greater Bedminster Community Partnership, the lottery as well as internal community fund raising events or a whip round.

Resources from outside our community are more likely to be considered for groups that represent the community and have identified their needs rather than those who seem uncertain.

The community plan is an opportunity for us to come together as a community to develop a plan. Of course, having a plan does not solve any problems; it's the implementation that counts.

More information on Bower Ashton is available on -

- <http://www.bowerashton.co.uk/> - BARA, Bower Ashton Residents website
- <http://www.bower-ashton.co.uk/> - for other information on Bower Ashton

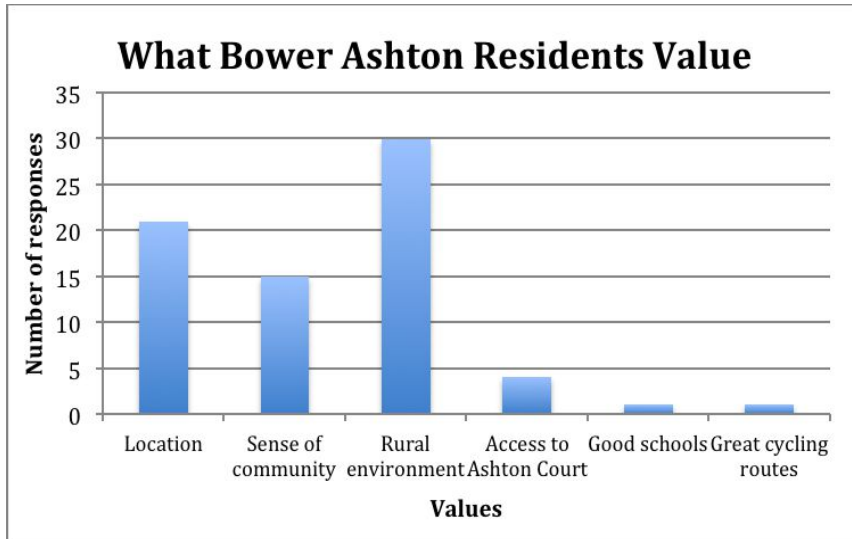
Bower Ashton context

Number of residential properties in Bower Ashton – 79

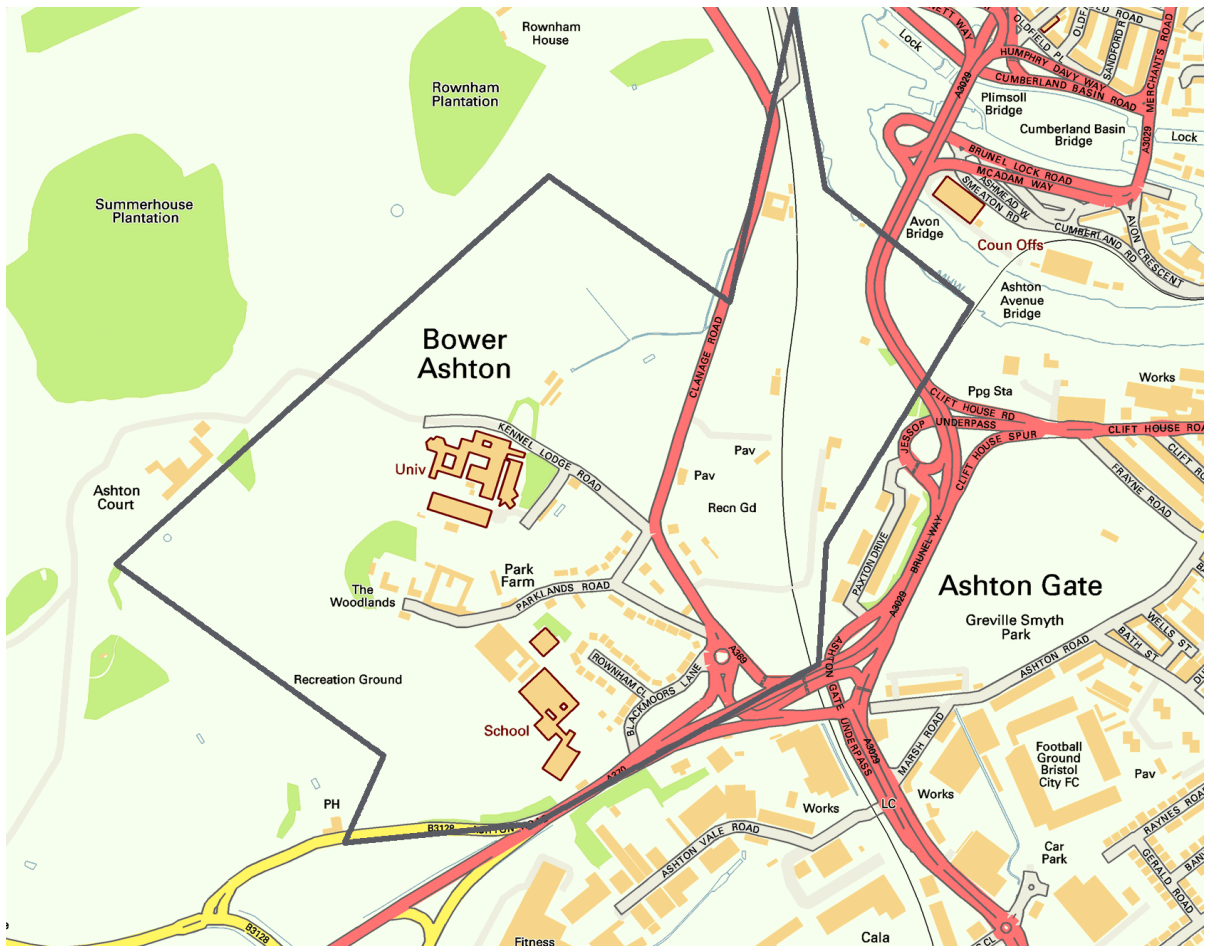
Number of streets – 6 (Blackmoors Lane, Clanage Road, Courtlands Lane, Kennel Lodge Road, Parklands Road & Rownham Close).

In 2011 a questionnaire was circulated to the Bower Ashton residents to obtain views on the parking situation in the community and the questionnaire also included a question asking “what do you value about living in Bower Ashton.”

53 of the questionnaires commented on the question ‘What do you value about living in Bower Ashton’ and the results are shown in the following graph.



About Bower Ashton



Map of approximate Bower Ashton boundaries

Post 1873 Map - <http://bower-ashton.co.uk/victorian-map.htm>

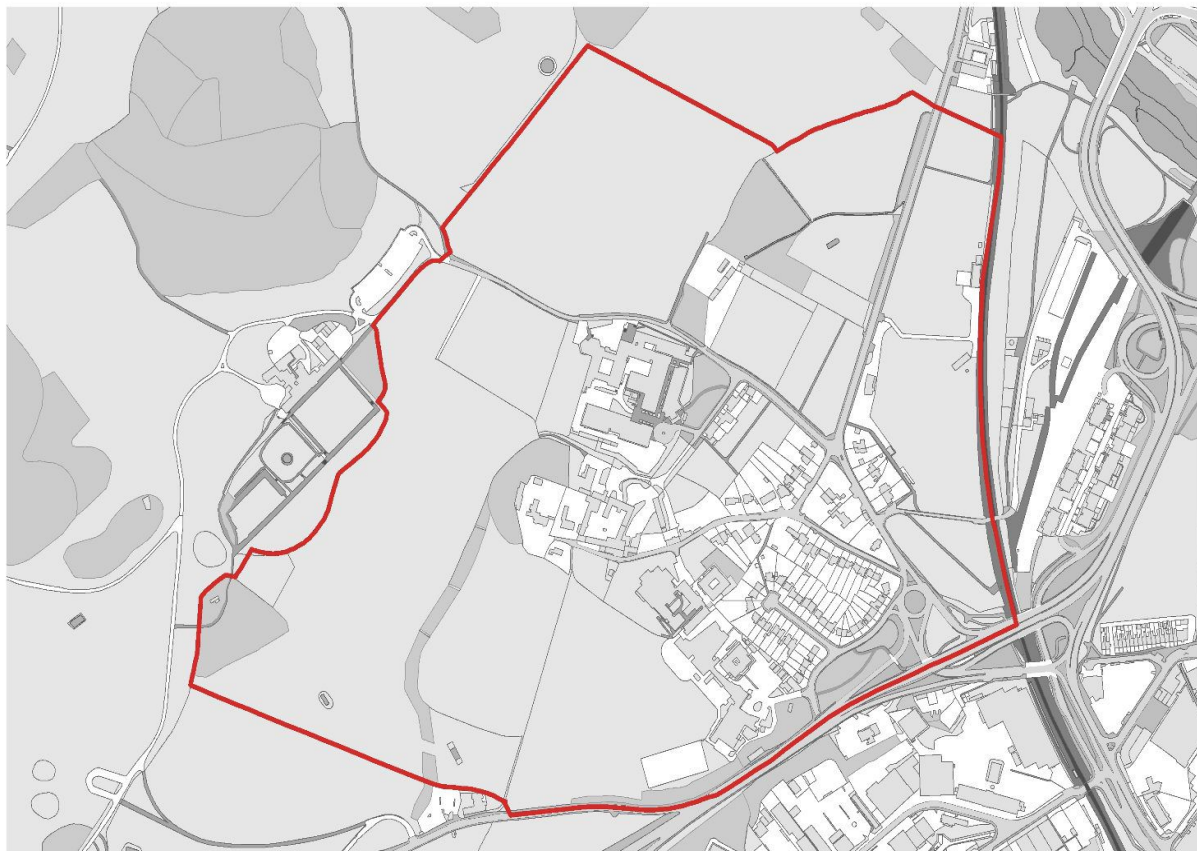
Bower Ashton is a conservation area – what does this mean?

Most of Bower Ashton is in a conservation area, which is an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Land and property within a conservation area may have extra planning controls to protect the character of the area. You must get consent from Bristol City Council for the demolition of any building or structure in a conservation area.

The Council must also receive six weeks' notice before works are carried out to any tree in a conservation area.

Map of Bower Ashton's Conservation Area



© Crown Copyright and database rights 2014. Ordnance Survey 100023406.



History of the Residents Association

The Association was set up on the 1st September 1998. At least one representative from each road was appointed to be a committee member and monitor for their road. The main issue to be tackled was the Balloon Fiesta on account of the vast numbers of people attending and using Parklands road and Courtland's Lane as their access and exit point. Considerable damage and inconvenience to private property had been sustained. In conjunction with the police and BCC highways department the current road closures, no parking and security during the Fiesta were set up.

The other main features were the setting up of a neighbourhood watch and negotiations with BCC planning department over the building of the Ashton Park School sports centre.

What is the purpose of a residence association?

- Residents' associations are organisations formed by groups of people from a specific geographic community who come together to address issues within their local area and act as a voice for their local community.

How can the community plan help to shape the role of the residents association?

- By providing a comprehensive view of what we want for our community over the next 5 to 10 years the community can set out its shared vision for the future. This will enable us to identify community issues and opportunities and a plan of what we want to do and how we are going to achieve it.

What has the community achieved to enhance the environment?

- Tree planting
- Bulb planting
- Speed restrictions and traffic calming measures on Clanage Road

What has the community done as a supportive community/ neighbourhood?

- Community street party every two years (2010, 2012 & 2014)
- Friends of Friday (community coffee morning last Friday of the month 10.30-12.00 except in December). Currently held at Bedminster Cricket Club on Clanage Road.
- BBQ on the green above Blackmoors Lane (2015)

How does the residents association communicate with the community?

- Email newsletters (to over 66% of households) and less frequently printed newsletters sent to all households
- Leaflets
- Bower Ashton websites
- Annual General Meeting

Existing organisations within Bower Ashton

Police dogs/horses

Avon & Somerset Police force have kennels and stables in Bower Ashton. Both dog and horse sections are based in Clanage Road.

Cricket club – Bedminster Cricket Club (BCC)

Founded in 1847, with over 100 years history on Clanage Road. Bedminster currently play in the West of England Premier League and the Bristol and District Cricket League. They run five adult Saturday sides, one Sunday side and five Youth sides ranging from Under 9s up to Under 17s. Bedminster Cricket Club is located at the Clanage, Bower Ashton within sight of the Suspension Bridge and Cumberland Basin. The Youth section enters teams from U9 to U17 in local competitions and friendly matches indoor and outdoor virtually all year round.

The new Clubhouse and bar offers excellent facilities including Sky Sports on the large screen and is the heart of a family orientated club. The club is always happy to welcome new members of any age and ability to its growing and diverse membership. The clubs facilities are also available for hire.

Teddies nursery

Teddies Nurseries Bristol employs an expert and friendly childcare team who understand parents' need for confidence and advice, while maintaining a pleasant nursery for learning and development that has been designed to help children practice their confidence and communication skills preparing for the move into full-time education. They have 16 staff and have a total of 50 places for children aged from 3 months to 5 years old.

Allotments - Hotwells and District Allotment Association (HwDAA)

Situated in South Bristol, the HwDAA has been around for over 95 years. They have 6 sites in South Bristol (BS3) which are administered on behalf of Bristol City Council. 5 of them are in the Kennel Lodge Road/Clanage Road area near the access to Ashton Court and the UWE Art Faculty, and the largest site, Alderman Moore's is just off Ashton Drive.

University of the West of England Art College

The Bower Ashton campus of the University of the West of England (UWE) is the Department of Art and Design and part of the UWE's Faculty of Creative Arts, Humanities and Education. The campus is on the edge of Bower Ashton accessed via Kennel Lodge Road, with many buildings on the Kennel Lodge Road side overlooking the red deer enclosure of Ashton Court Estate.

Woodyard – Forest of Avon Wood Products Co-operative

In 1999 a group of businesses and individuals working with wood grown in the Forest of Avon, near Bristol, realized that they would be stronger working together, and formed a co-operative consortium - The Forest of Avon Wood Products Co-operative. This has grown over the last few years to a group of nearly 50 strong. The main aim of the co-operative is "To promote local timber, woodland produce and wood crafts, and so support the sustainable development of working woodlands in the West of England". The range of enterprises in the co-operative is huge – woodland management, timber milling, furniture design, wood turning, timber framing and construction, wood fuel supply, and many others –all offer sustainable products and services from or for the local woodland. Each of the enterprises manages their business separately, but they work together when sourcing, marketing and selling their products.

Rowland Stonemasonry Ltd - off Clanage Road

For over 25 years they have been providing Stone masonry services for clients throughout Southern England & South Wales. Their business reputation is built on the recommendation of their customers who value the quality of workmanship and high standard of finish produced by their skilled craftsmen. All aspects of stone masonry are covered by their comprehensive range of services.

Ashton Park School (inc Sports Centre & Post 16 Centre)

Ashton Park School is a comprehensive school in Bristol, England, for 11 to 16 year olds. Students come from primary schools including Ashton Gate, Hotwells, Southville, Compass Point, Hillcrest Primary School and Luckwell. The school has a sixth form centre which has the freedom of college, but the support of a school. This prepares students for the next stage in their life. The school is a specialist Sports College. The school focuses on 'sport for everyone' which could mean simply table tennis for the less able, but the school also runs a 'Gifted and Talented' Sports regime where famous sports people have come in and given lessons such as Jason Gardener. Many extra curriculum clubs are run for a wide variety of team sports, dance and athletics. The school opened on 8 September 1955 as Ashton Park Secondary Modern School, built in the grounds of Ashton Court. The intake of pupils was aimed at the district of Hotwells.

On periphery of Ashton Court

Ashton Court is a Country park and mansion with 850 acres of woodland and grassland and many activities. Admission is usually free but there may be charges to some areas during some of the larger events and special charges for parking. Parking charges started in July 2012 at £1 per vehicle per day, which allowed parking in any of the estates car parks. There are also discounts for yearly passes and free parking for early morning dog walkers – charges have increased since then so please refer to the Bristol Council website (who own the estate) for the latest details.

Local Organisations, Shops and Facilities

Ashton Road (Bristol):

- Small shops: glazier, Coopers Arms pub,
- Bristol City Football Club (see link on Winterstoke Road)
- [Bar BS3](#)

Ashton Road (Long Ashton) :

- [The Ashton](#) Country Pub and Restaurant – Former names The Coach and Horses, The Smyth Arms & The Dovecode. The Dovecote was badly damaged by fire in June 2014 and re-opened as The Ashton in 2015.

Clanage Road:

- [Bedminster Cricket Club](#)
- [Clifton Car Boot Sale](#)
- Teddies Nursery

Clift House Road:

- [Riverside Garden Centre](#) Garden Centre and Cafe with beehives on the riverside too.

North Street:

- small shops: bakers, butcher, banks, hardware store, pharmacist, newsagents, ...
- Supermarkets: Aldi & Spar (with a Post Office)
- [Tobacco Factory's Theatre, Bar & Sunday Market](#)
- [The Hen & Chicken/Comedy Club](#)

Winterstoke Road:

- South Bristol Retail Park: Malvern Tyre Services, Currys/PC World, Halfords, Staples & Kentucky Fried Chicken.
- Sainsbury's
- [Brunel Ford, Ashton Gate](#) Ford dealer for new/used cars & services.
- [Bristol City Football Club](#)

Local Sports Facilities & Play Areas

- [Ashton Park School Sports Centre](#)
- [Greville Smyth Park](#)
 - [Greville Smyth Tennis Club](#)
 - [Greville Smyth Community Bowls Club](#)
 - [FROGS: Friends of Greville Smyth Park](#)

Public Events

Ashton Court Estate - Balloon Festival, Brisfest, Bristol Rock

Greville Smyth Park - summer events for children, Mile runs

2 Heritage

History of Bower Ashton

1. Possible origins of Bower Ashton

With Ashton, Ashton Gate and Long Ashton all near neighbours, the Ashton part of Bower Ashton, is more than likely to come from the original Ashton settlement. Ash coming from the Ash tree together with ton, which in Anglo Saxon means enclosed village, manor or farmstead.

The original meaning of the Bower part of the name is less clear although Anglo Saxon 'Burh' meaning town, often became 'borough' in Norman times. With a 1840's map referring to Bower Ashton as Borough Ashton.

[Wikipedia: Anglo Saxon 'Burh'](#) & [Wikipedia Norman 'Boroughs'](#)

Other possibilities come from the Iron Age settlement or temple in the grounds of Burwalls House in Leigh Woods on Rownham Hill. It was given various alternative names in a 1996 Wessex Archaeology report, two of these were Burgh Walls or Bower Walls. With perhaps Bower Ashton named after the nearby Bower or Burgh(Burh?) Walls. Or perhaps a simple corruption from Lower Ashton.

2. St James Chapel sometimes called St Johns Chapel

The 'Site of St. James Chapel' in Chapel Acre (a roughly triangular area) now surrounded by Ashton Road, Brunel Way and their link road is adjacent to the Dovecote on Ashton Road. A 1996 Wessex Archaeology report estimates the chapel was deserted in the 13th or 14th Century (at about the time of the Black Death) and notes the village it is likely to have supported (Bower Ashton?) could have been deserted at the same time.

Another later reference to a religious site, is to a hermitage near Rownham Ferry, which may have been on the same 'St James Chapel' site.

3. Rownham Ferry

John Speed's Tudor Atlas (made between 1590 and 1606) has no reference to Bower Ashton but does mention Rownham Ferry, shown as 'Rounam Pafage' on the Somersetshire map and as 'Rownam Pafsage' on the Gloucestershire map. The original Rownham Ferry crossing was on the riverside close to the Bower Ashton Mounted Police and Dog Section buildings on Clanage Road.

It was an important crossing point of the River Avon at the time, for more on its history see - [Bower-Ashton.co.uk Rownham Ferry](http://Bower-Ashton.co.uk)

4. Oakleigh and Jersey Cottage

Bower Ashton oldest remaining buildings date from about the time of John Speed's atlas. 1600-1666 Oakleigh (original name Rownham Lane End) and 1633-1699 Jersey Cottage

5. Bower Ashton's Transfer to Bristol

Bower Ashton historically was in Somerset, the civic transfer to Bristol occurred in 1951. Bower Ashton is in the Church of England's [Benefice and Parish of Abbots Leigh](#)

Best Buildings

There are no grade 1 listed buildings in GBCP but around 30 grade 2. These are protected, because listed. Bristol City Council is establishing a 'Local List for Bristol' of buildings that don't quite make it to the national list.

See www.bristol.gov.uk/localheritagelist .

Shown on the right is the Ice House in the Ice House Plantation at the top of Smyth Field in Ashton Court Estate.

Grade II listed buildings and structures in Bower Ashton

- Woodyard (Off of Kennel Lodge Road),
- Lower Lodge (in Ashton Park School)
Restoration started in Autumn 2015 and should take one year.
- The old boundary wall of Ashton Court Estate on Kennel Lodge Road starting near the Courtlands Lane junction



3 Transport

Bower Ashton is one of the gateways into the City of Bristol. Many people/vehicles pass through every day. The addition of Ashton Park School, Teddies Nursery and the University of the West of England Art College mean that the number of people coming into the community significantly increases between Monday and Friday.

Bower Ashton is well serviced by public transport with regular buses passing through our community. There is also a cycle path into the city centre and also linking Bower Ashton to Long Ashton and beyond.

Potentially the current Portbury goods railway line could be extended to Portishead and the old Ashton Gate station could be re-developed as a passenger station with a link to the Metrobus route (see below).

Foot & Cycle Paths

Paved footpaths run from Ashton Park School's Blackmoors Lane entrance leading to Bower Ashton Terrace/Ashton Road and Greville Smyth Park via a foot bridge over Portishead Way and the underpasses on Clanage Road and Brunel Way.

Festival Way Foot/Cycle Path (3m wide). leading to a Toucan Foot/Cycle crossing of Clanage Road giving access to Ashton Court, Kennel Lodge Road, Courtlands Lane & Parklands Road.

Unpaved footpaths run between Rownham Close and Parklands Road & Parklands Road to Ashton Road (by the Ashton – formerly the Dovecote/Smyth Arms).

Bus Stops

2 on Clanage Road near Kennel Lodge Road for inbound and outbound Portishead & Pill services to & from central Bristol

1 on Clanage Road (Bower Ashton Roundabout) for ALL inbound Bristol Bus Services

1 on Ashton Road (Ashton Bridge) for ALL outbound Bristol Bus Services.

Bus Services

Country Buses Services – Central Bus Station, Millennium Square, Anchor Road, Hotwells, Bower Ashton & Portishead, Long Ashton, Weston-Super-Mare, Nailsea. Excludes all express services apart from Portishead.

U11/11a Service to/from Bower Ashton Campus via Spike Island,,Redcliffe & Temple Meads Railway Station.

505 Service to/from Bower Ashton Campus to/from Southmead Hospital

The Metrobus Route

- [Metrobus](#) – Metrobus approved by the Secretary of State in Nov 2013. Work started in 2015.
 - [Route Map](#) – Oct 2013 - Long Ashton Park & Ride, Ashton Vale, Ashton Gate (old Railway Station – Potential Stop) – CREATE Centre, Spike Island, Temple Meads, ...

4 Green Spaces

As a community we really value our environment and have been working hard to improve the look of our area through tree and bulb planting. We are currently working with Bristol City Council to install a deer structure on the roundabout. The aim is to enhance the environment as individuals pass through Bower Ashton as they enter or leave the City of Bristol.

Good Garden Awards

Support the GBCP initiative to reward those who make the effort to make their front gardens (large and small) attractive.

Development sites – community views

As a community we would have concerns about anything that compromises our current rural environment, conservation status or increased traffic levels.

Pre planning proposal for the development of the old **Ashton Railway station and depot** as a mixture of high rise and low rise housing -

- Oppose high rise buildings
- Concerns regarding access especially off Clange Road
- Concerns around parking
- Concerns over loss of local jobs
- In favour of a local shop

Pre planning proposal for the development of the **Bower Ashton Police Station** (Mounted and Dog sections) -

- Concerns over a development in a sensitive area (below the Clifton Suspension Bridge)
- Concerns over extra traffic and access/exit of large vehicles from the site
- Loss of green space in the conservation area

5 Community Safety

The safety of our community applies to all who live or pass through Bower Ashton.

Safety issues are frequently traffic related, some of the general issues include -

- Residents and school children (travelling to Ashton Park School) crossing Clanage Road (A369) at the Clanage Road roundabout.
- Lack of pavements on sections of Clanage Road, Courtlands Lane & Parklands Road.
- Excessive traffic on unpaved residential roads Courtlands Lane and Parklands Road.
- Cycling on pavements and cyclists travelling in the wrong direction on one way roadways.

6 Older People

There are very limited facilities for older people in Bower Ashton.

The Brunel Way dual carriage way with its multiple underpasses, puts off or makes it difficult for Bower Ashton's less mobile residents including the elderly and disabled to access local services and shops.

7 Festivals & Major Community Events

With the popular Ashton Court Estate on Bower Ashton's doorstep. To cope with the sometimes vast number in transit, the community has agreed a 'Security Plan' for Bower Ashton – this is a separate document showing details of barriers, stewards and security.