



# Annual Report 2014/2015

## Invitation to Annual Town Meeting

Bradley Stoke Town Council. Annual Town Meeting.

**Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 7.30pm**

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

Council members welcome all those attending to stay for light refreshments after the meeting.



## Bradley Stoke Community Festival 05 – 07 June 2015

### Friday 05 June

- Picnic in the Park 10.30am – 2.00pm – Jubilee Centre (including Prof Panic's Circus Skills, Bouncy Castle, WI Coffee & Cakes, Community Stalls)

### Saturday 06 June

- Main Festival: 11.30am – 6.00pm – Jubilee Centre (including a varied programme of music, dance and demonstrations throughout the day, plus a vast array of stalls, sideshows and activities for all the family)
- Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club Football Tournament – Jubilee Centre

### Sunday 08 June

- 10K multi terrain race (organised by the Sole Sisters) starts at 09.30 a.m. – Jubilee Centre
- Skate Park Competition (all day) – Skate Park
- Bradley Stoke Bed race starts at 12.30pm - Baileys Court Activity Centre
- Cricket match between Bradley Stoke Cricket Club and Mayor's XI starts at 2.00pm – Baileys Court Activity Centre
- Bradley Stoke Bowls Club roll up demonstration/match – Baileys Court Activity Centre

### Further information

If you would like further information, please contact Bradley Stoke Town Council on:  
01454 205020 or visit [www.bradleystoke.gov.uk](http://www.bradleystoke.gov.uk)

## Chair's Overview

This has been another successful year for Bradley Stoke Town Council and indeed a successful year for Bradley Stoke itself. The Town Council is pleased to announce that the annual precept (the Town Council's share of your Council Tax bill) has once again been frozen. We have kept the same band D figure of £113.50 since the financial year of 2010 – 11. Taking inflation into account, the precept you pay has actually fallen!

We have been able to do this by controlling our costs and ensuring that we always have three quotes for all the goods and services we require. Not only have we frozen the precept, but we have improved the services that we provide for the town. With South Glos Council having to make cutbacks, we have employed a contractor to take on the majority of the grass cutting around the town at a cheaper cost than South Glos could provide. We also have our own full time dedicated youth worker who has helped oversee the designs and quotations for the next skate park that is to be built this year. It will be constructed close to the old one, but the extra space created will be used by the Leisure Centre to improve the services they provide. The Town Council has also employed a full time litter picker and purchased a used, but in very good condition, flat bed transit van with a cage on the back to collect the litter. This large cage needs emptying at least three times a week so you can imagine what our town would look like without this service! It would of course be easier if people didn't create litter in the first place! If you see litter or overflowing bins on public land please phone the Town Council and we will do our best to clear it within 24 hours.

Looking to the future many of you will have seen the new primary school being built next to Bradley Stoke Community School which is due to open this September. A new head teacher for the primary school has already been appointed.

Coming soon as well will be the Metro Bus scheme which is hoped to greatly benefit the people of Bradley Stoke. We have all been stuck in traffic getting through Hambrook or Stoke Gifford and this new scheme is designed to eradicate those jams. Bradley Stoke Way will be extended southward (past the blue bridge) and will join the Avon ring road. With dedicated bus lanes, the trip to Bristol will be quicker and this will encourage commuters to leave their car at home. The northbound route will make it easier for us to go to The Mall at Cribbs Causeway.

On a completely different note – I was sat in my front room the other day when I noticed a couple putting bottles in my recycling box that I had put out for collection. I thought it a bit odd and so I went to speak to them. They told me that they regularly pick up bottles when walking their dogs and as they had quite a few and the dogs were pulling on their leads they had put them with my recycling. This made me feel quite guilty, after all what does it matter if they did use my recycling box, apart from my neighbours thinking I had taken a liking to strong cider!

This is one of the reasons that I love living in Bradley Stoke. We have so many caring people and voluntary organisations looking out for the town and the people. The Town Council regularly give grants to groups based in Bradley Stoke to encourage this work to continue. All communities need volunteers and the Town Council is no different. You will all be aware that there are elections coming up in May and all fifteen seats on the Town Council will be contested. If local politics is of interest to you, why not contact a political party of your choice and see if you can be one of their candidates. Alternatively, if you would like to stand as an independent, then please contact the council for advice. Councillors are elected for four years. We generally have our meetings on a Wednesday evening. The important job of Town Councillor is totally unpaid. I am the longest serving councillor and since my election in 2004, I have not claimed one penny in wages or expenses from Bradley Stoke Town Council.

You need to be on the electoral register to vote or stand for council. All residents of Bradley Stoke will have had a 'brown envelope' through their door from South Glos Council showing who they have on the electoral register at that address. If the information is incorrect or you are not included, you need to contact the council on 01454 863030 or email [electoral.services@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@southglos.gov.uk). You must be registered by Monday 20th April.

Finally I would like to thank the officers and staff at the Town Council for all their hard work and you the residents for your support for myself and my fellow councillors.

Cllr John Ashe – Chair/Mayor of Bradley Stoke Town Council

## Mayor's Charity

As Mayor of Bradley Stoke I have the privilege to pick a charity for my year in office. As has been the custom of the previous mayors, I decided to pick two. One of them is the Great Western Air Ambulance which is a local charity based in Filton and the other is the national charity, the Royal British Legion.

The major fund raising event for these charities is the Firework Display in November at the Jubilee Centre. We were fortunate once again to have dry weather and the people of Bradley Stoke were as generous as always. The other two main events are the Festival and the Carnival which again were very successful. I am pleased to say that this year we have raised a massive £8,140.82 which will be divided 50/50 between the two charities.

**The Stoke Gifford Branch of the Royal British Legion, (RBL)**, covers Stoke Gifford, Little Stoke, Filton, and Bradley Stoke.

Money raised from the Poppy Appeal goes to the RBL Welfare Fund which spends £1.6million every week providing help and support for current and ex-service personnel and their dependents. If you or someone you know needs help from the RBL contact the RBL national helpline 0808 802 8080. The RBL has a new Pop In Centre at 60 Union Street, Bristol. People can call in for advice and information on the charity's support and community services.

For more information please contact the Stoke Gifford Branch: - Brian Hewitt 01454 775632; John Moloney 07802535591.

The Branch is very grateful to the public for their support and would like to thank Bradley Stoke Mayor John Ashe for having us as one of his charities.

2014 has been a great year for **Great Western Air Ambulance Charity**, and the charity has gone from strength to strength.

The highlight was the completion of our Moving on Up campaign – resulting in the arrival of our new helicopter. The EC135 replaces our old Bolkow, and will revolutionise the care that our clinical team are able to bring to people in the region we cover. The arrival of the helicopter is the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people

We were delighted to receive £1million of funding from the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, which will help us to keep this lifesaving service in the air. Our Bag a Bra campaign attracted a lot of interest. Ladies across the region donated their unwanted bras to us, which were recycled and turned into money. We even landed our helicopter on a giant pink bra on the car park at the mall!

The challenge now comes to raise £2million a year to stay operational. Please support us! Visit [www.gwaac.com](http://www.gwaac.com)

# Leisure, Youth & Amenities Report

It has been my honour to serve as chair of the Leisure Youth and Amenities (LYA) Committee again this year.

Provision of youth services in Bradley Stoke continues to be strengthened with grant funding for our own Youth Participation & Development Worker, Graham Baker. Graham, a professional youth worker strategically leads on current and evolving projects, including youth democracy work, skate park implementation, fundraising and the development work for the creation of a local Youth Development Trust.

The new skate park, is set to become a new landmark project for the Youth of Bradley Stoke. At the time of writing the tenders are being evaluated and a short list is soon to be arrived at, the successful tenderer will then be appointed and work will commence in early 2015.

Following on from a public consultation on Brook Way Activity Centre, the LYA committee was tasked to look into the suggestions that were made. A meeting has been held with members of the public and groups who had participated in the consultation. The largest request has been for additional car parking to be taken into account when considering any proposed development. Several groups including The Scouts, Bradley Stoke Radio, Incredible Kids and our Youth Development Worker are looking to develop plans and funding options for the site, and are looking to appoint an architect to develop some ideas for a potential new building on the site and by spring 2015 there should be some indicative drawings/diagrams available.

The second annual Bradley Stoke Carnival was held and was a great success, organised by the carnival committee and included workshop sessions leading up to the day, the parade, a variety of stalls, a vintage red bus giving tours around the town and the funfair on the Green.

New Homes Bonus Grants have been received from SGC for the provision of new picnic tables at the Nature Reserve and to improve the footpath leading to the Youth Structure on the Jubilee Green. Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group runs monthly workdays and has a strong core membership of local Bradley Stoke residents. A particularly significant event held recently was the Bioblitz in July, a 36-hour marathon of wildlife identification on the reserve. The day included many opportunities for the community to join in.

Friends of Jubilee Green this year celebrated five years and have had a Community Festival Pre-School Picnic and, 5th Birthday Party. Upcoming events include a Mother's Day Craft event and Easter event

Bradley Stoke in Bloom have been busy re-establishing the Doctors/ Brook Way Garden, starting bee and butterfly corridors, creating a Community Herb Garden outside the Brook Way Surgery & Activity Centre. Organising pumpkin carvings for Halloween. We have been reviewing the provision of physical activity in Bradley Stoke and are considering installing a range of leisure equipment for public use on the Jubilee Green (subject to obtaining grant funding from external sources).

Each year Bradley Stoke community groups keep growing and as a council we can offer support. We do this by offering information and help with the start up or support grants.

One of the continuing aims of the committee is to include in our discussions representatives of community groups and other organisations. Some we have heard from during the year are: Bradley Stoke in Bloom, Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group, Patchway, Filton & The Stokes Volunteer Centre, Friends of Jubilee Green and several of Bradley Stokes sporting clubs. I would like to record my appreciation to all that attended for their time and effort and for the work they do in our community.

Finally, all that remains is to thank members of the committee, council officers and all who have contributed for their support and hard work in the past year.

Councillor Paul Hardwick, Chair of Leisure, Youth & Amenities Committee.



Over the last 12 months we have made the following grant payments:

## Service Level Agreements

Bouncing Babies	1,700.00
Bradley Stoke Youth Cricket Club	3,000.00
Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club	2,300.00
Christ the King Youth Group	1,600.00
Four Towns Transport	2,404.24
Patchway, Filton and Stokes Volunteer Centre	1,158.84
SG Chinese Association	1,764.37
South West Winterguard Academy - Youth	1,850.00
Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group	1,500.00
Victim Support	848.19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,125.64</b>

## Grant Aid

Sole Sisters	500.00
Bradley Stoke Netball Club	102.60
Rotary Club of Bristol Aztec	500.00
Friends of Jubilee Green	494.00
Young at Heart 50+ Club	500.00
South Gloucestershire Over Fifties Forum	400.00
Home-Start Bristol	250.00
MS Therapy Centre	500.00
Revitalise	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,746.60</b>

## Community Development Grant Aid

Bradley Stoke Carnival	4,000.00
Friends of Jubilee Green	879.00
Bradley Stoke Radio Ltd	4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,879.00</b>

## Youth Grant Aid

Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club	475.00
Childrens Playlink	400.00
Manavata	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,375.00</b>

## Larger Grant Aid

Four Towns Playscheme	5,750.00
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# Attendance For BSTC Councillors

Committee	Council	Finance	Planning & Environment	Leisure, Youth & Amenities
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		Full Council	Finance	Leisure, Youth & Amenities	Planning & Environment	C May	C Jun (Extra meeting)	C Jul	C Sept	C Nov	C Jan	F Jun	F Aug	F Oct	F Dec	F Feb	P May	P Jun	P Jul	P Aug	P Sept	P Oct	P Nov	P Dec	P Jan	P Feb	L Jun	L Aug	L Oct	L Dec	L Feb
Aditya	Tom	C	F	L	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□
Ashe^^	John	C	F	L	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	□	□	
Avenin	Roger	C	F	L	P	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	□	✓	□	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cranney^^	Keith	C			P	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	□		□	✓	✓	✓	□	□	✓					
Griffiths	Tony	C	F		P	✓	□	□	✓	✓	□	✓	✓			✓	✓	□	✓		□				✓						
Hardwick	Elaine	C	F	L	P	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	□	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	□	✓	□	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□
Hardwick	Paul	C	F	L	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□
Harris	Kim	C				✓			□	✓																					
Hopkinson^^	Brian	C	F	L		✓	✓	□		✓	✓		□		□	✓										□	✓	□	✓	✓	
Jones^^	Robert	C	F			✓	□	□				✓		✓	✓	✓															
Pomfret^^	Sarah	C		L		□	□	□		□	✓															□	✓	□	□	✓	
Randles	Benjamin	C	F	L	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rose	Ed	C		L		✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓																	□	□		
Walker^^	Ben	C	F			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	□	□	✓	✓	□			✓												
Ward	Andy	C	F	L	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

^^ = South Glos Councillor (sometimes otherwise engaged on SGC business)

□ = apology submitted

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

John Ashe = Chair of Council

Roger Avenin = Vice-chair of Council

Andy Ward = Chair of Planning & Environment

Rob Jones = Chair of Finance

Paul Hardwick = Chair of Leisure, Youth & Amenities

## Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee meets 6 times a year and controls the council's budget. One important task is to recommend to the Full Council, the increase in the Annual Precept (the council's share of your council tax bill). Once again we recommended a zero % increase. This was made possible by our continued strict budget controls.

During the last year we have purchased a used Ford Transit Flatbed vehicle for use by our litter picker. We have also upgraded our CCTV systems over all our sites, in addition to increasing the coverage at the Baileys Court Activity Centre after the arson attack on the containers which destroyed our Piaggio three wheeler along with various maintenance equipment. The total cost of the new CCTV systems over all the sites was £9,200.

To reduce expenditure on maintenance we have taken many of the jobs "in house". We have sent staff on training courses and do the majority of the general maintenance ourselves.

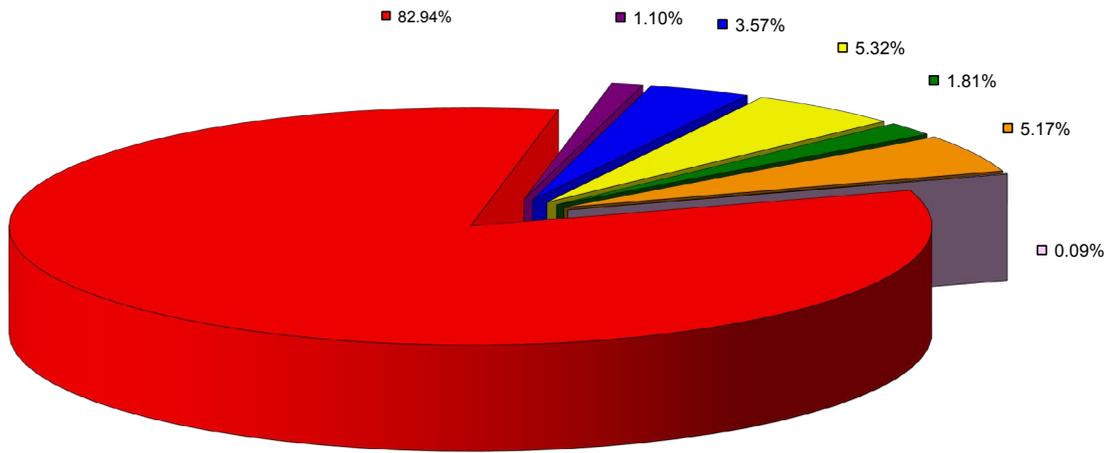
The main access path from the Jubilee Centre car park, across the Jubilee Green, to the Beacon Playscheme has been refurbished with tarmac to make access easier for pushchairs and wheelchairs. This was funded by New Homes Bonus funding at a cost of £7,800. The new picnic area in the Nature Reserve was also funded in this way.

As well as freezing the Precept we also froze all our hire charges for rooms, tennis and football pitches etc. details of all our hire charges are on the Town Council website or alternatively phone the office on 01454 205021 for details and bookings.

Finally we would like to thank all the officers and staff of the council for their continued hard work.

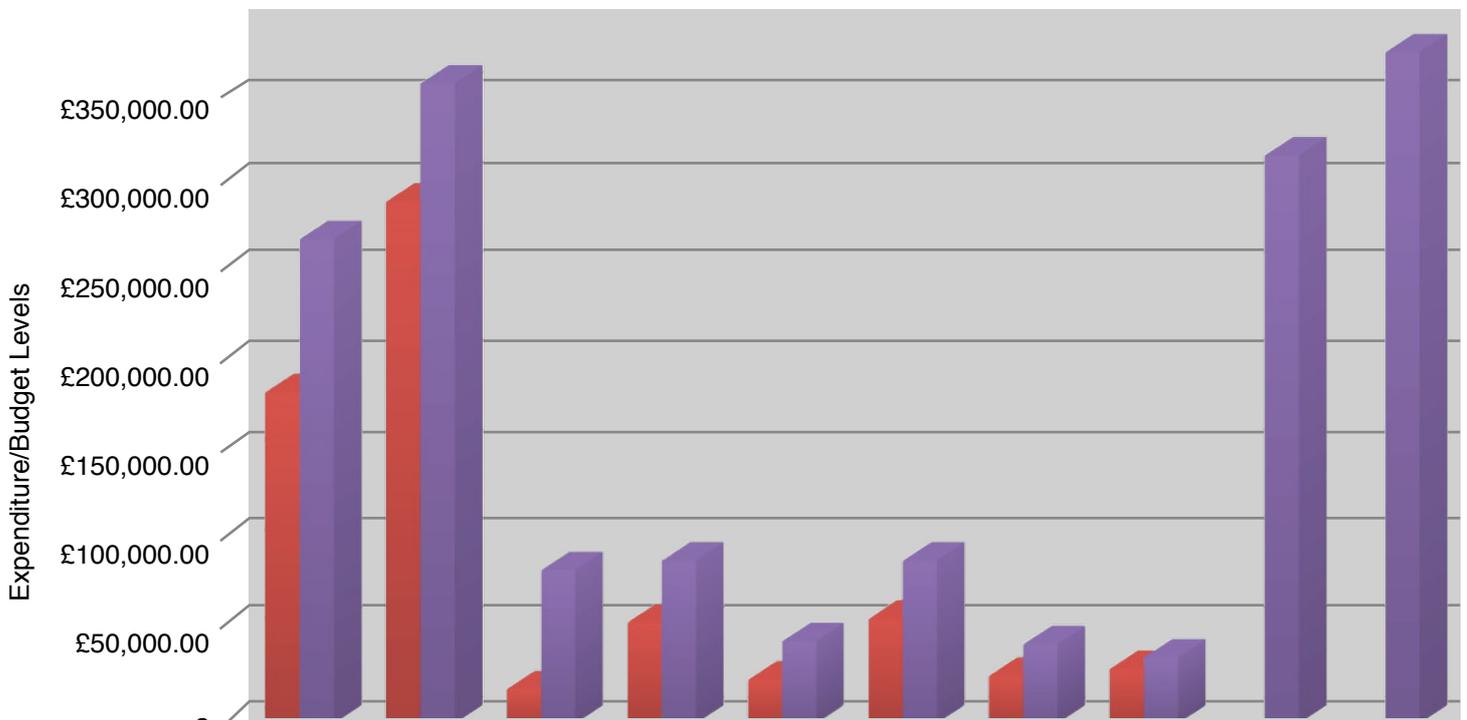
Finance Committee

## 2014/15 Income - 2nd February 2015



BSTC/Non Activity Centre Activities	£10,748.63	Youth & Other External Grant Funding	£34,901.94
Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre	£51,935.67	Brook Way Activity Centre	£17,640.54
Baileys Court Activity Centre	£50,456.91	Bank Interest	£927.54
Precept + Local Council Tax Scheme Grant	£809,838.00		

## Comparison of Actual 2014/15 Expenditure Against Annual Budget 2nd February 2015



Expenditure Sector	Expenditure (£)	Annual Budget (£)
BSTC/Non Activity Centre Activities	£186,509.34	£272,343.14
Staff Salaries (Excludes Outsourced)	£293,456.39	£359,800.00
Youth Provision	£19,560.36	£86,427.86
Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre	£56,853.35	£91,668.30
Brook Way Activity Centre	£24,769.48	£46,363.64
Baileys Court Activity Centre	£58,913.15	£91,678.51
New Assets	£26,895.22	£44,782.60
Planned Projects	£30,782.02	£37,260.00
Earmarked Reserves	£0.00	£319,289.84
Contingent Reserve	£0.00	£377,275.00

### Expenditure Sector

Due to the fact that the 2014/15 Annual Report has to be issued prior to the year end due to the May elections, the above charts are based upon provisional figures which were correct as at 2nd February 2015, but exclude February and March Expenditures and final year end adjustments and accruals. Finalised 2014/15 figures will be available after the audit papers have been produced and these will be placed onto the website by the end of June 2015.

# Planning & Environment Committee Report

It's been a great privilege to chair the Planning and Environment Committee this year. It was a role that I freely admit I approached with some degree of trepidation having never chaired anything before, let alone a council committee, but nevertheless a role that I have thoroughly enjoyed. It has been a challenging year for the committee, we meet each month to discuss and comment on local planning applications as well as issues affecting our local environment.

Our town has now come of age and so very few major building projects are now taking place, as most if not all major development work has now been completed, however this year some major projects have been brought to the attention of the committee. The new metro bus project is one that will affect us all in the town, both during the construction phase and once the project is completed and so a great deal of time was spent pouring over large volumes of drawings and plans trying to ensure that the needs and interests of our residents were met wherever possible.

Also we have seen the need for additional Primary School places in the town begin to be provided for, with the new Primary School building at Bradley Stoke Community School which is currently under construction, along with additional permanent and temporary buildings at other local schools.

The committee has also noted that the trend to extend our homes to provide additional living accommodation rather than moving to a larger property has continued, with significant numbers of planning applications received for large two storey side and rear extensions regularly appearing on the monthly planning lists.

Planning applications have also been received to repurpose vacant commercial buildings in the town to suit our diverse and evolving range of local businesses, in some cases buildings that have sat vacant for some time are now being used once more, offering new local employment opportunities. The committee also deliberated this year over a somewhat unique application to construct a new pub in the town, now fully constructed and up and running, once again offering valuable local employment opportunities to our residents.

To put some perspective on the committees work in the town, since May 2014, our monthly committee meetings have deliberated and commented on 84 planning applications ranging from a simple conservatory to the rear of a house, street trading consent, changes of building use, demolition of existing buildings, factory plant and refrigeration units, a nursery school and the aforementioned Primary School developments.

This year has also seen many changes in the way local services are provided. Due to a reduction in Central Government funding for unitary authorities some services previously provided by South Gloucestershire Council are now being provided by Bradley Stoke Town Council under a new localism scheme. It has been a bit of a challenge and the learning curve has been fairly steep on occasions, but with the professional input from our council officers the adoption of the new services has gone well and in some cases significant savings have been made by bringing these services in-house.

## Localism and the changes in Bradley Stoke

In April 2014 South Gloucestershire Council changed the way they ran some services across the county and these changes impacted quite significantly on our town.

### South Gloucestershire's Vision of Localism & Leadership Roles:

The area's shared vision as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy is South Gloucestershire 'a great place to live and work'. This is supported by a specific commitment to "engage people of all ages so they feel they belong and can help provide local solutions". A strong sense of community spirit lies at the heart of this. The Council, along with its partners wants to encourage and support local communities to get involved and work with it to strengthen their ability to deal with local challenges. The council also wants to work closely with Town and Parish councils, voluntary groups, local people and other public sector organisations to establish community needs and to help meet those needs in the most effective way.

Town and Parish Councils are the first tier of democracy in local government. They bring knowledge and experience that in some instances could be more fully utilised. Localism provides the opportunity to further enhance relationships by building on the commitment outlined in South Gloucestershire's Charter for Parish and Town Councils and by providing support to build capacity so that local councils can take on new roles.

### Impact on Bradley Stoke

Although these changes were vast and had significant financial impact on the council, BSTC had anticipated that this would be the ideal opportunity to put plans in place to improve the appearance of the town in general, seeing it as a positive change allowing BSTC staff and contractors more freedom to run operations across the town as a whole as opposed to just the three community centres, grounds and various play areas.

Bradley Stoke Town Council Officers and Councillors attended various SGC seminars and workshops to ascertain what the impact of the Localism changes would be on our town. Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing Services were the two key sectors that changed the most, which meant that the town would have seen drastic changes immediately to the grass growth (with the highways and amenity grass cuts reducing from approx. 8 per year to just 2) and additionally the removal of all the dog bins in the town. Due to careful budgeting and diligent financial planning, the town council were able to find the necessary funding to enable our current course of action to be realised.

It took a while to fully ascertain what was actually required in terms of the periodic grass cuts, maintenance to shrubbery/ bushes in the town and the locations and positioning of both general waste and dog bins, the transitional period was indeed a very steep learning curve for all involved. Almost one year on we now have a very proactive operations team that contributes vastly towards the upkeep and outlook of the town, its community buildings, sports facilities, play areas and street furniture:

Operations Manager: John Rendell

BSTC Street Works Operator: Jason Holcombe

BSTC Maintenance: Paul Passaway

Highway and Amenity Grass cuts (including Roundabouts) and Community Centre grounds: Ambience Landscapes

Dog Waste Bins: South Gloucestershire Council

Various local groups and organisations also help to keep the town looking as good as it does. Bradley Stoke In Bloom, the Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group and the Green Gym meet regularly and their tireless efforts litter picking/planting/clearing/creating colourful seasonal flower beds etc. are very much appreciated by all. We all strive to continue to work hard on keeping Bradley Stoke a clean and attractive place to live.

All in all a very interesting year chairing the committee, thanks to all the committee members and the invaluable support from the Town Council officers.

Councillor Andy Ward, Chair of Planning & Environment Committee

# Youth Work in Bradley Stoke

The past year has been a positive one with the delivery of a range of youth work projects and programmes as well as significant progress with the development of the new Skate Park. This has all been achieved at a challenging time; as highlighted in last year's report, from 1st April 2013 South Gloucestershire Council implemented a review of Youth Services that meant universal youth work in South Gloucestershire would only be funded in the six "priority neighbourhoods". However, South Gloucestershire Council did agree to "contribute funding to support youth provision across the whole of South Gloucestershire by providing a positive activities financial subsidy to be distributed through the area forums". Bradley Stoke Town Council have made several successful bids to the Positive Activities Subsidy and other funding sources to support a range of projects and programmes, all with young people's active involvement key.

Due to the progress made, from January 2014, BSTC decided to further strengthen their commitment, for at least two years, by directly employing a professionally qualified Youth Development & Participation Worker (29 hours per week) to strategically lead on the research, development, co-ordination & delivery of a range of youth projects and programmes. It is therefore the intention of BSTC that all youth projects and programmes should have a strong youth democracy component and enable young people to have a greater say in decision making and in the shaping of youth provision and other local services. As a consequence BSTC aim for young people to feel more valued, have a sense of ownership and become active citizens.

**Youth Work projects and programmes 2014-15:** During the past year we have delivered a varied programme to young people within the Bradley Stoke area. The projects and programmes have been designed to enable local young people to positively engage in a range of recreational and informal educational opportunities.

In essence the purpose of our youth work programme is to:

- be genuinely participative and for young people to have their voices heard
- provide fun, safe and challenging activities
- enable young people to explore and reflect upon their attitudes
- provide a chance to develop and learn new skills
- enable them to gain knowledge and information and make informed choices
- be educative and promote equality of opportunity

## Examples of BSTC Youth Work activities:

**New Skate Park for Bradley Stoke:** Through our local youth work, many local young people initially identified a new skate park as a priority and with the support of the BSTC Youth Development and Participation Worker have continued to be involved at all stages, including planning, design, fundraising, establishing key requirements, meeting with potential contractors and recently the detailed evaluation of tender submissions and appointment of a specialist contractor. Key decisions have been made by a BSTC skate park working group with local young people, town councillors, the BSTC youth worker and others working closely together in partnership. At a recent meeting the young people reflected that "we feel we have been at the heart of decision making"; "we are part of making major decisions"; "we have been kept informed and had a say in all key decisions". With young people, BSTC and the contractor continuing to work closely together, it is planned to have the new skate park built by the end of September 2015.

**Street based session at Jubilee hard courts.** This popular session operates from the Jubilee centre hard courts and continues to have good attendance all year round, even in poor weather. Young people actively engage in an informal sporting session and are encouraged to self-organise. However, equally important is the youth work that takes place around the football, including, managing conflict, developing skills, confidence and self-esteem, advice and information work, issue based work, challenging anti-social behaviours, but also other many fun activities, including occasional BBQs (weather permitting). This session also provides important links for young people's engagement with other youth work projects.

**Girls & Young Women's night:** This project has grown rapidly since its move to the Jubilee Centre in April 2014. The project provides a young women only space where they can help shape a fun and varied programme, try a wide variety of activities and look at a range of issues and hopefully develop their skills, knowledge and self-confidence. The BSTC youth worker thought it was important to establish a girls space as the majority of young people encountered through local detached youth work, particularly in the winter months, are male. The sessions are run for BSTC by youth and art workers from Make It Mentoring (MIM) and the sessions will also hopefully help increase young people's engagement with other BSTC youth projects.

**Multi Activity Residential weekends:** In the autumn there were two highly successful multi-activity residential weekends in North Devon. One weekend was for our extremely well attended Girls & Young Women's Night (aged 12 to 16) and the other for some of the Young Men (aged 16 to 19) engaged through detached sessions. All the young people had a fantastic time and participated in a range of challenging and fun activities. We are currently awaiting the outcome of additional funding applications to provide further multi-activity weekends as part of our youth democracy programmes.

**Bradley Stoke Festival & Skate Competition:** this was a very successful piece of Youth Work with local young people actively involved in planning, organising and staffing two long days of activity with the sports of BMX, Skateboards and Scooters brought to the main festival site and a wider audience. This was followed by Sunday's highly successful and well attended competition at the Skate Park. The two days enabled young people to promote & discuss the development of the new Skate Park to a wider audience and to also break down some intergenerational barriers and challenge some negative stereotypes of young people. Additional funding for the event was gratefully received from the Willow Brook Centre.

**Young people's planning meetings:** these weekly sessions have built on young people's involvement in planning and organising the festival activities and have created a forum that has greatly informed the shaping of a range of youth projects and developments. Street based youth work sessions at various locations. This has been an occasional generic street based session taking place at different locations and engaging young people in a range of positive activities, for providing information and supportively signposting young people to other agencies and resources as appropriate. It is planned that street based youth workers will increasingly work with young people at a variety of locations and open spaces, including Bailey's Court, Willow Brook Centre, the Skate Park, Jubilee Centre and other locations.

**School based work:** assemblies & lunchtime sessions. Occasional whole year assemblies have taken place to promote youth work activities and young people's democratic involvement. Also lunchtime sessions have also taken place in Bradley Stoke Community School to follow up on assemblies and to promote youth work programmes, signpost young people and deliver advice and information work.

**Police v Young People football match:** A seven a side football match between local young people and the police was held in November. Young people helped organise the match with the support of the YD&PW and a local PCSO. The match was played in a positive spirit with the intention of building positive relationships; it was agreed that further matches will be organised

## Plans and aspirations for the future:

- Continuation and development of the previously mentioned projects, including a strong emphasis on projects where young people having a strong voice
- Complete the build of the new skate park and launch event
- Establish the framework for a local Youth Development Trust
- Create a local charter for young people
- Explore the development of a youth building

Getting involved. If you are a young person living in Bradley Stoke aged 11 to 19 who would like to find out more or get involved please contact the Youth Development & Participation Worker on 07900 253826 or email [graham.baker@bradleystoke.gov.uk](mailto:graham.baker@bradleystoke.gov.uk)

Likewise if you are interested in volunteering with one of the youth projects please use the above contacts.

Graham Baker – Youth Development & Participation Worker

# Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Bradley Stoke Beat Team Report

As we start 2015, we start to see a change in our surroundings. Here in the Constabulary, that change is no different. Firstly Insp Evelyn has retired and a new Neighbourhood Inspector will be appointed shortly. Your local neighbourhood team is PC Jamie Shiels and PC Claire Fletcher supported by PCSO Ben Sheward and PCSO Chris Baker. PCSO Lucy Sparks has also moved on to pastures new, after two or three years and is due to be replaced in March thankfully, that means the team will remain as two police constables and 3 PCSO's.

Your local police have also moved to pastures new. The old Filton police station has closed and, after a few months over the summer at Southmead police station, we are glad to all be in the new Patchway police centre. This new police centre houses both response teams and neighbourhood beat teams. As well as a large custody facility which means that officers no longer have to take prisoners to Staple Hill Police Station.

Over the last few months or so your Neighbourhood Team have been involved in many activities within the community, such as helping the victims of a particular burglary series with support and reassurance, as well as additional patrols, which ultimately led to the arrest of five people for burglaries here and elsewhere in Bristol, tackling victims of anti-social behaviour by dealing with offenders positively, leading to one new Anti-Social Behaviour Order, and tracking down those involved in the theft of pedal cycles from the Willow Brook Centre, leading to various charges and cautions for those detained, a particular issue that has existed in the community this year. Whilst the theft of pedal cycles has gone up from recorded numbers last year, thankfully we are seeing reductions in house burglary, theft of and from motor vehicles and offences that involve violence against the person.

I have to pass on to you all in this article that, if there were two things I'd like residents to do so they can prevent themselves becoming victims of crime it's this;

1. Use good quality approved locks for bikes when you're out and about. All too often we spend vast amount of money on bikes, only to leave them insecure or secured by a cheap padlock. It makes no sense. A recent theft involved an expensive child's bike being left on the front lawn overnight, having not been put away or secured. Such a simple crime to prevent.
2. And secondly, as we move towards the warmer months, its securing sheds and garages, as well as the things we store in them. Some residents keep some very expensive items in their sheds and garages, but again pay very little credence to what kind of security they put in place. Taking very simple but robust measures will prevent you becoming a victim of crime. If you store your bike in a garage then it is worth considering purchasing a "ground anchor" to secure it while it is in the garage. These cost a fraction of the cost of the bike.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the local residents who have taken the time to pass on their concerns and information they have in regards to drugs in the community. Although Bradley Stoke is a very safe area with low crime rates there are still crimes and anti-social behaviour going on. Recently the neighbourhood beat team have conducted a couple of successful drug warrants at houses in Bradley Stoke. These would not have been possible if it was not for the information provided by local residents. Information also recently received led to two men being convicted of drug possession when they were noted to be acting suspiciously in Webbs Wood Road. Once more it was down to the local community reporting their concerns to the police that allowed ourselves to take positive action.

I would also like to thank all the neighbourhood watch coordinators in Bradley Stoke for taking the time to help keep Bradley Stoke safe, also the volunteers of Speed Watch. I would also like to thank the volunteers and organisers of St Johns Ambulance and the Brownies who invited the police along to speak to their groups.

As we move forward into the New Year we are looking to increase our use of social media to keep in contact with you, and for you to contact us. We have seen the neighbourhood beat team appearing on the Bradley Stoke Radio channel, although due to PC Fletcher's choice of ABBA for her music choice, this may not be repeated any time soon.

As well as social media you can still contact your neighbourhood beat team in the more traditional manner of calling 101, popping along to the beat station in the Willow Brook Centre, attending a beat surgery or attending the local Bradley Stoke Safer, Stronger Community Group meetings.

I would just like to end by saying once more how appreciated it is when people give up their time to help out and contact their local beat team, we have had some good successes this past year and hopefully next year by working together we can continue to make Bradley Stoke a safe place to live and work.

PS 2488 Steve Davey

Team 3  
Patchway Police Centre  
South Gloucestershire Local Policing Area.