



Keynsham Town Council
representing Keynsham
residents at a local level.





Andy Wait

Chair
Keynsham Town Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

When I wrote this report last year, there was so much optimism, looking forward to our unique calendar of events which we have come to anticipate and love. Sadly, the Music and Winter Festivals, Keynsham in Bloom and so many other events were erased from our lives. We have learned a different way of working, not as good but better than nothing. We have supported the vulnerable and weak but some of us have watched loved ones dying alone. 2020, what a dreadful year and one to forget.

In December of this infamous year, Tony Crouch died as a serving Councillor after a long struggle with cancer. Many moving tributes have been made, a man who served for 21 of the 29 years of the Town Council's existence. A tower of strength, a defender of the weak and unrepresented, and a man who understood what it meant to serve our community, someone who will be much missed.

"We live in a caring community and now is the time to take stock, to not forget how this pandemic has changed us; to reflect on the lessons we have learned so we can emerge stronger."

Now in the spring of 2021, there are signs of recovery. We hope to support a scaled down Music Festival and maybe a full-sized Winter Festival. Our work in Climate Change has meant the promise of more trees and hedgerows in Keynsham, a more pedestrian and cycle friendly High Street and, hopefully, a better public transport service. We are learning more about developments in Temple Street and the High Street from Charlton Road to St John's Church. Our new Leisure Centre will be complete soon and there are a series of Climate Emergency events planned for the weekend starting on 17th September.

I must pay tribute to our Town Council staff who have worked tirelessly through a very difficult year. Almost everything has been more difficult for them, from sourcing scarce supplies of PPE to dealing with mud in the Play Areas. Let's hope for a sustained period of good health, growth for our beleaguered businesses and a strong sense of wellbeing for us all.

We live in a caring community and now is the time to take stock, to not forget how this pandemic has changed us; to reflect on the lessons we have learned so we can emerge stronger and better prepared to face a safer, greener and more sustainable future for our generations to come.

EVENTS, ARTS, TOURISM & HERITAGE



Dave Biddleston

Chair
EATH Committee

The Committee hope that new innovation might encourage further community participation and engagement

2020 has been an extraordinary year for our fledgling Events, Arts, Tourism and Heritage (EATH) Committee, set up to reflect the Town Council's 4-year action plan maintaining existing projects and creating new initiatives.

Last year the Committee took the view that the Winter Festival should not be abandoned but rather be developed into a 'virtual' event that the whole town could view live on TVs, phones, laptops, etc. The technical intricacies were terrifying but despite that, and in conjunction with Spirolux, Churches together, KMFA and local schools; we were able to bring a creditable event for all residents to enjoy.

This year work has begun to better engage with the community via our developing Community Engagement Strategy and it is hoped that new innovation might encourage further community participation and engagement. To that end, the Town Council has obtained video and camera equipment that might be used for further live-streamed events with the intention of attracting more visitors to the town and promoting Keynsham as a tourist and business destination.



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Alan Greenfield
Chair - Environment & Sustainability

We are working towards Keynsham becoming a much greener and more pleasant place to live, work and shop.

In the summer of 2019 the newly elected Town Council declared a Climate Emergency. Climate change is no doubt the biggest issue facing our planet. The main aim is for the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030.

To work towards this objective, the Environmental and Sustainability Committee was set up. The Council was already doing many 'green' things, like opposing the expansion of Bristol Airport and supporting many local environmental groups. The E&S Committee's role is to bring together what we are already doing and expand this and push in a planned way to meet our goal. It brings together Councillors and representatives from local business and community environmental groups. Since this committee's formation it is worth mentioning it has

- Ringfenced grants available for environmental projects from zero to £10,000 a year.
- Held a showcase day at The Space for the public to attend in early 2020. This had over 20 environment related groups in attendance including the Repair Café, attracted several hundred people, and was a great success.
- Identified many sites for possible tree and hedge planting.

One key piece of work over the last year has been putting together our ideas and objectives into an Action Plan. The Council has identified it has a key role to play in helping to support and encourage the many groups in our community already doing some great work, from the Wombles (litter clearing) to plastic reduction and community energy, to name but three.

In the next year, we will aim to continue to look into how we can help groups and individuals to help themselves on our joint journey, not only to be carbon neutral but for Keynsham to become a much greener and more pleasant place to live, work and shop.



FINANCE & POLICY



Hal MacFie

Chair - Finance &
Policy

The Finance and Policy Committee deals with the monthly reviews of expenditure, annual budget preparation and has an annual Corporate governance programme of reviewing such matters as risk assessments, investment strategy, policies and procedures, procurement terms and conditions and finance and governance regulations that were formerly dealt with at the Town Council meetings.

The Committee also reviews the capital projects programme and makes recommendations to Town Council on the procurement of large capital items such as mowers or vehicles or new playground equipment.

The Finance & Policy Committee give the Town Council more time to deal with the exciting new issues of Climate change, and Heritage that are so important for a 21st century Keynsham

We are very grateful to our Town Clerk who provides us with hard copies of the voluminous data sheets which are difficult to handle in a zoom virtual meeting. It is hard work but we rejoice that we are giving the Town Council more time to deal with the exciting new issues of Environment, Climate change, and Heritage that are so important for a 21st century Keynsham.

We would like to record our sorrow at the passing of our Vice Chairman Tony Crouch. We will miss his steady and thoughtful contributions to our meetings.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



Clive Fricker
Chair
Planning & Development
Committee

I begin my annual report by noting the sad passing of our Committee Chair Tony Crouch in December. Tony was a good friend who for many years served KTC well with a special interest in planning matters. Planning continues to be a significant area of KTC activity with its direct impact on residents wellbeing and a vital role in the future shape, style and development of our town.

Applications that we considered between April 2020 and February 2021 included consultations on tree works, Full applications, Listed Building applications, Variation applications, Discharge of Conditions applications, Outline applications, Permissions in Principle, Environmental Scoping Reports and Retrospective applications. The total number of applications considered during the period was 138 and of these 41 are still awaiting decisions from B&NES. Four of the applications were withdrawn after we concluded and one application was classed as invalid.

The Town Council objected to 32 applications and nearly 90% of KTC decisions concurred with B&NES final decision. During the year numerous members of the public were welcomed to meetings of the Committee.

In total, the Committee objected to 32 of the 138 applications that were considered and 90% of the Town Council's decisions agreed with the decision reached in finality by B&NES Council

YOUTH SERVICE



TimeOut

Keynsham Town Council
Youth Service

Even though this year has been very different, Keynsham Youth Service has continued to offer young people across Keynsham the opportunity to engage with positive activities and learn new skills through youth sessions online.

This year we have had to be very creative with inventing different ways to engage with young people. We have largely run on-line sessions on Tuesday and Thursday nights plus every day we offer on-line chat support groups. Normally the team would run a varied programme throughout the year including;

- Themed Cooking Nights
- Arts & Crafts – felting, graffiti,
- holiday-themed
- Mental Health, Alcohol Awareness, Sex and Relationships
- Learning Sign Language (BSL)
- Sports & Outdoor games
- Careers & Education - support and guidance
- Music Studio Sessions
- Games & Quiz Nights

The youth service has a purpose-built youth club called TimeOut, that has

many facilities including a music studio, pool table and cooking area

Tuesday night session is called Time Out chat session so young people can come online and speak to members of staff with any issues they have or seek guidance they may need. We support young people with job hunting, c.v. writing and how to make the best of home school learning. Thursday night sessions are for young people to test their knowledge with a quiz, games or music. Both sessions are open from 6.30pm until 8pm. There is also a member of staff online at 1pm till 2pm and 6pm till 7pm on days where we are not running a session. This is for young people to have someone to talk to so they are not alone.

During 2020 we have focused on young people's mental health to ensure they always had someone to talk to. As we continue to come out of lockdown we shall be supporting young people in returning to a more normal life and ways they can cope with change and deal with issues that have happened during the pandemic such as loss, separation and homelessness.

If you would like more information about the Youth Service, follow us at facebook.com/timeoutktc or email youthworker@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Clive Fricker

Chair
NDP Steering Group

“It is vital our NDP supports further development in Keynsham for the benefit and wellbeing of all residents.”

Keynsham's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was launched in April 2016. Last year, COVID 19 with its restrictions and demands on resource for people support has seriously delayed progress. However, a fortuitous advantage has arisen due to the withdrawal of the WECA Joint Spatial Plan and the decision by B&NES to update its Local Plan. This will impact the policies to be contained in the NDP and it's clear that additional work will be required before completion. There is also the climate emergency declaration and pending ecological declaration by the Town Council.

Despite Covid progress has been made this year. Building on evidence collected to support our developing policies, the Town Centre is now benefitting from the injection of substantial funding for two town centre public realm improvement projects. The first is an imminent £1.5m Local Growth Fund initiative, administered by WECA and B&NES with a High Street focus. Secondly a £1.1m Historic England bid means the town centre has been declared a Heritage Action Zone. Works to improve the Upper High Street and Temple Street together with the implementation of a shop front design guide will take place over the next 3 years. Consultation will commence shortly on what a future town centre should look like, facilitating regeneration of the town centre for traders and residents. These grants would not have been achieved without the sustained work of the NDP topic groups and resident feedback.

Post Covid restrictions we will re-launch NDP topic group activities with the main focus on finalising Plan policies together with community engagement. It is vital our NDP supports further development in Keynsham for the benefit and wellbeing of all residents. It is also important that the NDP engages with all businesses to secure economic success after the pandemic. Your Town Council is committed to finishing the Plan and having it approved by public referendum. Consequently funds are set aside in next year's budget for this purpose.

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to all those who have worked resolutely on our Plan preparation since the outset. This includes Steering Group members past and present, BANES Officers and our invaluable staff. The NDP relies upon the engagement and input of residents to determine all aspects of our future town and we invite anyone who would like to be involved to contact Cheryl Scott our Town Clerk:-
townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

GRANTS COMMITTEE



Dave Biddleston

Chair
Grants Committee

It's been an incredibly difficult time for our local charities and community groups over the past year and it has been inspiring to see so many of them maintaining the work they do through entertaining and creative ways. For some the work became more vital, and our community has significantly benefitted from their generosity.

Despite Coronavirus, the Town Council were able to run their Grants funding initiatives in 2020 and managed to provide over £24,711.00 to those groups. In all, we were able to assist thirty-six groups looking for additional assistance and we were pleased to receive so many applications which specifically serve Keynsham residents.

Grants awards for 2020/2021

In 2020, the Town Council awarded funding to these groups in the sum of £18482 for general grants and £6229 for environmental grants. In total, we helped thirty-six groups seeking assistance.

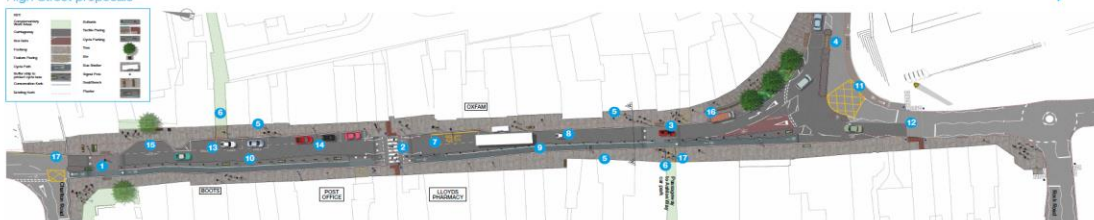
1st Keynsham Scout Group	£1000
3rd Keynsham Girls Brigade	£215 General & £125 Environmental
Avon Wildlife Trust (Keynsham Branch)	£10
Bath and North East Somerset Carers Centre	£893
Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation	£804 Environmental
Chandag Infant School PTA	£250
Community At 67	£700
Friends of Castle Primary School	£600
Focus Counselling	£1000
Friends of Manor Road Community Woodland	£400 Environmental
Golden Oldies Charity	£534
Great Western Ambulance Charity	£500
Hawthorn Court Residents Association	£170
Keynsham Allotment Association	£1000 Environmental
Keynsham & District Twinning Association	£300

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

GRANTS COMMITTEE



Keynsham Bowling Club	£200 Environmental
Keynsham Cricket Club	£1000
Keynsham Food Bank	£1000
Keynsham Hockey Club	£1000
Keynsham Life Saving Club	£695
Keynsham Light Opera Group	£400
Keynsham Phoenix Youth Theatre	£400
Keynsham Town Community Radio	£1000
Keynsham Town Junior Football Club	£1000
Keynsham Walkers Are Welcome	£600 Environmental
Keynsham Wombles	£500 Environmental
KIDS	£1000
Somerdale Community Shed	£500 Environmental
St. John's School Association	£1000 Environmental
St. Keynsham Primary School PTA	£725
Swan Advice Centre	£500
The Keynsham Orchestra	£1000
The Ships Project	£600
Transition Keynsham Food Group	£1000 Environmental
Vision West of England	£1000



Improvements to the Town Centre public realm were highlighted as a key priority by local people. Through the work conducted to date by the Keynsham Neighbourhood Development Group and in consultations that informed the Phase 1 Keynsham programme, the Keynsham Town Plan, Keynsham Transport Strategy and Bath & North East Somerset Council's (B&NES) Placemaking Plan. Much work has been happening behind the scenes to work toward this aim.

Keynsham High Street public realm improvements (phase 1)

The first phase of public improvements to the public space between Bath Hill and Charlton Road will rejuvenate the town centre and attract locals and visitors back to the High Street. The enhancements will include footpath widening and resurfacing, better signage, cycling and bus stop facilities, and new street furniture, streetlights, landscaping and trees. The £1.5 million scheme is funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership through the Local Growth Fund, administered by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) which supports economic growth in the region.

Keynsham High Street Heritage Action Zone (HS HAZ)

Keynsham is one of the 68 high streets across the country that were successful in receiving funding from Historic England. The High Street was awarded £1.1million as part of Historic England's High Street Heritage Action Zone (HS HAZ) Programme. This programme has been match funded by Keynsham Town Council (£40,000) and Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) who have contributed £100,000 from the Community Levy Infrastructure. HS HAZ is a partnership programme between B&NES, Keynsham Town Council and Historic England. It will enable us to harness and develop the value of Keynsham's historic environment to generate economic growth and improve quality of life in the town centre. This separate programme will follow on from the Keynsham Phase 1 programme.

A Masterplan for the Town Centre

. A Masterplan on what the future of the town centre could look like will be due out for consultation in the near future – it is really important resident's look at the plans and have their say on what they want to see in a future town centre. The heritage led programme will focus on either the Temple Street or Upper High Street areas, dependent on the masterplan. The aim will be to enhance the conservation area, to create a more attractive, engaging and vibrant High Street. This will be achieved through four key programme strands; public realm improvements, shop front improvements, community engagement and cultural consortium and programme.

Council Staff

Dr Cheryl Scott

Town Clerk
townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Dawn Drury

Deputy Town Clerk
deputytownclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Vivienne McDonnell

Administrative Officer
vivienne@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Jackie Sydenham

Administrative Assistant
reception@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Lisa Edwards

Administrative Assistant
admin@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Kelly Low

Youth Support Worker
kelly@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Michael Frison

Assistant Youth Worker
michael@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Daniel Morgan

Youth Support Worker
Daniel@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Kelvin Bush

Grounds Maintenance Supervisor
groundsmaintenance@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Chris Champion

Cemetery Attendant
cemeteryattendant@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Allen Richards

Grounds Maintenance Supervisor
groundsmen2@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Get in touch

Any questions about the services offered by Keynsham Town Council can be addressed to: **The Town Clerk, Keynsham Town Council, 15-17 Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 1HF**

✉ townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk

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