



BRADLEY STOKE TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**7.30pm
12 May 2004**

to be held at

**The Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre
Savages Wood Road
Bradley Stoke**

You are cordially invited to stay for a
glass of wine or soft drink
after the meeting.
Please collect token at the door.



PUBLIC MEETING



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MISSION STATEMENT

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



BRADLEY STOKE TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report from the Chair of the Town Council 2003/2004

It has been my privilege to be Mayor of Bradley Stoke through another eventful year, during which a number of exciting projects have come to fruition or at least started.

The swimming pool and extended gymnasium now complement the Leisure Centre and Library by Savages Wood and are making an immense contribution to the life of the town. Several councillors and I were able to attend the formal opening in January and to see and even try the impressive facilities for ourselves.



The secondary school building has at last begun and will add enormously to the town's standing when it opens in 2005. The children leaving our primary schools will be able to continue their education locally and this should provide a great bringing together of both children and parents. There will be an arts block in the new school and many other sporting facilities that, hopefully, will be available for use by the wider community.

Our six primary schools continue to go from strength to strength and many have won prestigious awards during the year. They are working towards a combined sports event that will take place on the Friday of our Festival Weekend in June and Council is delighted by this co-operation. I was also honoured to be at the Prize giving at St Mary's Rugby Club Minis Festival just across the motorway and amazed to find over a thousand children aged from 7 to 12 taking part. They had come from as far-a-field as Birmingham and there was a particularly large number from Bradley Stoke.

Amongst the work of the Town Council, the first full year of the new Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre in Savages Wood Road has proved highly successful and many of the new user groups and visitors have

commented on the excellence of the facilities. With the football fields, tennis courts and Green, the Town Council truly has a public amenity area to be proud of. The Green has still some way to go before it reaches its peak as an outdoor area for informal activities, given the poor state of the ploughed field from which it was begun.

Residents may be interested to know that The Blue Hut that started life as Holy Trinity Church in Pear Tree Road, and then became a major community centre in Savages Wood Road, will shortly be starting a new life in Ratcliffe Drive in Stoke Gifford where it will be used by Playlink and the Army Cadets - recycling in a big way!

The first Community Festival for some years was held over the second weekend in June 2003 at Savages Wood Activity Centre and attracted many groups who set up stalls and provided entertainment. They were duly supported by the hundreds of residents who came and joined in and enjoyed wonderful weather. Preparations for the next Community Festival weekend are well under way for 12/13 June this year. There is still time for you and/or your group to get involved.

The fireworks display in November proved another outstanding success. It lasted about half an hour and was attended by well over a thousand people of all ages who came from far and wide. Weather on the day was showery, but the important period leading up to and during the lighting of the fireworks was very much in our favour. There were many requests to make the event an annual feature in the calendar and another is being planned for this year on 7 November. We were overwhelmed by the attendance figures, happily so, and know that we must cater for more visitors and traffic next time.

Community Lunches are another valuable introduction to the life of the town. Masterminded by Julie Snelling, our Community Development Worker, it aims to bring together representatives of the many groups that now flourish in the town and build up a common purpose. Our thanks go to Karen Chandler, assisted by Vanessa Walters, who cater for this event that is held every two or three months, and of course the office staff who ably send out the constant succession of invitations and reminders to the lunches.

A significant piece of research during the year was the compilation of the community Consultation Report, initiated by the Town Council in conjunction with the

Community Development Project and South Gloucestershire Council. I am encouraged by the wealth of interests and diverse needs within the community. There are over one hundred community groups in the town, all of which would welcome new members. Suggestions were made for other groups that were needed and I was gratified to see the numbers of people who would be prepared to help. There is a real feeling that the community is beginning to come together and have a sense of identity. Copies of the Consultation Report are available from the Council Office.

I was able to visit Champs sur Marne with the Twinning Association and was pleased to represent the Town Council with other representatives from Asda and Rotary, all of whom had bought trees for planting. I commend the Twinning Association's report to you, elsewhere in this Report. I also inaugurated a Football Initiative through the local police force that aims to provide more activities for the youth of the parish and guide them away from less desirable pursuits. Similarly, Operation Foster is another initiative where the police will write to the parents of any young person advising them that their child has been spoken to by the police as part of a group engaging in anti-social behaviour or any other non-criminal activity. This is supported by a letter from me as Mayor of Bradley Stoke. A list of my engagements as Mayor is included elsewhere.

Discussions between Tesco, the Town Council and Residents regarding the Town Centre have continued and, although plans that were submitted by Tesco in March 2003 but found to be unpopular remain 'on the table', we still await alternative submissions in the near future so that this important part of our town may at last begin to take shape. It will be a welcome addition to the Secondary School and Leisure Centre in that area in providing for the needs of a town of 20,000 people.

Land at Manor Farm Crescent is the last few acres remaining in the town that are earmarked for housing. Proposals for 237 dwellings for this site are also 'on the table' but as the land recently changed hands, we wait to see what the new developers may make of it.



One of the saddest moments of the year was the death of Councillor Gerald Parfitt who died in December. Elected in 1995 with the highest number of votes of any councillor in that year he was the longest serving councillor bar one and felt privileged to serve



the community. He took his office seriously and missed only one meeting since his election - and that was because he was representing the Council on a police consultative committee. He was Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee, Chair of the Board of Governors at Bowsland School (where he could be found most days) and in charge of health and safety there. As an ex-policeman, he was passionate on all things connected with the police, law and order and traffic as it was manifested in Bradley Stoke. Gerald served in the RAF during the war on radio communications and was a lifelong Radio Ham.

There were elections last May for all 15 seats on Council although, in the event, there were still two vacancies that had to be filled by co-option. Since then four seats have again become available and, at the time of writing, elections have been scheduled for 22 April. By the time of the Annual Assembly the results will be known and the Council should be able to move forward again with a full complement.

I would like to thank all Members for their contribution to the work of the Town Council, which is freely given, and the staff at the office who give us valuable support, advice and guidance on all manner of issues that confront us day by day. As one of the country's 'larger councils' these are not inconsiderable.

Councillor Julian Barge
Mayor and Chair

List of Events when the Chair Represented the Community As Mayor with the Chain of Office during 2003/2004

Elected Mayor	Wednesday	7	May	2003
Twinning Luncheon	Sunday	11	May	2003
Annual Town Meeting	Wednesday	21	May	2003
Football Initiative launch at Memorial Ground	Thursday	22	May	2003
South Gloucestershire Schools Chess Tournament (Sue Gardner)	Saturday	7	June	2003
Holy Trinity School 10th anniversary	Thursday	19	June	2003
Enthronement of the Bishop of Bristol	Saturday	21	June	2003
Opening of Bradley Stoke Community Festival	Saturday	28	June	2003
Bradley Stoke Community Service	Sunday	29	June	2003
Opening of Sports Week, Wheatfield School	Monday	7	July	2003
Buckingham Palace Garden Party	Wednesday	9	July	2003
Presentation of awards, Special Needs Judo	Saturday	19	July	2003
Tickled Pink - Asda (Breast Cancer Care)	Monday	15	September	2003
Lodge Harvest Festival (Moose International)	Monday	15	September	2003
South Glos Civic Service & Harvest Tea @ Chipping Sodbury	Sunday	21	September	2003
Fireworks Display, first annual event	Sunday	2	November	2003
Presentation of football kit to under 9s football club (Western Power)	Saturday	6	November	2003
Visit of Rotary Club of the Marne Valley	Friday	7	November	2003
Scouts Remembrance Day Service, Holy Trinity BS	Sunday	9	November	2003
South Glos Asian Project Annual Show, Leisure Centre	Saturday	15	November	2003
Arrival of Concorde at Filton, final flight	Wednesday	26	November	2003
Champs sur Marne tree planting, Twinning, Rotary and Asda	Friday	28-30	November	2003
South Glos Sports Awards (Kris O'Connor)	Thursday	4	December	2003
NW Liberal Democrat Christmas Dinner (Jubilee Centre)	Friday	5	December	2003
Special Needs Judo (Father Christmas)	Saturday	6	December	2003
Bradley Stoke Twins Group (Father Christmas)	Friday	12	December	2003
Moose Heart Christmas Dinner (Winsford)	Friday	19	December	2003
South Glos Chinese Association New Year Party	Sunday	18	January	2004
Thornbury & its Community Service	Sunday	1	February	2004
Prizegiving - St Mary's Rugby Club Minis Festival	Sunday	28	March	2004
Opening of Bradley Stoke Rotary Swimathon	Sunday	28	March	2004
Opening of Stroke Awareness Campaign at Asda	Sunday	4	April	2004

Julian Barge
Mayor of Bradley Stoke





Annual Report from the Chair of the Finance & Leisure Committee 2003/2004

If anything had to be singled out this year from previous ones, it must be the interest shown by members of the public in the decisions of the committee. From early in the new Council's life, plans for a skateboard park had been high on the agenda and as the project developed, residents living close to the Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre raised concerns that the skateboard park might be sited near to them, although at the time no decision had been taken as to its final location.

Subsequently, after other options failed to satisfy the requirements for a suitable site, the committee decided to site the proposed skateboard park adjacent to the changing rooms at the Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre. The proposals have seen significant opposition with regular public questioning at each Finance and Leisure meeting. I regret that to date, the skateboard park has still not materialised.

The committee arranged the Council's first Firework Display on 2 November and a large number of residents attended and raised £759.51 for the Mayor's Fund (benefiting Charities, Youth Forum and the Bradley Stoke Twin's Group). Feedback after the event was very positive and Council is preparing to build on this year's success.

After a presentation by John V Morris from South Gloucestershire Council, the committee agreed to enter into partnership with English Nature and South Gloucestershire Council and spend £12,000 over the next three years to support the Wildspaces Project. This would support and enhance the woods and open spaces within the town and provide opportunities for conservation, education and training for residents.

Work is in planning stages by in-house staff to refurbish the inside of Brook Way Community Centre and the committee wishes to express its thanks to those involved so far and looks forward to seeing the finished result in mid summer.

Council continued to support the Youth Development Project led by Ruth Cornish and we are happy to fund the growing amount of Youth Work within the town, providing grant aid to both youth clubs at the Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre and at the Green Hut in Baileys Court.

Health & Safety continues to be an important issue for the Council and the committee has provided

finance to ensure that both employees and the public are safe when using the Council's premises. New procedures were put in place in relation to the operation of our buildings and policies relating to damage and vandalism were adopted.

In the past 12 months, the committee has supported 12 groups through Grant Aid and has spent £3,483.04 doing so and an additional nine through Service Level Agreements to a value of £19,332.00. Council encourages new groups, who may need financial support whilst they get established, to approach them for assistance.

It is against the background of prudential spending that the auditors advised Council that its reserves were too high. In response, Council has used some of these reserves to support the Council's spending over the next 12 months. Council was therefore pleased to reduce the precept to Council Tax payers in the town by over 22.5% in 2003/04.

More improvements in the town are already in the planning stages and I hope that 2004/05 will see the realisation of a "Man with a Van" and Phase One in the re-development of the Baileys Court Sports and Social Club. Ten more litterbins have been ordered and will soon be appearing around the town, more dog bins are planned and four new seats have been placed around the town, several in Bradley Stoke Way to help people on the long walk to the District Centre.

Unfortunately, due to the absence of some councillors, two meetings of the Finance and Leisure Committee have been inquorate and unable to conduct the business of the Council. Fortunately, this has not delayed decision-making too long and the Full Council has dealt with urgent business.

I must finish by thanking David Chandler and his staff for all the support they have given the committee over the past year. I also wish to thank my fellow councillors who give their time free of charge to consider the issues before this committee. I particularly wish to remember Councillor Gerry Parfitt who died in December this year. Gerry was a valued member of both this committee and the Council and we all miss his comments and the contribution he made at meetings.

Councillor Jon Williams
Chair



Annual Report from the Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee 2003/2004

It is sad that I have to begin this year's report by recording the death in December 2003 of Councillor Gerald Parfitt who was Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee and who gave untiringly of his time both to this committee and to so many other aspects of the work of the Council. He had served on the committee since his election in 1995 and his experience and genuine concern for the well-being of the town and its residents will be missed.

Since April last year the Planning and Environment Committee has considered and reported on 285 planning applications ranging from proposals to erect garden fences through some small office blocks to 237 dwellings on the last remaining site earmarked for house building in the town at Manor Farm Crescent. The Town Council is consulted as of right on all planning proposals within its boundaries and its responses are considered by the Planning Authority (which is South Gloucestershire Council), who have the final decision unless the matter goes to appeal and/or a public inquiry.

Other matters the committee considered include traffic calming, cycle and footpaths, street trading consents and liquor licencing. Council's position on traffic calming has been generally to oppose what has been proposed and introduced, given that the town was designed for the car and all efforts should be made to keep traffic moving rather than slowing it down by removing and narrowing traffic lanes and introducing speed 'cushions' that often appear to be randomly sited and badly fitted. The Town Council's repeated appeals for more pedestrian crossings are being partially met by installations currently in hand near some of the schools and Patchway Brook Roundabout.

Ongoing projects include the development of the Green alongside Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre in Savages Wood Road. This will obviously take some time to fully mature since it is land being reclaimed from ploughed fields that had been neglected for nearly thirty years. The solid clay is a problem that had to be dealt with on the nearby football fields only by putting in expensive drainage schemes.

We are pleased the swimming pool opened in January together with an expanded gymnasium. This complex with its sports hall, meeting rooms and library has proved an enormous success and we are delighted that South Gloucestershire Council saw fit to build it in Bradley Stoke. The opening was attended by our Mayor, and other members of the Council.

Unfortunately, the town centre is still a long while in coming. The Town needs a heart and we await Tesco's revised planning application with interest. There have been many consultations and representations on this important issue, as it is essential that the best possible use be made of the site. There will be no second chance.

The secondary school has been started and the building's framework is growing fast. The school is scheduled to open for its first year pupils in 2005 and should be fully operational by 2010. It should also help in providing a centre for the community and contribute to the 'bonding' process the town so badly needs.



For the future, we note with some apprehension that even more houses are planned for the localities around Bradley Stoke; on the Northfields site at the end of Filton Airfield, Stoke Lodge, Emersons Green, Hewlett Packard land, Severnside, Hambrook, the Science Park and so on. The suggestion that government departments may be relocated from London implies that many more jobs may be created in this area as well as new office buildings and, of course, houses. Park and Ride schemes being considered for the M32/M4 junction would also add to traffic throughout the area. Will the infrastructure cope is a question being seriously asked at all levels. We hear that plans are in hand to expand Filton Abbey Wood railway station and this may have a beneficial 'knock-on' effect for train services at Patchway Station and provide useful additional commuting routes.

It remains for me to thank all the members of the Planning and Environment Committee for their work during the year, and the Clerk and office staff for their support and advice.

Councillor Christopher Lees
Chair





Annual Report from The Health & Safety Committee 2003/2004

Increasing legislation means that it is imperative for the Town Council to maintain the highest standards in monitoring the safety and cleanliness of its buildings. The Town is fortunate in having three modern premises all less than fifteen years old and a team of caretakers and cleaners who take a pride in looking after them for the benefit of those who hire them.

The training of the Leisure Assistants who man the Activity Centres, includes not only manual handling, lifting and risk assessment of jobs to be undertaken, but also litter picking, dealing with aggressive behaviour, basic first aid, drugs awareness and what to do with 'sharps' and other drug paraphernalia when found. Fortunately there is comparatively little evidence of the use of drugs and hazardous substances around the town, although they do exist and all should be on their guard at all times.

Under its general Duty of Care and in addition to its own insurance cover for public liability, the Town Council expects individuals and organisations who take part in such activities as the annual Community Festival or Fireworks Display to provide evidence of adequate insurance cover and risk assessments of the entertainment or function they will be providing.

Electrical equipment is tested each year and anyone bringing their own electrical equipment of any kind onto Council premises may expect a spot Portable Appliance Test (PAT) to be undertaken to comply with health and safety and insurance regulations.

Play areas and bus shelters are regularly inspected for safety and any necessary repairs. Independent annual assessments of the play areas ensure these meet with the approved criteria.

The cost of vandalism continues to run into tens of thousands of pounds each year and, unfortunately, the Town Council usually has no option but to remedy the defects as quickly as possible for the safety of the public. Calling glaziers in an emergency, for example, may require two visits - one to board-up (often late at night) and another to fit the glass once it has been cut to size.

An article by the staff on how the Council is being proactive in their use of Risk Assessments was published in the national magazine of Zurich

Insurance, a major insurance company. Risk assessments are under constant review and new ones are undertaken as and when required. Also, policies and procedures that are aimed to protect and support staff and hirer's are frequently added to and updated. Council staff are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau as all our premises are used by children at various times.

Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act will be compulsory by October 2004 and assessments are in hand in order to meet this. Although our premises are relatively new and 'state of the art', there is likely to be many minor, if not major, adjustments to be made such as the height of light switches and exit controls. There is a tendency to think of disability in terms of wheelchairs, but in fact this only accounts for about 5% of disabilities, that there is another 95% indicates the significance of this Act. It is expected this exercise will run into many thousands of pounds.

Congratulations are due to a member of the office staff, Miss Victoria Davies, who successfully completed the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) Certificate and was awarded a credit in the final examination, and now acts as the focus for H&S related activities in the Council.

David Chandler
Town Clerk





Annual Report from the Town Clerk 2003/2004

There are about 10,200 parishes in England of which about 9 thousand elect a parish or town council. Bradley Stoke is one of the newest of these, having been established as a parish in 1992. After many years of gestation through the planning processes, house building had actually begun in 1987 and since then the population has grown from a mere handful to about 20,000. This number of people, together with the fact that the annual turnover of the Town Council is quickly approaching three-quarters of a million pounds, firmly place the Town and its Council within the 'larger councils' group that includes only 80 or so parishes in the country. This places much greater responsibilities on the Council in terms of Audit and general management.

The situation is fast approaching where house building will have been finished and, with the exception of the town centre, all the schools and civic amenities that were possible in the spaces available will also have been installed.

The Town Council has adopted the Mission Statement:

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

and, in answer to what the Town Council actually does, it is probably best to compare it as a microcosm to the macrocosm of what South Gloucestershire Council does. This comparison is valid because the Town Council is consulted on all matters relating to the functions carried out by the larger council and is therefore expected to have a view that is representative of the community. The list is long and includes planning, traffic and transport, education, local structure plans, environment and pollution, mineral extraction, and all manner of community development initiatives. In addition there are direct links with a huge range of organizations from those who hire Town Council premises to numerous other bodies at national and local levels.

This constant 'networking' is good for promoting public relations and ensures that the issues of Bradley Stoke are brought before those who matter when it comes to the provision of the many requirements of the town. The Town Council has provided the only public football pitches, tennis and netball courts in the



town, maintains its play areas and took over the management of two community centres from South Gloucestershire Council. In addition, Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre has been built in Savages Wood Road entirely at the Town Council's expense and

a major development is planned for Baileys Court Activity Centre. Nevertheless, hire charges do not cover outgoing costs and the Town Council has to decide to what extent these facilities can be subsidized from public funds. The difference between income from hire charges and expenditure to keep all the facilities operational is collected through the Precept that forms part of the Council Tax collected by South Gloucestershire Council.

The Finance & Leisure Committee and Full Council meet alternately each month, and the Planning & Environment Committee meets every month as well. The Health & Safety Committee meets at least twice a year, and there is regular representation on such bodies as Age Concern, Almondsbury Charity, Avon Local Councils Association, Bradley Stoke Library, Community Development Project, SGC Environmental Link Group, Filton Airfield Consultative Committee, North Fringe Group of Parishes, SGC Standards Committee, SG Heritage Forum and the Twinning Association.

The Town Council publishes three or four Newsletters each year as well as an Annual Report and other occasional publications that are distributed to every household. The Town Council makes full use of available technology from basic word processing to information retrieval, e-mail and an ever-expanding web site. An efficient networked computer system and a Laser 'network' printer has been installed that is of great economic benefit and improves efficiency. The obligatory parish noticeboard (of which there are in fact five) is updated every week.

The constant increase in the population has meant that the Council Office has also had to expand in staffing and space to meet the demands placed upon it. Having started in 1992 in a cardboard box in the Clerk's home, the office moved to number 8 The

Courtyard in 1993. From there in 2000 it transferred into number 7, which was much larger, and during the coming year number 6 will be taken over by the Council office as well. It has also become necessary to acquire a van to assist in the vast range of odd jobs that occur in a town of this size and a garage has been erected at Brook Way Activity Centre to house it. With a total staff of 16 it is hoped the next move will be to more accommodating premises in the Town Centre, once this is built.

The breadth of chapters in this Report illustrates the range of activities covered by the Town Council and for this to work satisfactorily requires a competent and dedicated staff who are prepared and willing to work quietly behind the scenes to achieve results and attend to evening and weekend duties. We are lucky to have such a team in place, both at the central office and at the activity centres and I pay my own tribute to them and my wife, all of whom tackle everything with consistent enthusiasm. They are:

- Lesley Osborne: Deputy Town Clerk
- Rachel Pullen: Finance Officer
- John Rendell: Activity Centres Manager
- Vicky Davies: Administrator (Health & Safety)
- Vanessa Walters: Administrator
- Peter Gurr: Bookings Clerk

And at the Activity Centres:

- Elaine Bezer
- Roy Broderick (with the van)
- Pat Harris
- Dazz Mundy
- Nigel Parsons
- Jack Robinson
- Rita Segger
- Bill Walton
- Mike Wiltshire

David Chandler
Town Clerk





Annual Report for 2003/2004 from The Patchway & Bradley Stoke Community Development Project

This has been an exciting year for the project. We were very pleased to work in partnership with Bradley Stoke Town Council and South Gloucestershire Council Area Working Team to undertake a consultation with residents in the town about their experience of living in Bradley Stoke. Headlines in the local paper about what an awful place Bradley Stoke is to live in triggered the research. Residents obviously do not feel the same!

- ▶ 710 residents were interviewed during June and July 2003
- ▶ 91% of people either like living in Bradley Stoke or think it's OK
- ▶ 113 people said they'd help set up new groups in the area of interest

Top priorities under recreational needs were - a walking group, a cinema, drama, more Scouts and Guides, more sports such as tennis, cycling, football, tennis and yoga.

Under cultural needs priorities are for dance, music, arts and craft, food and drink, heritage and singing. Priorities for learning are more computer courses, alternative therapies, childcare, language, environment and FirstAid.

We have held three community lunches this year, and the theme for the last one in March was to get people together to discuss the results of the consultation. Over 60 residents attended, together with people from organisations that can make many of the ideas happen. Many phone numbers were exchanged and we eagerly wait seeing new activities setting up. The main interest at the lunch was in the development of a town centre, and so we hope that at our next lunch in June we will have a variety of people who can provide more information about this.

The Project has worked with the Community Learning Development Project (part of South Gloucestershire Adult and Community Learning) to set up courses in various taster courses in Bradley Stoke this year, and run a creche course in partnership with Bristol City Council.

We have also worked with health visitors to help mums set up two new groups, one at Brook Way called "Cheeky Monkeys" and another at the Jubilee, called "Bradley Stoke Twins Group". Both groups received generous support from the Town Council to help them get off the ground.

The Town has seen two major events this year, with the Festival last June and the Firework Display in November. Plans for the festival for June 2004 are well underway and it has been lovely to work with an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers, supported by the Town Council, who are committed to bringing people in Bradley Stoke together to enjoy themselves.

We have worked closely with Scaffold (a family support project) to offer parenting support, and look forward in this coming year to running more workshops for fathers. Scaffold also runs a domestic abuse support service and has a directory of family support services. For more information ring Tom Bell on 01454 868583.

The Community Development Project is a registered charity and is run by a voluntary management committee. We are pleased to welcome Councillor Andrew White as our new Chair, and to thank Councillor Jon Williams for his support as Chair for the past two years. Jon has taken on the role of Treasurer. The management committee is responsible for deciding priorities for the work of the project currently developing youth provision and supporting young families. We welcome new members to the management committee, which meets at least every three months during the evening. If you would like to find out more about what's involved, please give me a ring. We also welcome groups to join the project; membership is free and you will receive a quarterly newsletter, support with developing your group and access to low cost admin services.

As a community project, we have to fundraise for each new project or service we deliver. One of our biggest projects is to deliver detached youth work within Bradley Stoke (see Ruth's report about what we actually do!), and to run activities at the Green Hut, Baileys Court Activity Centre. For the past three years, much of this work has been funded by the Community Fund, with support from Bradley Stoke Town Council to cover rent and other running costs.

From September, our Community Fund money finishes and we are very pleased that Bradley Stoke Town Council and South Gloucestershire Youth Service working together have been able to identify resources to secure our youth work until the end of March 2005. For a town of the size of Bradley Stoke, with a population of 20,000 people, to have to rely on grants for youth work is a real difficulty and something we hope will be addressed in the near future.

Most other towns in the area have dedicated youth



space, a youth club that young people can call their own. While we are pleased to be able to use town council premises, it's entirely different to running youth work in a dedicated building, where young people can use full size pool tables etc. Within the town centre development, there is a plot of land that we have always understood was to be sold and the money raised used to provide a building for youth work. Now it appears this land may have disappeared, and the project is working with the Council to try to secure some of the funding that was meant to come from its sale. Council is thinking about redeveloping the Baileys Court site, and the project has been working with them to make sure that current and future users of the site have their needs met. This funding would enable the Council to build another flagship community building, to complement the Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre.

We look forward to continuing to work with other organisations in the Town, local people and the Council to build on the sense of community that is beginning to develop within the Town. If you'd like more information about the project, or a copy of the community consultation, you can contact us on 01454 868570 or e-mail jscdp@ukonline.co.uk

Julie Snelling
Patchway & Bradley Stoke Community Development Project





Annual Report from the Bradley Stoke Youth Development Project 2003/2004

Working with young people can be inspirational especially when they are willing and able to work hard. The Youth Development Project has been working very closely with a group of dedicated teenagers on a variety of projects. As the projects have built momentum, the more interest the young people have shown and a willingness to give things a go. Standing up and speaking publicly is terrifying for most of us, especially in formal settings. The youth forum has managed on several occasions this year to eloquently express how they feel that youth services need to be developed in the Town

A group of six teenagers has been working hard over the last few months on a disco evening as part of Bradley Stoke Festival on 12 June 2004. In the process, they have gained experience in planning, budgeting, teamwork and how to run meetings.

Young Peoples' Achievements

In October, young women attended and completed a baby-sitting course; they seemed to enjoy the course and coped very well when the virtual baby screamed in the local shops, giving them a possible foretaste of the future.

Three young people have completed their bronze Youth Achievement Awards and are now working with another group on completing their silver awards. This will be very challenging for them, as they have to take up to 50% of the responsibility for planning and organising their chosen challenges. Two have completed their youth challenges.

In March we ran a first aid course for young mothers, this is just the beginning. We are hoping to be able to offer the Youth Achievement Awards to more young

people and to work with young people on more short courses such as baby sitting, DJ-ing etc.

Bradley Stoke Football Initiative

Last June in partnership with the Police, Town Council and South Gloucestershire Council, a football project was launched, which is now going well. The younger children played throughout the winter weather. Snow, sleet and mud did not stop their passion for the game. They were rewarded for their endeavours by attending a local match at the Rovers' ground, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Green Hut Youth Project

The youth club is going well, each night the Green Hut is full to its capacity. At times, the building positively heaves with young people using the club. The youth workers work with the young people both inside and outside the building. Since October, the young people have participated in a variety of activities, from learning about other countries, graffiti art and DJ-ing.

Funding for all the youth projects is difficult and piecemeal, but the Town Council has recently increased their contribution to the Club, so in May we will be opening for a third night for young people under the age of 14 at Baileys Court. The project is in the process of negotiating with the local councils to secure core funding for youth work in the Town.

Ruth Cornish
Bradley Stoke Youth Development Project





Annual Report from The Twinning Association 2003/2004



The Bradley Stoke Twinning Association has continued to make great strides this year. Meetings have been well attended and there is a real feeling of people pulling together to promote the twinning and all its benefits.

In the spring, representatives from Champs sur Marne visited us for a long weekend and went on visits to Caldicot (when it rained relentlessly and we had to eat our picnic in the confines of the luxury coach) and Chepstow. There was a dance at BAWA on the Saturday and the farewell dinner at the Ramada Grange Hotel on the Sunday where a goodly number sat down to an excellent meal, joined by many past and present members of the Twinning Association and the past and present Mayors of Bradley Stoke. The consensus was that it had been one of the best visits to date.

The Twinning Association was pleased to take part in the first Community Festival weekend in June when the twinning stall featured that French delicacy Croque Monsieur that was enjoyed by all who partook. At this year's Community Festival, it is intended to arrange a French Cheese tasting session to complement the wine tent being organised by the Rotary Club.

Other events included the Christmas party, although this was not held until February, and a visit to Tortworth Court. Last November a group of us with representatives from Rotary and Asda visited Champs sur Marne for a weekend and planted trees as part of the re-wooding of the Chateau forest that

had been badly damaged by storms a few years earlier. A tour of Paris was included and I even got to sing 'I love Paris in the Springtime' after dinner in a French cafe on the Saturday evening.

We are keen to establish contacts interested in youth football for a visit to France in June, and anyone interested in brass bands and their music is also invited to contact me, as there are brass bands in Champs sur Marne who are keen to set up an exchange.

It is interesting to note that the initiative to set up a twinning group was begun by the Town Council ten years ago and the Twinning Charter was signed at a splendid occasion at the District Leisure Centre in May 2000. It is pleasing to learn that twinningers are developing an ever closer rapport with twinningers in France on an informal basis and many individual exchange visits are taking place that we may not know about, which is excellent.

In future years, we hope to rotate visits through the seasons so that each country is seen at different times of the year to get the full flavour of what they have to offer.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 5 May at Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre from 6pm onwards, to which all are welcome.

Sandra Hobson
Chair
Bradley Stoke Twinning Association





Annual Report for 2003/2004 from Bradley Stoke Community Beat Manager based at Filton Police Station



The past year has been a very busy one for me as your beat manager with very many new and exciting initiatives being launched.

Firstly, we have seen Wheatfield Primary school launch their walk to school campaign. This is aimed at encouraging pupils to either walk or cycle to school instead of being taken in a car. With a generous donation from the Hilton Hotel, I have been able to arrange for the school to be provided with fluorescent jackets for all the children taking part. There has been an excellent response from children and parents alike and everyone hopes it becomes part of everyone's daily routine.

We then saw the launch of the Bradley Stoke Football Initiative where the Police, Bradley Stoke Youth Development Project, Bristol Rovers Football club, Bradley Stoke Town Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Warden Housing Association came together to provide free football coaching to youngsters. This initiative was aimed at giving those children who currently play football in the street a free and safe place to play whilst providing an additional activity for any young person in Bradley Stoke. The initiative is going from strength to strength with additional private funding having been obtained to run sessions on two nights a week instead of the current one night a week and to buy bibs for the young players. Over 80 young people have come along to these sessions and, with the lighter nights approaching, it is hoped that we will see many more young people taking part this summer.

For most people who own a vehicle, there is that fear of finding it broken into or stolen. During the summer I linked up with GWR and Tesco to hold an anti car crime awareness day. Over 200 information packs were handed out to residents. The packs included a free tamper-proof tax disc holder, which discourages people breaking into a vehicle to steal the tax discs. Encouragingly, reported crimes of theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicles fell in the year on year period April February, from 132 to 101 and 48 to 47 respectively. It is hoped to run similar crime awareness sessions at Tesco in the future.

In addition Airbus have sponsored me with a mobile

phone, making it a lot easier for people to get hold of me and for me to provide a better service to you.

This is just a flavour of some of the problem orientated policing work currently being undertaken in Bradley Stoke to improve the living environment for residents. Obviously, without the continuing feedback and assistance from the community most of my work in looking for ways of overcoming recurring problems would be impossible. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the last year and encourage more people to help build upon the successes seen over the last year.

Starting a local neighbourhood watch scheme is an excellent way to begin and will prove to be a lot easier than you think. If you are interested then please contact me by any of the methods shown below.

In addition to the reductions seen in vehicle crime, robberies and burglaries have also both seen reductions over the same period with robberies falling from eight reported crimes to four and burglaries from 130 to 114. The overall total number of reported crimes has increased slightly from 791 to 838.

If you would like any further information or wish to contact your beat manager then you can use the contact form on the Avon and Somerset website, email: shaun.oliver@avonandsomerset.ppn.police.uk or call 01275 818181.

PC Darren Warr
Community Beat Officer



NOTE:

With effect from 1 April 2004, PC Darren Warr has been promoted to Acting Sergeant, and is undertaking different sector duties at Filton Police Station. His replacement as Bradley Stoke Beat Manager is PC Shaun Oliver who is contactable in exactly the same way as Darren.

Bradley Stoke Town Council would like to place on record their thanks to Darren for all his hard work and involvement in Bradley Stoke, which did go beyond the hours he actually spent in uniform to support the Town and look forward to working with PC Oliver.

**BRADLEY STOKE TOWN COUNCIL
GRANT AID 2003/2004**

The following are the organisations that have benefited from Bradley Stoke Town Council Grant Aid
(max amount that can be applied for is £500.00)
during 2003/2004

NO	Organisation	Amount Awarded £
1	Holy Trinity Summer Play scheme	250.00
2	Scaffold Toy Library	500.00
3	BS Twinning Association	628.00
4	Stand & Deliver	500.00
5	Holy Trinity Pre-School	282.00
6	Bowsland Green Gym Club	0.00
7	Bradley Stoke Twins Group	484.00
8	Cheeky Monkeys	339.04
9	SGAP	500.00
10	Bradley Stoke Social Club	deferred
11	Play Pitch Pre School	163.06
12	Stoke Singers	100.00
TOTAL....		£3483.04

**BRADLEY STOKE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FUNDING 2002/2003**

The following are the organisations that have benefited from Bradley Stoke Town Council
Service Level Agreement Funding
during 2002/20023

NO	Organisation	Amount Awarded £
1	Victim Support	766.00
2	South Glos Citizens Advice Bureau	1,532.00
3	Four Towns Transport	2,042.00
4	Patchway & Bradley Stoke Play Association	2,042.00
5	Patchway & Bradley Stoke Community Development Project	7,042.00
6	Patchway, Filton and The Stokes Volunteer Bureau	1,021.00
7	Pavilion Youth Club (Youth Development via the Patchway & Bradley Stoke Development Project)	1,887.00
8	Bradley Stoke Youth Club	1,500.00
9	South Glos Chinese Association	1,500.00
TOTAL....		£ 19,332.00

BRADLEY STOKE TOWN COUNCIL
(May 2003-2007)
As at March 2004

COUNCILLOR	HOME ADDRESS	CONTACT NO
▲ BARGE Julian (Liberal Democrat) (Primrose Bridge/Bowland)	85 Oaktree Crescent Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 9AB	Tel Home: 01454 Tel Office: 01454 616262 Fax Office: 01454 616155 Mobile: 0771 3190012 email: Julian.Barge@gp-L81649.nhs.uk julian.barge@southglos.gov.uk
● GARDNER Susan (Liberal Democrat) (Baileys Court)	45 Crows Grove Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 0DA	Tel Home: 01454 884365 email (h): susangardner@aol.com
HOBSON Sandra (Liberal Democrat) (Primrose Bridge)	90 Stanshaws Close Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 9AF	Tel Home: 01454 610724 email: sandrahobson@onetel.net.uk
* LEES Christopher (Liberal Democrat) (Lakeside/Sherbourne*)	185 Champs Sur Marne Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 9BY	Tel Home: 01454 201714 Tel Office: 07940 876863/07949 303484 email: rubio@blueyonder.co.uk
◆ LEES Jael (Liberal Democrat) (Primrose Bridge)	185 Champs Sur Marne Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 9BY	Home: 01454 201714 Tel Office: 07940 876863/07949 303484 email: rubio@blueyonder.co.uk
PICKWELL David (Liberal Democrat) (Manor Farm)	12 Fern Grove Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 8DS	Tel: 01454 868080 email: davidpickwell@hotmail.com
SAMWAYS John (Labour) (Woodlands)	BSTC Office 7 The Courtyard Woodlands Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 4NQ	Tel: 01454 868080
STOBBART Geoffrey (Liberal Democrat) (Manor Farm)	BSTC Office 7 The Courtyard Woodlands Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 4NQ	Tel Home: 01454 618511 email H: geoffrey.stobbart@btopenworld.com
◆ WARNE Robert (Liberal Democrat) (Lakeside)	52 Hawkins Crescent Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 8EH	Tel Home: 01454 614715
WHITE Andrew (Liberal Democrat) (Primrose Bridge)	20 Crows Grove Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 0DA	Tel Home: 01454 884628 email: Andrew.White@blueyonder.co.uk
* WILLIAMS Jon (Liberal Democrat) (Baileys Court/Bowland*)	12 Sandy Close Bradley Stoke South Glos BS32 8AJ	Tel/Fax: 01454 864039 email: jon.williams@southglos.gov.uk

South Glos Council Liaison Officer: not a member of BSTC

* BYRON Jo (Liberal Democrat) (Sherbourne*)	8 Home Field Close Emersons Green South Glos BS16 7BH	Tel/Fax: 01454 864074 email: jo.byron@southglos.gov.uk
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▲ Chair (Mayor) Bradley Stoke Town Council ● Vice-Chair Bradley Stoke Town Council

* Member of South Gloucestershire Council/Ward Represented ◆ co-opted Member of Council

**BRADLEY STOKE TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
AS AT March 2004**

CHAIR: Councillor Julian Barge
VICE-CHAIR: Councillor Sue Gardner
PRESS SPOKESPERSON: Councillor Jon Williams

TOWN COUNCIL

Councillors:
Julian Barge (Chair)
Susan Gardner
Sandra Hobson
Christopher Lees
Jael Lees
David Pickwell
John Samways
Geoffrey Stobbart
Robert Warne
Andrew White
Jon Williams
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

FINANCE & LEISURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillors: Julian Barge
Sandra Hobson
John Samways
Robert Warne
Andrew White
Jon Williams (Chair)
Vacancy
Vacancy

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillors: Susan Gardner
Christopher Lees (Chair)
Jael Lees
David Pickwell
John Samways
Geoffrey Stobbart
Vacancy
Vacancy

* Member of South Gloucestershire Council



BRADLEY STOKE TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

agenda

- 1 To receive any apologies for absence
- 2 To appoint the Chairman of the Town Meeting
- 3 To confirm the Minutes of the previous Town Meeting held on 21 May 2003
- 4 To receive the following Reports
 - 4.1 Chair's Report 2003/2004
 - 4.2 List of Events Mayor has attended
 - 4.3 Chair Finance & Leisure
 - 4.4 Chair Planning & Environment
 - 4.5 Chair Health & Safety
 - 4.6 Town Clerk
 - 4.7 Patchway & Bradley Stoke Development Project - Julie Snelling
 - 4.8 Youth Development Project - Ruth Cornish
 - 4.9 Twinning Association
 - 4.10 Bradley Stoke Beat Manager
- 5 To deal with Questions from Local Government Electors of the Town

Bradley Stoke Town Council
7 The Courtyard, Woodlands
Bradley Stoke
Bristol BS32 4NQ
Tel: 01454 868080
Fax: 01454 868084

E-mail:
town.clerk@bradleystoke.gov.uk

PUBLIC MEETING