

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Keynsham Town Councillors are elected to help you. If you have any problems or want action taken on local issues that concern you contact one of your local Councillors below.

Keynsham Town Council

EAST WARD

Cllr. Tony Crouch—Liberal Democrat	0117 986 4648
Cllr. Clive Fricker—Conservative (Vice Chairman)	0117 986 9250
Cllr. Gill Hellier—Independent (Chairman)	0117 986 2945
Cllr. Brian Jenkins—BNP	0117 986 3842
Cllr. Roy Staddon—Labour	0117 986 7447

NORTH WARD

Cllr. Keith Kirwan—Liberal Democrat	0117 908 3546
Cllr. Aubrey Matthews—Conservative	0117 986 1339
Cllr. Lisa O'Brien—Conservative	0786 790 6163
Cllr. Brian Simmons—Conservative	0117 909 6596
Vacancy	

SOUTH WARD

Cllr. David Biddleston—Labour	0117 987 0081
Cllr. Chris Davis—Labour	0117 986 1947
Cllr. David Johnson—Conservative	0117 329 2346
Cllr. Steve Rossiter—Labour	0117 986 0692
Cllr. Kate Simmons—Conservative	0117 908 1783

THE CENTRE - SIX MONTHS ON



Town Clerk: Jo Swift
15-17 Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1HF
Telephone: 0117 986 8683 Fax: 0117 986 6359
E-mail: townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Large print
copies available
on request



ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013

Presented to the Annual Town Meeting at
Keynsham Baptist Church on 22nd April 2013

Keynsham Town Council, established in 1991, is based at 15-17 Temple Street, Keynsham. Keynsham Town Council is the only official body solely representing Keynsham residents with a wide and diverse work load as outlined in the following reports. In addition it provides such services as play areas, dog bins, basketball facilities at Teviot Road and Holmoak Road, floodlit multi sport site & skateboard park at Memorial Park, football pitches & pavilion at Manor Road, Cemetery and Chapel at Durley Hill, bus shelters, roadside seats/litter bins, public notice boards and maintenance of green footpaths within Keynsham town.

Report by the Chairman of the Town Council Councillor Gill Hellier



Cllr Gill Hellier

Another year has passed and much has happened in the town. The plans for the regeneration of the town centre were passed in September and the demolition work started almost immediately and is nearly completed. We look forward to seeing new buildings grow from the ashes (or should it be rubble) of the old site. Further plans for the Somerdale site were shown at an exhibition in the town recently and an outline plan for the site together with full application for the Fry Club, should reach the planners shortly.

On June 3rd we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a picnic, entertainment and competitions in the High Street after a special Civil Service in St Johns Parish Church. The inclement weather did not mar the enjoyment of all those attending and the various hostelrys and cafes were full all day.

The very wet weather in both the Spring and Summer made gardening very difficult last year but the town gained a silver again in the South West in Bloom competition. There were more entries in Keynsham in Bloom than the previous year and Abbeyfield House won the Ed Sant Memorial shield as the most Inspiring Garden - it was very well deserved.

The events in the week prior to the Music Festival in July were well attended but the torrential rain on the morning of Sunday 1st July almost caused the main event to be cancelled but the weather did improve. Very many thanks to all who worked tirelessly so that the festival was again a great success.

The Youth Festival in September was enhanced by the Battle of the Winds' bus which joined the parade after appearing in Weymouth at the Olympic sailing. Many local sports and community clubs were in the park giving taster sessions, these included bowling, football, rugby and even bell ringing!

Due to the regeneration, November saw a slight change in the layout for the Victorian Evening, this meant most the fairground rides were located in Ashton Way but at least the High Street was less congested. It was a joy to see the willow trees being carried in the procession, these had all been made by the children in workshops prior to the event.

In December the Keynsham In Bloom Working Party took part in the truly magical Christmas Tree Festival in St Johns Parish Church.

Our thanks once more to all the hard working Council staff and to the over 40 community groups that attended our networking event in February. It was humbling to see all the fantastic voluntary work that makes this town so special.





Cllr Clive Fricker

Report by Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee

Councillor Clive Fricker

Our committee has continued over the past year to play a key role in the successful development of our town. This role has been amplified by the exciting developments that are taking place in the New Centre and the continued consultation about the imminent launch of plans for the Somerdale development. The expansion of Keynsham required by the Unitary Authority Core Strategy provides a real opportunity and a threat to our community. Our Committee plays a key role in delivering a balanced approach as it seeks to retain the character of Keynsham and its unique history while securing the best possible future development. An underlying fundamental principle is to retain our town as a distinct community between the two large urban areas of Bristol and Bath.

Over the past year we have witnessed the rejection of B&NES Core Strategy by an Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate which leaves our area at grave risk of unplanned development. Consequently working with colleagues in B&NES we have played a full part in the analysis and modification of the Strategy to secure approval. This process is intended for successful conclusion by Autumn 2013.

Another key area of activity was the delivery of the case against a Travellers Site off the A4 near Broadmead roundabout. Having opposed the plan at a special B&NES Council meeting on a number of grounds including highway safety, lobbying continued until the scheme was finally cancelled. Further action was the unanimous rejection of gas drilling at Hicks Gate which in finality was withdrawn at least for the present time.

The Localism Act has created an opportunity for neighbourhood planning in town and parish council areas. However the Committee has considered this possibility and decided to concentrate on a full involvement in the creation of a B&NES Placemaking Plan later in 2013. This is considered a sensible way forward for planned development given the size of Keynsham and the costly procedure for delivering the required number of Neighbourhood Plans.

Finally, the Committee has considered 124 applications during the year. 14 applications were withdrawn after the Committee made their decision. The Committee objected to 22 of these applications. These objections were due to: Development in the Green belt 4 - Site overdevelopment 7 - Creating potential traffic & access problems 5 - Out of keeping with the character of the area 6 - Objections without comments 3 - 85% of the decisions agreed with later decisions by B&NES Development Control Committee.

Report by Chairman of the Creative Industries Working Party

- Councillor Clive Fricker

Given the location of Keynsham and the exciting possibilities of the Somerdale development Keynsham Town Council decided in summer 2012 to establish a working party to promote creative industries. The Bath - Bristol Corridor is intended to be an area where Creative Industry can be established and secure future growth. Consequently the objective of the working party was to help facilitate this process at Somerdale and in wider Keynsham to the advantage of employment and economic prosperity in general.

At a series of meetings over past months a partnership approach has been established with B&NES Economic Development Department, local innovative companies and Somerdale developer Taylor Wimpey. The delays in planning process due to such factors as Roman remains has slowed likely planning application to Spring 2013. However contact has already been established with local universities and the Working Party stands ready to help drive prospects for best advantage to the town.

Report by Chairman of the Keynsham in Bloom Working Party

- Chairman Mrs Liz Fox



Despite the awful weather last summer, Keynsham received a Silver Award for their entry in South West in Bloom.

The entries for Keynsham in Bloom were up in numbers on the previous year and the children made a huge contribution. The theme for 2012 was 'Celebration'. The overall winner was Mr Withyman, Allotment No.48, and the 'Most Inspiring Garden' was won by Abbeyfield House.

A presentation evening was held on 25th September.

The theme for 2013 is 'Bees, Butterflies and Blooms', so colour wise anything goes and gardeners are encouraged to plant as brightly as possible.

Mrs Liz Fox

The Keynsham in Bloom Working Party will be working in partnership with the Severnside Community Rail Project and will be looking for sponsors to provide troughs to improve our local railway station.

We hope that more people will enter Keynsham in Bloom this year. As we go around Keynsham we see lots of very nice gardens so do enter and make 2013 Keynsham's best year In Bloom ever.



Cllr Brian Simmons

Report by Chairman of the Keynsham Market Working Party

Councillor Brian Simmons

The market has been moved to a temporary site in Ashton Way car park for the duration of the re-development of the new civic centre and appears to be better attended than ever. The market has a much better ambience than the old site and in partnership with the Keynsham Scouts offers a craft market and other complimentary activities on market days which will increase the footfall at the market. The Saturday of the market, the second Saturday in every month is one of the busiest days of the month for the High Street drawing shoppers from a wide area.

Report by Chairman of the Grants Working Party



Cllr Kate Simmons

- Councillor Kate Simmons

The Town Council continues to make funds available by means of a grant to local voluntary sector groups who work for the benefit of Keynsham residents.

The Working Party met in May 2012 to consider applications for financial assistance and recommended that grants of £19998.75 be awarded to 40 organisations. The following applicants benefited from a grant:- 1st Keynsham Scout Group, 2386 (Keynsham) Squadron, Abbeyfield, Aquatera, Avon Wildlife Trust (Keynsham) , Butterflies – Haven, Combe Down Holiday Trust, Community@67, Cruse Care, Bristol & District area, Focus Counselling, Freeways Trust,

Friends of Manor Road Woodland, Friends of St. Keyna Primary School, Fry Club Netball, Frys Hockey Club, Intandem, JN Fear Hall, Keynsham & District Mencap, Keynsham Baptist Church, Keynsham Brass Band, Keynsham Bowling Club, Keynsham Explorer Scout Unit, Keynsham Film Works, Keynsham Light Opera Group (KLOGS), Keynsham Life Saving Club, Keynsham Methodist Church, Keynsham Methodist Church Queens Road Youth Club, Keynsham Orchestra, Keynsham Rugby Football Club, Keynsham South Forum, Keynsham Town Junior Football Club, Queens Road Church Pre-school, Residents Fellowship Association, RICE – Research Institute for the care of older people, St.Dunstons Church, St. Francis' Community Crafts, St. Johns Church, St. John's Mother & Toddler Group and Crafts, Tea & Tots and Vitalise.

In addition to the above organisations, SWAN Advice Bureau, Keynsham Farmers' Market, Community Bus and Dial-a-Ride continue to receive grants from the Town Council. In July 2012 the Town Council held a Grants Presentation Evening at St. John's Church Hall where many of the successful organisations received their awards and were able to give a short talk about their group's activities in Keynsham.

The Grants-giving process will again take place in 2013 and application forms will be available from the Town Council office and website www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk from Monday 15th – Friday 26th April 2013 with the closing date for completed application forms being Friday 17th May 2013.

Report by Chairman of the Victorian Evening Working Party - Councillor Gill Hellier

Due to the regeneration of the Town Centre site, a number of the rides had to be relocated to Ashton Way but this seemed to alleviate the density of the crowd in the High Street.

The Town Crier, Stilt Walkers and the Keynsham Air Cadet Marching Band preceded the sleigh with Santa and the winner of the Christmas colouring competition on board. Next came two festively dressed donkeys from Horseworld and the children carrying their fantastic willow Christmas trees, which they had made in a special workshop. The Stilt Walkers continued to entertain the crowds during the rest of the evening – a special favourite was the Victorian Policeman with his truncheon.

The winners and runners up of the colouring competition were presented with their prizes and certificates before the overall winner, Lucy, helped by the Chair of Bath and North East Somerset Council, Councillor Rob Appleyard and the Chair of Keynsham Town Council, switched on the lights.

It was wonderful to hear the bells at St Johns ring out before we were entertained to some carols by St Johns Youth Choir, this was followed by music from Keynsham Light Opera Group, Keynsham Brass Band, Totally Maracas and the Air Cadet Band. A special thanks to them all and in particular to Alice Blyth a pupil at Wellsway School and to the compere for the evening, Jimmy Mack.

Report by Chairman of the Arts Working Party - Councillor Clive Fricker

Despite the on going squeeze on Council finances the Arts Working Party continues to promote the Arts in Keynsham as required by our Keynsham Arts Plan 2011 – 2014. Working in partnership with B&NES Council the Working Party supports a wide range of Arts including visual arts, crafts, dance, theatre, music, literature, poetry, film, animation, live art and media.

The departure of our Arts Development Worker in December 2011 required new thinking on support for the Arts. Over 2012 the Working Party has deployed direct grants to local organisations to impact positively on artistic development. This grant process is delivered in two stages to ensure new ideas have every opportunity to seek support.

As in previous years the Arts will remain a core objective for Keynsham Town Council as driven through the Working Party. This is intended to provide wide enjoyment in our community through times of economic difficulty. In addition the financial support helps establish a creative culture of fundamental importance to creative industries and tourism that will deliver future prosperity to our town.

Report by Chairman of Keynsham Young Peoples Liaison Group



- Councillor Roy Staddon

The Young Peoples' Liaison Group have met four times in the last year, and aims to give detailed consideration to the provision for young people in Keynsham in partnership with associated groups, together with ensuring good governance and management of the Keynsham Youth Service.

Although it discusses topics regarding young people we have not, unfortunately, had any young people represented in the group so have, therefore, had to rely on their views third hand. However, this coming year we have two young people from TimeOut who will be joining us.

TimeOut has been visited by Town Councillors on several occasions and have been very impressed with the activities, training courses taking place and the camaraderie of the young attendees.

The Youth Fest was a great success last year impressing the Chair of BANES Council and receiving his congratulations. The Youth Fest Group will be holding its first meeting soon to prepare for this year's Fest.

