



ANNUAL REPORT

2020/21

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

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View from the Chair

Let me start by saying it's been an extremely difficult year for all of us with a Pandemic which no one could forecast. It has hit us in many ways, with the loss of loved ones, instability, jobs loss, weddings cancelled even many of our own Town Council activities had to be cancelled no less than the Community Festival, carnival and annual Fireworks during this last year.

We must keep positive and forward and not backwards. The vaccine is in its full capacity to get as many people vaccinated to end the lockdown. With 39% of the UK some 20,700,000 having been vaccinated that we can get back to some form of normality into our lives. Able to go to restaurants, being able to see our loved ones, go to church or temple too which ever faith you have. Family reunions, enjoy the countryside, holidays home or even abroad, meals out in restaurants and a visit to the pub.

As a Council I have tried to lead this year by 'Protecting the Public Purse' to ensure as a Council we make sure we have 'Competitive tendering', where in the past this has not been practiced in its fullest. I have advocated to stop paying for contracts up front which puts our, yes yours and mine local Council Tax in jeopardy. This has, I have to say, not been met favourable with all our councillors, who seem to feel that we must stick to the same contractors year on year. We may as well give them an open cheque book. I will continue to work with the idea of competitive tendering and better standards of workmanship on our regular maintenance work on our lovely estate.

We have a lovely Town here in Bradley Stoke and where our unpaid Town Councillors, elected members of the community, work hard whether it's an invasion of Travellers, Electric scooters that appeared over night by South Gloucestershire Council without any consultation with the Town Council, Planning issues, Financial or Leisure and Amenities. We will continue to work tirelessly your behalf.

This year, my Mayor's Charities were Great Western Air Ambulance Charity and Next Link Domestic Abuse Charity. Despite the cancellation of events which would normally have raised funds for the charities, we have managed to raise the grand total of £4,403.25 and that includes the income from the wonderful scarecrow trail around the town last October.

Councillor Tony Griffiths
Mayor Bradley Stoke

Mayor's Charities



Great Western Air Ambulance Charity

Great Western Air Ambulance Charity is the charity-funded air ambulance and critical care service for 2.1 million local people across Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and the surrounding areas.

Within four minutes of a 999 call our aircraft takes off. We work to the Gold Standard Critical Care Model, which means we rush a Critical Care Paramedic and Critical Care Doctor straight to the scene. We arrive no more than 20 minutes later, anywhere in the region. Our average flight time is just 14 minutes.

The service we provide is reliant on our brilliant team of pilots, critical care paramedics, and critical care doctors who specialise in Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine (PHEM) and trauma.

We need to raise over £3million a year to stay operational, but despite this we receive no day to day funding from the Government or National Lottery. We rely on people like you. Together we save lives.



Next Link Domestic Abuse Services

Since 2017 we have provided the domestic abuse services across South Gloucestershire. The service has established a reputation for best practice and victim centred support.

This year we have supported 1,266 victims to cope, recover and rebuild their and their children's lives.

All our services are accessed by one telephone number 0800 4700280 or fax and email 8.30-5.30pm Monday-Friday. We also have an out of hour's service. All victims asking for support are offered a relevant service that meets their needs and responds to their immediate safety risks. Callers wanting advice and guidance can access our accredited advice service.

For many victims of domestic abuse going to see the doctor is the only safe place they can go without their violent partner present. Our specialist workers train and support primary care clinicians to recognise domestic abuse and to refer their patients to our service.

We provide:

- Safe Houses for victims and Families
- Community and Outreach IDVA Services
- Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)
- Southmead Hospital IDVA Service
- Group Programme

Leisure, Youth & Amenities Committee Report 2020/21

While the amount of grants provided this year is slightly less than in previous years the Council was still able to sanction a substantial amount overall. As can be seen from the attached table even in a Covid situation Bradley Stoke Town Council was able to support many groups/clubs during this financial year to the tune of in excess of £24k.

We supported a wide range of activities across many diverse groups covering a very diverse age range. As can be seen these included sports of many types, conservation groups, well-being, communications, social groups, a playscheme, and a choir.

It is heartening to note that for the first time ever the Scouts which are by far the most widely supported group in the town were able to access badly needed funding due to Covid restrictions on their activities, however our support of youth activities does not end there. We have our own in house involvement in youth work to which we devote very significant resources. A separate report on this is also attached.

When groups or clubs wish to apply for funding contact is initially made with the Town Clerk who will discuss with them the most appropriate type of funding available - you will notice that we have several categories. This will then be passed on to the Committee for discussion within the group. Spokespersons are able to make representations regarding their claims and more often than not these are successful. This process is the same for all groups.

We welcome applications for funding from the well-established clubs and for new entities that might make Bradley Stoke an even better place to live in. There are presently a wide range of activities currently occurring within the town but there may be many opportunities to spot gaps where new clubs might be formed and for which we would be delighted to receive any applications for initial funding.

In conclusion, I believe Bradley Stoke Town Council is a generous but responsible authority and recommend this report to our residents.

Councillor Roger Avenin
Chair of Leisure ,Youth & Amenities Committee

Leisure, Youth & Amenities Committee Payments 2020/21

(as of 28th February 2021)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID	£
Bradley Stoke Radio	4,000.00
TOTAL	4,000.00

GRANT AID	£
Bradley Stoke Zero Carbon Community Group	500.00
Bradley Stoke Community Singers	500.00
Bradley Stoke Town Football Club	500.00
Severn Area Rescue Association	500.00
Bradley Stoke Ladies Football Club	417.00
Sight Support West of England	500.00
St Peters Hospice	500.00
TOTAL	3,417.00

LARGER GRANT AID	£
Four Towns Playscheme	£4,500.00 + free use of Elm Room, Baileys Court Activity Centre for 2020 Playscheme

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	£
Bradley Stoke Youth Cricket Club	3,500.00
Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club	2,300.00
Patchway, Filton and Stokes Volunteer Centre	1,158.00
South Gloucestershire Chinese Association	1,764.37
Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group	2,000.00
TOTAL	10,722.37

YOUTH GRANT AID	£
1st Bradley Stoke Scout Group	1,500.00
TOTAL	1,500.00

Finance Committee Report 2020/21

The Finance Committee is a critical committee that meets six times a year to deal with the Council's financial matters; most notably to draft the Council's budget ready for approval by Full Council each year and monitor the financial position throughout the year.

I've had the privilege of chairing the Finance Committee in previous years and it continues to be a privilege. 2020/21 has been unbelievably challenging for everyone and I'm sure from a financial perspective it has been very stressful for many of our residents. The pandemic understandably has been front and centre in Council's decision making this year. Despite the difficulties we all face, we have successfully managed to balance the negative impacts; continuing to run our town council in a financially sound and efficient way for longer-term success.

I have been impressed with how our officers have adapted to keep us going throughout the year and the levels of excellence they have continued to deliver through commitment to our community. Given the issues everyone has been subjected to this year, officers have supported councillors running a sound budget and our financial outlook continues to look positive through affirmative action (some of which I have summarised below).

- In June 2020, Council was quick to react to the devastating financial impact of COVID-19, including the government-imposed premises closures, by drastically reducing the budgets across the board paying particular attention to the income budgets for the three Activity Centres which were reduced by 60% (£136,680 to £54,000).
- Like some businesses, we have been able to secure £40,919 of government support to date to offset some of the losses. In addition, some income has been secured during these closure periods as the pre-school and some front-line services, including NHS training, continued to operate from our sites throughout. Because of this income stream, the current hire income position has exceeded expectations and has now slightly outperformed the reduced budgets by £10.5K (£64,500).
- Council's main annual income is the precept paid by the local community which accounted for 87% of BSTC's annual income for 2020/21 and as this is set at the start of the year, local town and parish councils are in the fortunate position of having this guaranteed income which has not been impacted by events.

- All expenditures are well below expected budgets at this time, which will produce an additional year end surplus which can be used to support planned projects for next year including the replacement of the very popular play area at Baileys Court, which has also recently secured external funding of £30K, and a future planned development to extend the Brook Way Activity Centre following the successful expansion of the car park in 2019.
- Council run a 5 Year Forward Budget Plan which is constantly updated and allows Council to plan ahead whilst reserving funds to support and protect the future precept and services for the local community during unexpected periods such as the one currently being experienced. This financial mechanism provides Council with the ability to withstand adverse economic conditions which in turn has enabled Council to freeze the precept and hire charges for next year whilst maintaining and even expanding existing services for the community.
- Despite having gone through an unpleasant year so far, the BSTC financial prospects look bright, and Council has retained the greatly reduced hire income budgets for next year to further ensure a strong financial future moving even further ahead into 2023/24.

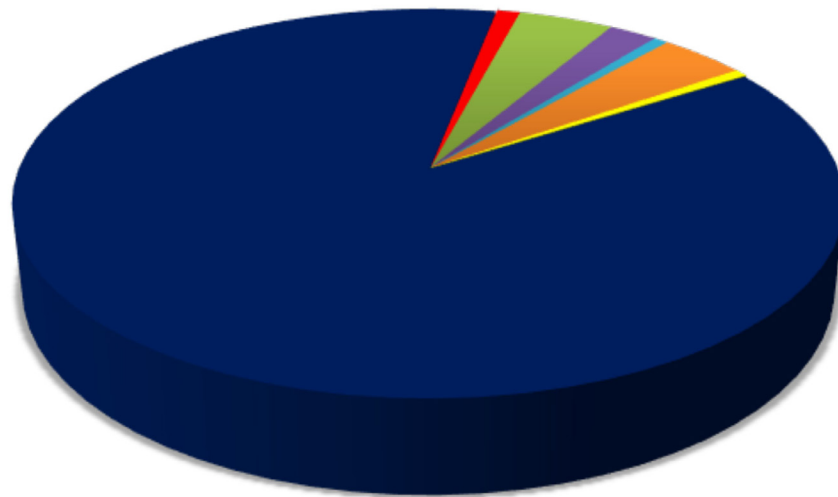
Through strong financial planning, Council has been able to protect the public purse whilst also continuing to fund a variety of good causes and local community groups, assisting them financially where appropriate. Our long-term aim has been to keep them buoyant for when we return to a more normal way of living, as Council recognises the important role they play in our community.

Finally, I hope that you all agree with the hard work we are putting in to serve you through effective budgeting and financial management; notably our steps to freeze the precept for the next financial year whilst also providing a stronger long-term forward financial plan. I also hope that this year begins to look more positive for us all more generally, as we optimistically get back to a relative way of normal living.

More information about the Council's funding and accounts can be viewed on our website at: www.bradleystoke.gov.uk/accounts

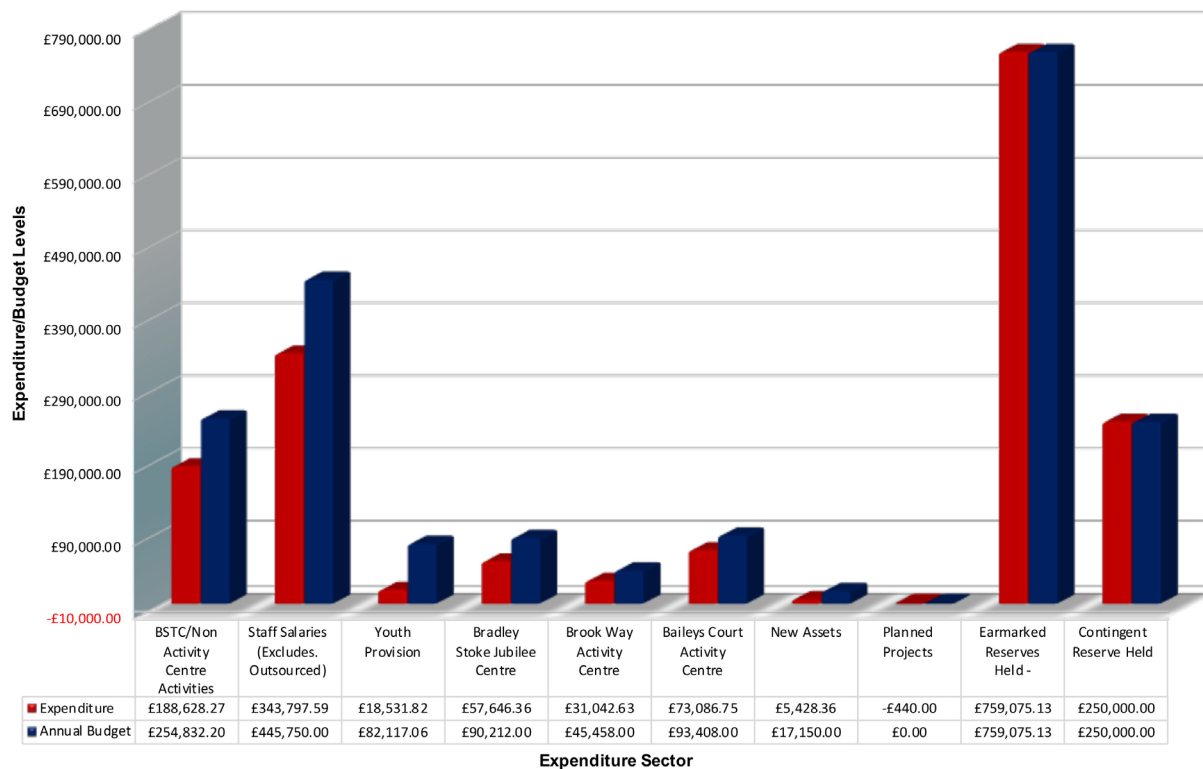
Councillor Ben Randles
Chair of Finance Committee

2020/21 Income Received (as of 15th February 2021)



■ BSTC/Non Activity Centre Activities - £0.00	■ Youth External Grant Funding - £10,000.00
■ Other External Grant Funding £40,919.00	■ Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre - £20,874.50
■ Brook Way Activity Centre - £6,230.41	■ Baileys Court Activity Centre - £37,392.18
■ Bank Interest - £5,788.67	■ Precept - £815,540.00

Comparison of Actual 2020/21 Expenditure Against Annual Budgets (as of 15th February 2021)



The above charts are based upon provisional pre-audit and pre-year end figures which were correct as at 15th February 2021 but exclude some February, March and final year end expenditures to 31st March 2021 and 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 2021.

Planning & Environment Committee Report 2020/2021

I was delighted to be elected as Councillor for the Bradley Stoke South Ward in May 2019. This year myself, and a number of other Councillors volunteered to serve on the Planning & Environment Committee. The members are, *Tom Aditya, Keith Cranney, Fabrizio Fazzino, Ben Randles, Ed Rose and Andy Ward, plus Tony Griffiths (ex-officio, Chair of Council) and Michael Hill (ex-officio, Vice-chair of Council).*

Happily I was chosen by the committee members to serve as this year's Chair of Planning & Environment Committee and I have really enjoyed the challenge of getting to grips with the detail of the planning process. Myself, and the whole committee discharge our duties diligently to ensure Bradley Stoke Residents are very well served.

Over the period, our Committee has considered a large volume of applications. Our role is to provide South Gloucestershire with our views and recommendations on planning applications and whilst we can sometimes influence outcomes, SGC are the final approving authority. At all times our aim is to help our residents wherever we can and South Gloucestershire Council have agreed with a very large proportion of our recommendations.

We continue to be committed to climate change and biodiversity by flowering grasses replacing some of the short cut grass in many areas. This helps encourage valuable butterflies and insects which help to promote biodiversity whilst at the same time as lessening carbon emissions.

Our Planning & Environment Committee meets once a month and we always have a very busy agenda full of planning applications to be considered. We very much welcome attendance by Bradley Stoke residents which gives everyone the opportunity to raise concerns and or make suggestions and there is a special section at the beginning of each meeting to facilitate this.

I would also like to extend my very grateful thanks to our Town Clerk, Sharon Petela and her team. Sharon has provided immense support to myself in particular and our Committee in general, working hard to collate all the applications and other documentation for our Committee meetings. At the meetings Sharon or one of her team has the unenviable task of presenting the full context of applications to the Committee including detailed plans satellite/street view images of the applications. This has proved even more difficult given Covid-19 and the necessity to navigate the Zoom platform throughout all meetings. I am sure all members will echo my thanks to Sharon and her team for the strong support we have received during what has been an extremely difficult year for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Terri Cullen
Chair of Planning & Environment Committee

Councillors Attendance

2020/2021

		Cttee		Council												Finance												Planning & Environment												Leisure, Youth & Amenities			
		Full Council	Finance	Leisure, Youth & Amenities	Planning & Environment	C May	C Jun	C Jul	C July Extra Full Council	C Sept	C Nov	C Jan	C Jun	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																																									
Ashe^^	John	C	F																																								
Avenin^^	Roger	C		L																																							
Cranney^^	Keith	C			P																																						
Cullen	Terri	C	F	L	P																																						
Fazzino	Fabrizio	L	F		P																																						
Griffiths	Tony	C																																									
Hill	Michael	C																																									
Hopkinson^^	Brian	C		L																																							
Owusu-Antwi^^	Franklin	C	F																																								
Randles	Benjamin	C	F	L	P																																						
Rose	Ed	C	F		P																																						
Ward	Andy	I		L	P																																						

^^ = 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
C = Conservative, I = Independent, L = Labour

Chair of Council - Tony Griffiths
Vice-chair of Council - Michael Hill
Chair of Planning & Environment - Terri Cullen
Chair of Finance - Ben Randles
Chair of Leisure, Youth & Amenities - Roger Avenin

Bradley Stoke Town Council Youth Work: 2020-21

Overview: The last year has been exceptionally challenging for all & we have had to be flexible & creative to continue delivering aspects of our usual youth work offer to local young people. The National Youth Agency (NYA), as the Professional Statutory & Regulatory Body for youth work in England, has been extremely supportive to youth workers, through its provision of youth sector specific advice & guidance & this has informed our local youth work delivery throughout the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Youth Work sessions: Just before the first lockdown, we had some of our best attended Girls Project sessions, including a packed youth theatre performance. The skatepark & youth building sessions were also continuing to prove extremely popular, as were our occasional detached & street based youth work sessions, including the sports focused sessions at our Jubilee Centre hardcourts. Also, at the time of the first lockdown, we were planning to deliver additional youth work sessions by filling our part time youth worker vacancies.

After the first lockdown we started to respond flexibly & creatively to the situation & during the last year, have continued to adjust & change our youth work offer in response to any changes in the Covid-19 youth sector specific guidance. We have therefore delivered a mix of youth work sessions, including, virtual sessions using zoom; outreach & detached sessions; small group indoor face to face sessions, with strictly limited numbers; & one to one support sessions. We have importantly also kept in touch with young people, parents & carers, through various social media, including closed groups; through posting useful information & signposting organisations on our website & through phone, text & email.

Events, off site & residential activities: Sadly, the pandemic has meant that certain aspects of our usual youth work offer have not been possible over the last year; however, at the time of writing this report, we are already hopeful & planning some of our usual activities for later this year. This includes plans for two full days of activities, for children & young people, at our annual festival (or later in the year if necessary), involving our usual popular package of youth art workshops, skatepark competitions, etc. Young people are also enthusiastic about recommencing various offsite trips, including multi activity residentials. We have also just secured some grant funding for some other street art/ mural projects scheduled for the summer.

Youth Work partnerships & funding: The Town Council has continued to have a core commitment to Youth Work & this is important in helping maintain & attract external funding. The Council's employment of a professionally qualified Youth Development & Participation Worker (YD&PW) has allowed BSTC to forge closer partnership links, including active membership of the SG Youth Work Partnership. This has enabled us to secure significant capital and revenue funding in recent years, including currently £30k over an initial 3 years period. Our YD&PW also strategically leads on the development, co-ordination & delivery of our various youth projects & programmes, as well as attracting other funds (we have just secured two small grants for Art Projects), sponsorship from local businesses (e.g. skate comp prizes) & linking with other organisations, for example, the food waste recycling project (Foodshare).

Youth Work staff & training: During the last year, another success of the SG youth work partnership, was our joint delivery of an online Introduction to Youth Work course, with seven of the

participants being Bradley Stoke residents. We are also now recruiting to our part time youth worker vacancies & will then be able to deliver additional Youth Work sessions & our full youth offer, including staffing the youth building at the skatepark & expanding the reach & frequency of our Detached/ Street youth work sessions.

Youth Voice: we continue to believe that all our youth projects & programmes should include &/or work towards developing a strong 'youth voice' component & therefore enable young people to have a greater say in decision making & 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 & become more active citizens. As highlighted previously, the building of our skatepark & the continued ownership & involvement of young people, is an excellent example of the benefits of young people having high level involvement as active citizens & of BSTC adopting the principal outlined in the national document 'Positive for Youth' (2011):

"Involving young people does not only lead to better decisions & a greater sense of ownership by young people... It also sends a clear message about the valued & positive place of young people in their community".

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

Over the next five years BSTC therefore plans to:

- Continue to develop a range of youth work projects that are shaped by young people's opinions & in response to their needs.
- Continue to support & encourage young people's participation in decision making.
- Continue to explore & secure funding & in-kind support from various funding streams & organisations.
- Create a professional youth work delivery framework.
- Manage & support staff & partner agencies & encourage reflective professional practice.
- Continue offering & developing a range of youth projects that enable young people to have a voice, including the aspiration of working towards a local Youth Forum.
- Continue to enable & develop ways for local youth democracy projects to link to existing council decision making structures, including working groups, committees, reports as appropriate.
- Provide youth democracy training & support to local young people
- Continue to support young people's ownership of the skatepark & their involvement in future developments, organising events, etc.
- Continue to enhance local partnerships.
- Create a local charter for young people
- To fully equip the youth building at the skatepark & develop other associational spaces for young people & the wider community.
- Develop & strengthen young people's links to local media as a way of enabling their voices to be heard.
- Develop & maintain a range of partnerships with local groups, schools & businesses
- Identify new projects & to support existing projects.

Graham Baker
Youth Development & Participation Worker

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Bradley Stoke Neighbourhood

Hello, the Bradley Stoke Neighbourhood team is made up of PC Claire Fletcher, PC Jamie Shiels and PCSO Amelia Lipiec. We are soon to be joined by a new member of the team, PCSO Adam Ali.

We have also recently been joined by Sergeant Claire Leakey, who is the new Neighbourhood Sergeant for the Thornbury, Winterbourne, Severn Beach and Bradley Stoke areas. Sergeant Leakey brings a wealth of experience to the Neighbourhood team, including previous experience in CID.

Well, no one could have foreseen the events of the last year in this country and in the wider world, where we have seen the Covid-19 Pandemic disrupt our every day “normal” lives. One of the biggest changes and shocks has been the unprecedented restrictions on all of our freedoms. Freedom to meet where we like, with whom we like and go where we like.

The way in which Avon and Somerset Constabulary have tried to use the new powers introduced by the government to help combat Covid-19 have been by way of Engage, Explain and Encourage. Finally if this does not work then we move onto Enforce.

While we need to be robust in applying the regulations and moving to enforcement where necessary, we need to make sure we are engaging, explaining and encouraging people first.

It's very important that we engage with people to find out and fully understand what their individual circumstances are. By doing this, we will be in a position to make a judgement call on whether they have a reasonable excuse for what they are doing. Being aware of any exceptions listed in the regulations. Think: would our communities and general members of the public deem their explanation to be one of the reasonable excuses listed?

Fairness, proportionality and protecting the public continue to be our guiding principles to maintain the trust and confidence of our public, beyond the current COVID pandemic.

The inability to ‘get on’ with life and feelings of isolation creates frustrations, which can have a detrimental impact on mental health and increase vulnerabilities. Many of us have turned to the online space to avoid feeling isolated, using it to communicate with others and for leisure time. Younger, more vulnerable individuals spending more time online are at risk of exposure to online extremism or radicalisation and other forms of exploitation. We know that friends and family are often unaware of what people are doing. With the added pressures of lockdown and for many, home schooling, it remains important to make sure our children are safe online.



PC 3309 - Jamie Shiels



PC 3540 - Claire Fletcher



PCSO - Amelia Lipiec



PS - Claire Leakey

In these uniquely challenging times, the need for effective use of police resources has led to many officers and Civilian support staff being utilised in roles which will allow the front-line police services to be as little effected as possible. Many staff within the Constabulary are, as in other industries working remotely. To enable the day-to-day business of the constabulary to proceed, we have been using Teams to remain in contact with one another and for our Briefings. Also, we use an App created by a member of the constabulary which is called Qlick sense. This App allows all officers access to Intelligence reports, Crime figures, Crime Hotspots as well as a plethora of other information on their personal laptops. Thus enabling smarter ways to plan an individual patrol.

As always Bradley Stoke remains a safe place to live and work, with both Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour trends dropping, hopefully the New Year will bring an end to the restrictions that we have all been living under and we can return to life pre Covid-19.

Over the next few years, we will see an increase in the amount of new police officers nationwide and Avon and Somerset Constabulary are currently training new Officers to join the constabulary. Both the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner remain committed to Neighbourhood policing and see Neighbourhood policing as a cornerstone of the constabulary and keeping our communities safe.

Local contact details <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk>