



ANNUAL REPORT

2022/23



Bradley Stoke Town Council
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Bradley Stoke Town Council will work to promote and develop the interests and diversity of this vibrant community

Message from the Mayor: Councillor Tony Griffiths

I would like to begin this year's report by saying thank you to the people of Bradley Stoke. Over the last 12 months, we have seen our community bounce back from numerous lockdowns and restrictions and we have really seen the Bradley Stoke community spirit shine through.

Since May 2022, the Council has been working hard together to deliver projects for our community. In the last year, we have seen the redevelopment of Bails Court play area which has the largest enclosed slider in South Gloucestershire to ensure that children have a community space to play for all age groups. At the official opening of the new play area, it was nice to see the past Deputy Clerk who was the instigator who brought this project to life.



Opening of new Bails Court Activity Centre Play Area

Whilst we have still to delivered on the key projects, we must not forget the other side of the coin. Every month, the Council meets to discuss ways in which to improve Bradley Stoke either at Full Council meetings, Planning & Environment, Finance or Leisure Youth and Amenities committees to benefit residents. I will be proud to see the Skate Park Container project finished to complete the work the Council has put in with regards to Youth Work, ensuring there is a suitable and viable programme for our young people as well as the Council taking on our own 'Youth Work'. We have also successfully delivered a community litter scheme whereby many people have gone out and collected litter in the Town. This has helped us drastically over the last year and we hope to keep this project going for several years to come. We are looking also to improve the security at all our sites. You can read more about what we have achieved this year later in this report. I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and Staff at Bradley Stoke Town Council for improving the standards of Bradley Stoke and to thank all our residents who have supported the Council this year.

I have been invited and have attended some lovely events this year including supporting The Edge Church who put on a wonderful free event giving a free day to over 200 children who have various stages of cancer. The Ghanaian Summer Ball, and the MTM Awards, opening of the Scarecrow Trail which albeit a smaller event this year. The wonderful Fireworks display which this year returned to its formal glory. Recently I attended a 'Tree and Hedge Event' where we gave away many plants and saplings to the local community to help the environment. The 2022 Community Festival was also a successful event.

I was privileged to light the Platinum Jubilee Beacon at the town council event to celebrate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne in June 2022.



Platinum Jubilee Beacon lighting

This was sadly followed in September 2022 by the opening of a book of condolence for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and then the reading of the Accession Proclamation of King Charles III.



Councillors and staff at Accession Proclamation

Once again, I would like to thank the residents of Bradley Stoke for electing me as a Councillor and the rest of the Council for electing me as Chair of Council and Mayor for this year. It has been an honour and privilege to serve the community.

The two Mayor's Charities Chosen for 2022/23 were Great Western Air Ambulance Charity and St Peter's Hospice and monies raised through the Community Festival, Scarecrow Trail and Fireworks Display were donated to those charities. The final total will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2023.



**Great Western
Air Ambulance Charity**

Tony Griffiths

Chair of Council/Mayor



A Year in the Life of the Town Council

April 2022

Launch of Bradley Stoke Town Council's 30th Anniversary celebrations with an evening Community Walk around the town

April 2022

Two town council work vehicles destroyed in arson attack

May 2022

Planting of two Oak trees (donated by The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire) and seven Field Maples at Brook Way Activity Centre in honour of Queen's Green Canopy

June 2022

HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon lighting event

June 2022

3-day 2022 Community Festival held with a Platinum Jubilee theme

June 2022

Completion and Official Opening of the new Baileys Court Activity Centre Play Area

August 2022

The 3rd annual Scarecrow Trail took place. The event raised monies, totaling just over £1,000 for the two Mayoral Charities for 2022/23, St Peter's Hospice and Great Western Air Ambulance Charity.

September 2022

Sad passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Mayor/Chair of Council read Accession Proclamation for His Majesty, King Charles III. Book of Condolence opened

September 2022

Ten new litter bins purchased to be installed around the town as a result of litter bin public consultation earlier in the year

November 2022

Local Nature Action Plan adopted by the Town Council

November 2022

Town Council Annual Firework Display

January 2023

New publicly accessible Heartsafe defibrillator purchased to be installed at Brook Way Activity Centre

January 2023

Public Consultation launched by the Town Council after withdrawal of public transport routes in the town to find out the impact of loss of the routes on local community

January 2023

Community Free tree/hedge giveaway event organised by Town Council linked to Local Nature Action Plan

February 2023

Creation of a flying birds community mural to celebrate 30 years of the Town Council

March 2023

Bradley Stoke Jobs Fair working in partnership with Department for Works and Pensions and Willow Brook Centre

March 2023

Local history event to celebrate the culmination of the Town Council's 30th Anniversary celebrations



Finance Committee Report 2022-2023

The Finance Committee plays a significant role in Council activities and deals with all the Council's financial matters, most notably to regulate and manage these, to consider the resources available to meet the Council's objectives, to draft the Council's budget, to review and report effectiveness of internal controls and internal audit, to receive reports from both internal and external auditors and to monitor the financial position throughout the year.

As regards how Town Council finances affect our residents the major item is clearly the Town Council Precept so I thought it would be wise to reiterate why we pay an element of this amidst our main Council Tax bills. While the Town Council Precept is considerably smaller and gets lost in the overall ether we do continually strive to maintain this at as low a level as possible. A well-known saying suggests that every little counts. This year yet again we are implementing a nil increase and this has been more or less the pattern for the last 17 years as only 3 minor increases have been agreed during that period (increased in 2009/10, 2016/17 & 2019/20).

Some tax is however required in order for us to maintain our main centres (Jubilee Centre, Brook Way and Bailey's Court Activity Centres) for use by the public which covers a range of activities. We need funds to maintain the sports pitches, to maintain our grass verges, to try and ensure that the neighbourhood is tidy (to that end we employ a Mobile Cleansing Operative) and during this year we part funded one of our Police Constables. There is also a considerable range of other functions that we must undertake such as replacement of fences, new gates, obliterating graffiti (unless it's by Banksy of course), any measures highlighted using Health and Safety criteria, providing new defibrillators and many and varied other tasks such as the significant provision for youth including the running of the Skatepark.

We do not spend funds (the public's money) without considerable discussion and without asking the question as to whether a particular aspect is really needed or not. If we come to the conclusion that such an item is required we generally ask for 3 estimates of supply. We believe that this is a prudent way of safeguarding our funds.

We of course do maintain a steady level of Reserves as is 'best practice' for a Town Council. Where to invest some of this has caused considerable discussion over the past year. We are obliged to invest such funds in a fairly narrow range of possibilities and while some members would perhaps encourage a more adventurous approach we are hampered by rules and regulations which make our investments almost ultra-safe but unfortunately providing lower rates of interest.

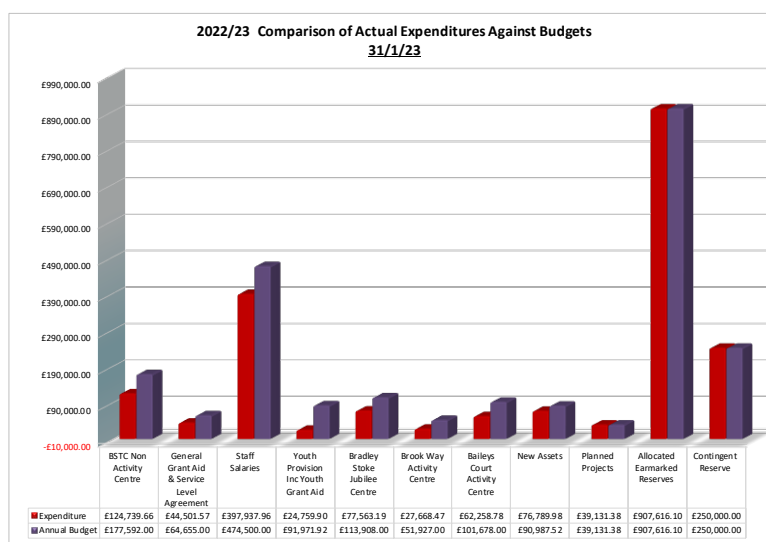
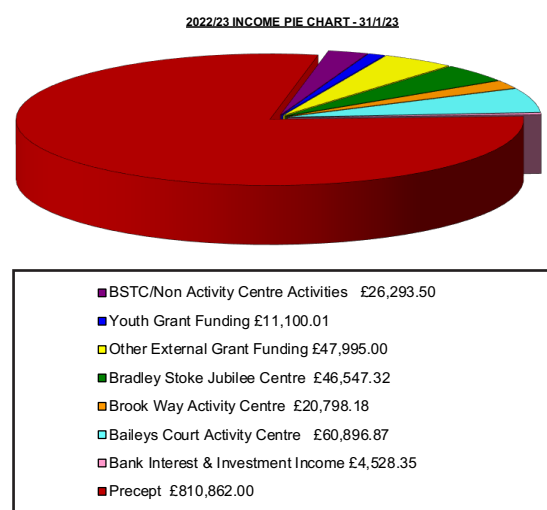
This year, conscious of the national financial situation, we are not asking for any increase whatsoever from our hirers that use our facilities although for lease holders such as Bowls, Cricket, Radio and the Scouts we have increased our hiring rates by 4% and this has been amicably agreed by all parties.

For the future and with one eye firmly on how we might reduce our running costs we are to examine the possibility of installing solar panels on our buildings but nothing as yet has been agreed so we will wait to see the outcome of this.

I and my colleagues on the Finance Committee have been quite busy this year, ably assisted by Council staff and in particular our Finance Officer. The result of this is that I firmly believe that the Town Council has been thoroughly responsible in its attitude to the stewardship of public finances and would recommend this report to our residents.

Roger Avenin

Councillor Roger Avenin
Chair of Finance Committee



The above charts are based upon provisional pre-audit and pre-year end figures which were correct as at 31st January 2023 but exclude February, March and final year end expenditures to 31st March 2023, accruals/pre-receipts and other year end audit adjustments. Finalised figures will be available after the audit papers have been produced and these will be placed onto the website at the end of June 2023.

Planning & Environment Committee Report 2022-2023

Chairing the Planning and Environment Committee over the current civic year, has been a great privilege and as always, it has been a privilege to serve the vibrant community of Bradley Stoke in this role.

The Planning and Environment Committee meet monthly to consider planning applications from the community, which have an impact within the Town or the immediate surrounding area. As a committee, we take the time to respond to these applications and represent the view of our community. Over the past year we have responded to approximately seventy-six planning applications.

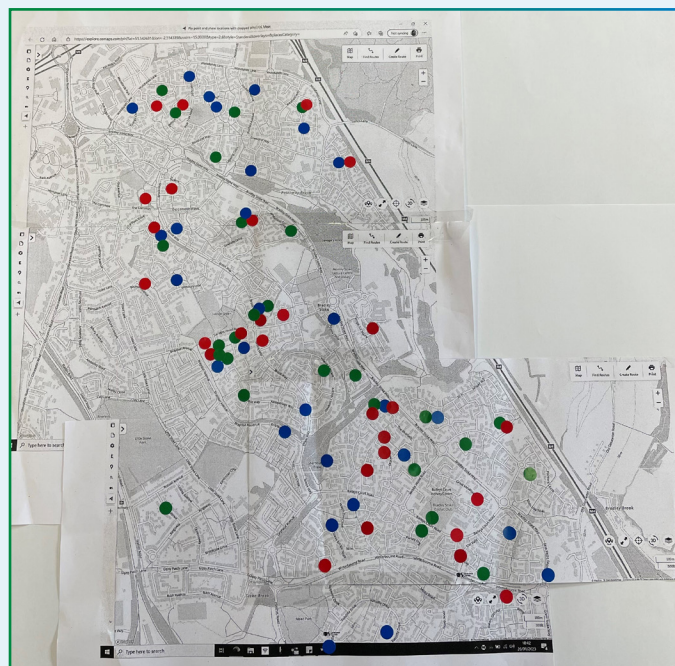
The trend in recent years, has been homeowners opting to make home improvements, adapting their properties with a view to continue living within the town. Personally, I'm encouraged by this, as it demonstrates that Bradley Stoke continues to be an ideal place to live and where people want to be.

As we look ahead, Bradley Stoke itself has been largely developed to capacity and we will continue to see the improvements and changes to our existing dwellings. Clearly, the need to build new dwellings and provide more housing stock, continues to be a national topic and the surroundings of Bradley Stoke are being developed as part of the solution to this. Most will have noticed this with the developments around the Stoke Gifford bypass.

I am concerned that planners and developers of future housing sites, need to be mindful of the mistakes of the past and ensure infrastructure is upgraded to cope with the increased demand and pressures new housing generates. Infrastructure will be of particular importance, if, areas like the Woodlands Golf Course are developed in the future. Not only would this be a shame to lose a much thought of outdoor sports facility, but any development would surely impact Bradley Stoke with increased traffic. A new estate on Woodlands Golf Course would likely generate a further pull on other strained services, notably our buses.

Under the environment banner of this committee, I'm happy to promote, that the committee this year has developed a Local Nature Action Plan. The plan is aiming to improve the biodiversity of Bradley Stoke and by implementing our plan, we have made a strong start with our Free Tree Event. We aimed to give residents who came along, a free tree or shrub to take home and plant in the Town. Our event was successful, and it was great to see so many people enthusiastic and engaged.

Once again, it has been a privilege to be chair of this committee, and as chair of the Planning and Environment Committee, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that has engaged our committee over the last year. Public engagement in our meetings and the democratic process is essential for effective and accountable governance. I'd also like to thank the officers of Bradley Stoke Town Council, who enable the committee to execute its responsibility as effectively as possible.



Location of trees/hedges and shrubs planted by residents of Bradley Stoke



Local Nature Action Plan - Free Tree Event

Ben Randles

Councillor Ben Randles

Chair of Planning & Environment Committee



Leisure, Youth & Amenities Committee Report 2022-2023

The Leisure, Youth & Amenities (LYA) committee is perhaps, due to its remit, the committee that works closest with local organisations and community groups and it is always good to meet representatives from those various groups, clubs and organisations when they attend our committee meetings to speak in support of their grant funding applications.

Bradley Stoke is fortunate to be well represented by a large number of volunteers who work tirelessly to run their organisations, groups and clubs, representing many areas of interest and a vast range of activities in our town, such as groups from diverse cultures, conservation and the environment, older members of the community and of course the youth within our town.

The Town Council has its own in-house youth provision run by our youth work team. A report on our youth provision is included separately in the annual report.

Many residents may be unaware that the Town Council through the LYA committee are able to offer funding to various community groups and organisations through a grant funding programme and we have been able to support quite a few through this programme over the last twelve months (see details in the tables below – correct as of 13th February 2023). In addition to this, we have funded Bradley Stoke in Bloom and the Bradley Stoke branch of Citizens Advice Bureau.

Should your local organisation be interested in applying for grant funding then please do get in touch with the Town Council office for more information on our grant funding programme.

The Town Council does what it can to support the local residents and throughout this winter, Bradley Stoke Town Council has been running some warm spaces across our three activity centre sites, offering a friendly welcome and free refreshments. Whilst the take-up has not been very high, we have seen some regular faces across our sites. These spaces have been run with grant funding through the South Gloucestershire Council, Welcome Spaces scheme.

In May 2022, in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebration and Queen's Green Canopy initiative, the Town Council planted two Oak trees (donated by The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire) and also planted a grove of seven Field Maples at Brook Way Activity Centre. The trees are all growing well and will hopefully serve as a lasting legacy of the Platinum Jubilee.

Finally, I would like to thank all councillors and staff for their support throughout the past year.

On behalf of

Tom Aditya

Councillor Tom Aditya
Chair of Leisure,
Youth & Amenities Committee



Community Development Grant Aid

Bradley Stoke Radio	4,000.00
TOTAL	£4,000.00

Grant Aid

Avon Pickleball Club	500.00
Bradley Stoke Zero Carbon Community Group	480.00
Bradley Stoke Ladies Football Club	425.00
Little Stoke Ladies Club	500.00
Mamas Bristol CIC	500.00
Sole Sisters Running Club	500.00
The Brightwell (West of England MS Therapy Centre)	500.00
TOTAL	£2,905.00

Larger Grant Aid

Four Towns Playscheme	£4,000.00 for 2022 Playscheme
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Service Level Agreements

Bradley Stoke Youth Cricket Club	3,500.00
Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club	2,300.00
South Gloucestershire Chinese Association	£1,764.37
TOTAL	£7,564.37

Youth Grant Aid

Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club	500.00
TOTAL	£500.00



Grove of seven Field Maples

Bradley Stoke Town Council Youth Work: 2022-2023

Overview: Following the height of the Covid pandemic, this reporting period has positively seen the return of many strands of our youth work programme. Nevertheless, 2022 started with some ongoing challenges until April 22, when Youth Work sector specific guidance, “Managing youth sector activities and spaces during Covid-19” (National Youth Agency), was further relaxed and enabled us to widen our Youth Work offer.

Youth Work sessions and wider Youth Work offer: We have delivered regular Youth Work sessions at the Skatepark, the Jubilee Centre Hardcourts and our Girls & Young Women’s Project, however, our full Youth Work offer has included the following:

- **Girls & Young Women’s Project:** weekly girls only sessions + trips, etc.
- **Skatepark sessions;** regular & ad hoc sessions.
- **Jubilee Hardcourts:** street sessions with informal sports focus.
- **Detached & Outreach sessions:** planned & ad hoc.
- **Project work:** e.g., Street Art project/s.
- **Events & competitions:** e.g., 2 days of activities at our recent Festival
- **Offsite trips & residential:** e.g., Multi activity weekends, Ice Skating, etc.
- **One to one & small group support.**
- **Volunteering - school/college placements.**
- **Golden thread:** YP having a voice, being listened too, respected & valued.
- **Work with other partners, agencies & groups.** e.g., funding, training, support, etc.
- **Presence** in the community.

Festivals, events, off site activities: June saw the return of our annual festival and two full days of youth activities and events at Jubilee Green and the Skatepark. Local young people contributed to the planning, preparation and delivery of the activities and our usual popular package of youth art workshops, skatepark competitions, pro rider demos, etc. Sessions were also delivered throughout the Summer holidays and included the return of popular Art workshops at both the Skatepark and The Girls Project. Young people were also pleased to welcome back offsite trips and activities, including the the return of our annual Xmas Ice Skating Trip.

Youth Work partnerships & funding: The Town Council continues to demonstrate a core funding commitment to Youth Work, including the employment of a full time professional Youth Worker. This commitment has been important in the development and maintenance of our youth work, but has also helped us attract, in recent years, significant additional external funding, to help

broaden our youth work offer, and for infrastructure developments, such as the skatepark (£200K of external funding). We have also forged closer partnerships, including active membership of the SG Youth Work Partnership, thus enabling us to secure significant external revenue funding, including £10k per year for 5 years (with a further contract currently being negotiated). We’ve also secured a range of grants for specific projects and built links with many other organisations and contributed to multi agency approaches.

Youth Work staffing: We currently have some part time youth support worker vacancies and when filled will then be able to deliver additional youth work sessions, including at the skatepark building, as well as expanding the reach of our Detached/ Street youth work sessions.

Youth Voice: we believe that all our youth projects and programmes should include and/or work towards developing a strong ‘youth voice’ component and therefore enable young people to have a say in decision making and in the shaping of youth provision as well as other local services. We therefore continue to aim to make young people feel valued, have a sense of ownership and become more active citizens. As previously highlighted, the building of our skatepark and the ‘ownership’ and involvement of young people, is an excellent example of the benefits of young people having high level involvement as active citizens and of BSTC adopting the principal outlined in the national document ‘Positive for Youth’ (2011): “Involving young people does not only lead to better decisions and a greater sense of ownership by young people... It also sends a clear message about the valued and positive place of young people in their community”.

The vision moving forward is to maintain and develop a range of youth projects and programmes, with a particular emphasis on young people’s needs and involvement and having their voices heard.



Summer holiday art workshops at the Skatepark

Graham Baker

Youth Development & Participation Worker

Councillors Attendance 2022-2023 (as at 13th February 2023)

		Committee allocation					Council					Finance				Planning & Environment								Leisure, Youth & Amenities				Staffing		
		Political party	Finance	Leisure, Youth & Amenities	Planning & Environment	Staffing	C May	C June Extra Full Council	C July	C Sept	C Nov	C Jan	F Jun	F Aug	F Oct	F Dec	P May	P Jun - Inquire	P Jul	P Aug	P Sept	P Oct	P Nov	P Dec	P Jan	L Jun	L Aug	L Oct	L Dec	S Dec
Aditya	Tom	C		L	P	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ashe^^	John	C	F				✓	✓	o	o	o	o	o	✓	o									✓		✓	✓	✓	o	
Avenin^^	Roger	C	F	L		S	✓	✓	o	✓	o	o	o	✓	✓	o									✓	✓	✓	✓	o	
Cranney^^	Keith	C			P		✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Cullen	Terri	C	F	L			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	o		o	✓	✓	
Fazzino	Fabrizio	G					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																		
Griffiths	Tony	C	~	~	~	S	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	o	✓	o	✓		o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
He	Edward	C	F	L			✓	✓	✓	o	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hopkinson^^	Brian	C					o	o	✓	✓							✓	o	o											
Lawrence	Dayley	L	F				✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	o														
Morey	Angela	L	F	L	P		✓	o	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	o	o	✓	✓	✓	o	o	o	✓	✓	✓	o	
Owusu-Antwi^^	Franklin	C	~	~	~	S	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	o	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	o	✓			✓
Randles	Benjamin	C	F	L	P	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rose	Ed	G			P		✓	o		o	o	✓					o	o	✓	o	o		o							
Ward	Andy	I		L	P		✓	✓	o	✓	o	✓					✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	

^^ = South Glos Councillor (may be absent from Town Council meetings if otherwise engaged on SGC business)

o = apology submitted

~ = ex-officio (Chair & Vice-chair)

grey shaded areas = councillors not on those committees. However, on occasions, councillors may substitute for other councillors on committees

C = Conservative, I = Independent, L = Labour, G = Green

Chair of Council + Chair of Staffing Committee - Tony Griffiths

Vice-chair of Council + Vice-chair of Staffing Committee - Franklin Owusu-Antwi

Chair of Planning & Environment - Ben Randles

Chair of Finance - Roger Avenin

Chair of Leisure, Youth & Amenities - Tom Aditya

Councillor Brian Hopkinson resigned from Planning & Environment Committee - 28th September 2022

Councillor Terri Cullen appointed to Planning & Environment Committee - 16th November 2022

Bradley Stoke Beat Team



Police Sergeant Bradley Holway

Police Constable Sophie Green

Police Community Support Officer Adam Ali

Police Community Support Officer Oliver Kirk

Invitation to Annual Town Meeting

**Bradley Stoke Town Council
Annual Town Meeting**

Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00pm

Oak Hall
The Jubilee Centre
Savages Wood Road
Bradley Stoke
BS32 8HL