

Allotments Committee Report
By Chairman, Councillor Tony Crouch

The Allotment Committee met three times with the representatives of the Allotment Association in the municipal year. The Association continues to run the Allotments on a day to day basis very successfully. Contractors have undertaken some work adjusting the camber of the road to alleviate flood water from surface run off but to date there has been insufficient rain-fall to see if this has been successful. The car park has been made deeper and the banks to the rear tidied up.



I attended the Associations AGM's in February 2014 and 2015. At the AGM in 2015 Bassam Shahin stood down as manager of the site and treasurer of the Association. I would like to place on the record my thanks to Sam for his many years of hard work. I am not sure how many years it is but he was in place when the Town Council was formed in 1991.

Joint Arts Committee Report
By Chairman, Councillor Clive Fricker

The Arts Working Party is now redefined as a Joint Arts Committee with B&NES Council and plays an increasingly important role in the life of Keynsham. Despite severe pressure on Council funding B&NES and our Town Council have continued to fund Arts activity including a grant scheme support for Keynsham Arts and popular events like Keynsham Music Festival. A notable feature is that B&NES Economic Strategy highlights the important role of the Arts in providing a supportive environment for the fast expanding Creative Industries in the Bristol – Bath corridor.

As part of the impressive new town centre delivered by B&NES Council funding was provided to deliver a new Clock Tower in the Centre and a Timeline opposite the Memorial Park main entrance. Consequently two sub committees have been working hard with artists Sebastian Boyesen about the Clock and David Mackie with the Timeline. Both projects are due for delivery in Summer 2015 and both reflect the long history of Keynsham and a high degree of community involvement.

A further advantage of the new centre is the conference area in the one stop building. This impressive facility known currently as the community space provides super tiered seating for events and already a dozen groups are using its potential including your Town Council for monthly meetings.

Keynsham Winter Festival Committee Report

By Chairman, Councillor Gill Hellier

Once again a very successful evening albeit under another name - we were blessed with dry weather for the whole evening.

The switching on of the lights was completed with no hiccups and it was great to see the young people involved in the procession. My favourite item on the stage was the performance of the very young children with songs from Frozen.

The events in the Community space were well attended and included performances in the new theatre space. The workshop in the Key centre was well attended by over 70 children.

A big thank you to the Wombles for their fantastic effort in

keeping the litter under control.

Next year we will have the full use of the outside area on Market Square and Market Walk and will be able to use the electricity already supplied to the site which will be of enormous benefit for the lighting of the area particularly the stalls.

Grants Committee Report
By Chairman, Councillor Kate Simmons

Once again in 2014 the Town Council allocated £25,000 of its budget to grants for local groups that benefit Keynsham residents. The committee met in May 2014 to consider applications for a grant and recommended that grants be awarded to

Table with 2 columns: Group Name and Amount. Lists various local groups and their allocated grant amounts, such as 1st Keynsham Scout Group (£750.00) and Keynsham Allotment Association (£1000.00).

the following groups:

In addition to this Dial-a-Ride, Keynsham Farmers Market, Keynsham Music Festival Association and SWAN continue to receive grants from the Town Council. In July a Grants Presentation Evening in St John's Church Hall was held where the successful groups were able to receive their awards and give a short talk about the work of their group.

The grant giving process will again take place in 2015 with application forms being available from mid-April from the Town Council Office and website



Large print copies available on request



ANNUAL REPORT
2014/2015

Presented to the
Annual Town Meeting
at The Community Space,
Civic Centre, Market Walk
on Thursday 19th March 2015

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.

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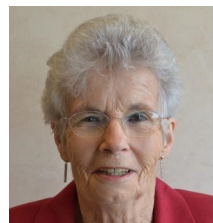
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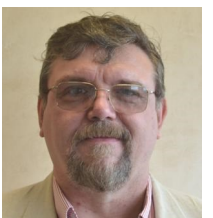
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SERVICES

The Town Council currently provides the following activities and services:

LEISURE AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Children's Play Areas at:-
Upper Memorial Park
Park Road
Lower Memorial Park
Downfield
Kelston Road
Teviot Road
Holmoak Road
Manor Road

Basketball facilities at Teviot Road & Holmoak Road
Football Pitches & Pavilion at Manor Road
Skateboard Park at Memorial Park

CIVIC AMENITIES

Cemetery and Chapel at Durley Hill
Bus Shelters (some)
Roadside Seats/Litter Bins
Public Notice Boards
Maintenance of green footpaths within Keynsham town

ACTIVITIES

Grants for Voluntary & Community Organisations
Keynsham Winter Festival
Christmas Lights Display
Youth Service inc. TimeOut Youth Centre
Support to Keynsham Music Festival
Community Arts Development
Keynsham Farmers Market
Keynsham In Bloom/South West in Bloom
Keynsham Good Citizen Awards

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

There are also a certain amount of resources that have to be given over to running the Town Council including:

Democratic Services
Financial Management
Human Resources
Town Council Offices and Equipment
Information for Members and the Public

Keynsham Town Council liaise with B&NES Council on a regular basis on matters related to the Town.

COUNCIL STAFF

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Assistant Youth Worker—Lee Hoggett
Assistant Youth Worker—Lisa Tozer
Assistant Youth Worker—Anthony Andrews
Senior Groundsman—Nick Wilson
Groundsman (Cemetery)—Chris Champion
Groundsmen—Garry Rant & Csaba Biro
Apprentice Groundsman—Darian Burrows



Report by the Chairman of the Town Council Councillor Clive Fricker

After the sunniest January for many years our thoughts go forward to the warmer days of Spring. The current year of our Town Council contains one of the busiest periods of activity ever as our community celebrates success in so many ways.

Our new centre moves forward as occupancy increases and the whole programme with roads, timeline and clock will be completed by the summer – you won't be disappointed! Already residents are enjoying the new library, mosaics and one stop shop facility while being very impressed with the meeting facility of the community space. After the fire station moves to Hicks Gate we look forward to the completion of the new HQ for Avon Fire & Rescue and welcoming their staff to our town.

On Somerdale with the development of houses the new Fry Club takes shape and the old factory should soon experience new life and again offer employment opportunities to the town. Nearby the Friends of Keynsham Station are working to enhance this growing transport location as we await rail electrification in the next several years.

Our Memorial Park has witnessed tremendous popular success. The beginning of July experienced the most successful Music Festival ever with a week-long series of well attended events leading up to the main Sunday celebration. This acclaimed Festival driven by volunteers and supported by the Council also relies on your donations to continue its quality of

delivery. I'm also pleased to confirm that given the great success of our Memorial Park bandstand events these will be extended in 2015 by popular demand.

There are many organisations in the Town supported by your Council that I might congratulate on another successful year. However in the space available I would like to mention Keynsham in Bloom that secured a silver gilt award in the annual national contest and Walkers are Welcome a new group that delivered a series of events to promote this increasingly popular mode of transport. Also our young people must be applauded in working hard to establish a Youth Council that will focus on an agenda drawn up by themselves.

We continue with popular annual events such as our Grants Evening and Keynsham Winter Festival and always value feedback from residents to ensure we're on the right track. Not only do we have a website for your information : www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk but also an email, facebook and twitter presence. In whatever way you choose to tell us your view matters and together we can make Keynsham an even more attractive place to work and live. We are still in Temple Street next to the current Fire Station so please call in where a mine of information is waiting for you.



Planning and Development Committee Report

By Chairman, Councillor Clive Fricker

This Committee has once again faced a heavy workload during the current year due to the strategic growth of our town and the ramifications of national legislation. Consequently we have considered key issues of Rights of Way and a full examination of the parameters of Keynsham's Conservation Area.

The conclusion of B&NES Core Strategy will not only protect the community from unlimited development but also, in due course, provide a new income source via Community Infrastructure Levy that will be monitored by the Committee. Following the Planning Inspectorate's approval of the Strategy we have been hard at work on a Keynsham Placemaking Plan including defining local Green Spaces and Housing Development Boundaries.

Our regular consideration of planning applications has increased and consequently from April 2014 to the end of January 2015 the Committee considered 126 applications over a 10 month period. This equates to 2 more applications than for the whole of the 12 month period for 2013 – 2014. 7 applications were withdrawn after the Committee made their decision and 1 application was deemed as not requiring planning permission. There are 27 applications that are still pending decisions by the Bath and North East Somerset Council.

The Committee objected to 22 applications due to a range of reasons:-

Development in the Green Belt 4
Site overdevelopment 9
Out of keeping with the character of the area 8
The proposed plans would adversely affect the

listed property or property in the conservation area 3
The proposed plans would create potential traffic & access problems or highways safety issues 4
Loss of parking or lack of parking 2
Overlooking or loss of privacy 2
Concerns in respect of drainage 1
Loss of ecological habitat 1
Objections without comments 1

It's encouraging that 94% of the decisions made by the Town Council agreed with later decisions made by B&NES Development Control Committee. Over the year we were pleased to welcome applicants and members of the public to our meetings to hear the debate or give direct evidence of their opinion prior to a planning decision.

