



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Keynsham Town Council
representing Keynsham
residents at a local level.





Andy Wait

Chair

Keynsham Town Council

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 learnt so we can emerge stronger.

As I write my annual report; I feel that it is sensible to both take stock of the year just gone and reflect on what is likely to come.

Well, the last year, like the one before has been difficult. Whilst we struggled out of the grip of the worst pandemic for over a century, everything was harder. Lockdowns, masks, PPE, endless stuff on the TV about what should or shouldn't be allowed and who can forget the "One rule for us and another for them" situation, Christmas parties and "gatherings". Anyway, our town battled through it with its usual resolve.

The spring wasn't great, apart from it being spring, of course. The summer gave some of us the chance of a break somewhere in these islands. The early autumn saw two notable events, a scaled down Music Festival with some excellent use of Temple Court for comedy, opera and music. Who could forget the excellent Tensheds? If you weren't there, watch him on YouTube. Also, events on the Friday night and through the weekend in Memorial Park. We also had the Eco Celebration Festival in September which was a triumph and an event that I expect will become a regular feature of the Keynsham Community Calendar. No Winter Festival this year but it was replaced by the equally successful Christmas Market.

I can't leave my report of last year without thanking our poor businesses in the High Street and hope that by the time of our Annual Meeting, Phase One will be complete and looking splendid. Having major works at such a time created more challenges than would have been expected. Thank you for your patience in dealing with the disruption. A smart High Street should bode well for the future. Of course, Phases Two and Three will present their own challenges.

Looking forward, we have the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June and, hopefully, a special 25th Anniversary Keynsham Music Festival in July, the planning for both is well underway. Let's hope for good weather and good times. Like everywhere else, Keynsham is changing. That's what life does, all we can do is ensure that our voice is heard by those who are making decisions about our town. This, of course is why we need a strong Town Council.

I must pay tribute to our Town Council Staff who have worked tirelessly throughout a very difficult year. Almost everything has been more difficult for them, with resignations leading to understaffing and overworked staff. Hopefully, by the time you read this, a new enthusiastic team will be in place. 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. Now is the time to take stock, not to forget how Covid has changed us; to reflect on the lessons we have learned. Then, we can immerge 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
to promote
Keynsham as a
tourist and business
destination.*

2021 has been an unusual year for the Committee as both Covid and the continued closure of Keynsham High Street has required some innovative thinking. Last year we held a 'Virtual Winter Festival' but this year we were very glad to have the Winter Festival back on a smaller scale with our Christmas Market. I'm very pleased to say that this was such a measurable success that further community markets have been planned for the coming year organised by a new and very capable member of Town Council staff, Beth Whalley.

We were particularly pleased this year to be able to have our Remembrance Day parade back in Keynsham Town. It always amazes me at how well supported this event is and how many people are willing to attend the wreath laying at our place of remembrance by the park gates. Dawn Drury (Acting Town Clerk) made an excellent job of arranging and organising along with the RBL and our local Churches and the new sound system was an excellent improvement on previous years and most people could hear the prayers and hymns.

I'm pleased to say that our Committee has completed our Community Engagement Strategy Document and that it has been ratified by the Town Council. I'm hoping that we will be able to work more closely with the cultural consortium and other groups in order to promote Keynsham as a tourist and business destination.



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Charlotte Buxton
Chair - Environment & Sustainability

The Environment and Sustainability Committee has continued supporting the people of Keynsham to become more environmentally friendly over the last 12 months. The Council is still committed to its goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. Several initiatives that were started the year before have been realised.

The following things have been actioned by the Committee this year:

- The Town Clerk has secured batches of trees from the Woodland Trust charity and planting will begin at the end of January with another date scheduled shortly afterwards. This has been publicised widely in Keynsham so we are hoping that a large number of the community will want to be involved.
- The Grants Committee has continued to support local initiatives with environmental concerns by awarding a ring-fenced sum of £10,000.00 to environmental projects.
- The Keynsham Environmental Celebration Day organised by Churches Together and supported by the Council was a great success, various talks were given on the Friday evening, followed by around 30 stalls in Market Square the next day. The stalls had plenty of information about local initiatives that were taking place to deal with the climate emergency and how people could be supportive.
- The Environment and Sustainability Committee continues to liaise with other councils, particularly in South Glos to develop cycle routes to provide better access to Keynsham.
- The Environment and Sustainability Project Plan continues to be updated.

We endeavour to plant as many trees as possible in available green spaces in Keynsham.

Over the course of the next year, we endeavour to plant as many trees as possible in available green spaces in Keynsham, as well as auditing our project plan to make sure that we are on track to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, we also hope to enable members of the community and groups to become more environmentally friendly so that everyone can play a part in making our community more sustainable for the future.

FINANCE & POLICY



Andy McGuinness
Chair - Finance & Policy

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

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

The Committee also reviews and makes recommendations on large capital items such as mowers, vehicles, new playground equipment and the upkeep of facilities, including Keynsham Cemetery, Manor Road Pavilion, the Bandstand, Skate Park and seven play areas.

A major refurbishment of the Manor Road Pavilion is one such projects requiring financial input in 2022.

We are very grateful to our Town Clerk who does all the number crunching to provide us with all the relevant data on which we base our decisions.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



Clive Fricker
Chair
Planning & Development
Committee

In total, the Committee objected to 38 of the 144 applications that were considered and 86% of the Town Council's decisions agreed with the decision reached in finality by B&NES Council.

With more meetings for Keynsham Town Council Planning and Development Committee this was another very active year. The Committee continued to safeguard residents' wellbeing while adhering to planning law and the policy impact of a climate emergency. This required a constant vigilance for incongruous and overdevelopment and full participation in the evolution of planning policy from B&NES and WECA.

Applications that we considered between April 2021 and February 2022 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 one hundred and forty-four and of these twenty-five are still awaiting decisions from B&NES. Thirteen of the applications were withdrawn after Keynsham Town Council submitted its decision.

The Town Council objected to twenty-eight applications and nearly 86% of Keynsham Town Council decisions concurred with B&NES final decision.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Committee to speak on their own applications or against neighbouring applications. For meeting dates and agendas, see the Town Council website or telephone the Town Council office on 0117 9868683.



YOUTH SERVICE



TimeOut

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.



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

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

- Arts & Crafts – felting, graffiti,
- Holiday-themed
- Mental Health, Alcohol Awareness, Sex and Relationships
- Sports & Outdoor games
- Careers & Education - support and guidance
- Music Studio Sessions
- Games & Quiz Nights

Tuesday night session is called TimeOut 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 staff member online at 1pm until 2pm and 6pm until 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 2022 we have focused on young people's mental health to ensure they always have 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) has unfortunately had to be on hold due to office disruption, staff shortages and Covid we hope to build on the evidence collected to support our developing policies.

With Covid restrictions being removed 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.

B&NES Council are developing a new Local Plan for Bath and North East Somerset. This will include a new strategy and policies to guide and manage growth and change in our area over at least the next 15 years.

Our area is part of the West of England. This varied and prosperous sub-region is planning for significant growth of homes, jobs, and infrastructure.

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is preparing high level plans for the area:

- Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)
- Joint Transport Plan

The SDS will provide strategic direction on how the sub region will grow and change and address key issues such as climate change, green infrastructure and nature recovery.

It will also establish how much housing and employment space needs to be planned for between 2022 and 2042 across the WECA area, and specifically in B&NES.

Keynsham Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Policies will be developed to ensure that they do not conflict with planning policies already in place and that will be adopted by B&NES, WECA and central Government.

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

GRANTS COMMITTEE



Dave Biddleston

Chair
Grants Committee

It's been wonderful that so many of our local groups and organisations have been able to open up carefully after the recent lockdowns. When they are fully up and running, they all make a huge difference to adults and young people in our local community. For many of our groups, lockdown has meant a considerable period of uncertainty and it has been extremely difficult for them to continue with no income. Our grants, therefore, have had an important role in providing those much-needed funds in order that they can continue with the (often vital) roles that they play.

Despite Coronavirus, the Town Council were able to run their Grants funding initiatives in 2021 and managed to provide over £29,876.04 to those groups. In all, we were able to assist thirty- seven groups looking for additional assistance and we were pleased to receive so many applications which specifically serve Keynsham residents.

In 2021, the Town Council awarded funding to these groups in the sum of £20,797.04 for general grants and £9070 for environmental grants. In total, we helped thirty-seven groups seeking assistance.

1 st Keynsham Scouts	£1000.00
3 rd Keynsham Girls Brigade	£ 340.00
Age UK B&NES	£ 600.00
Avon Wildlife Trust (Keynsham Branch)	£ 10.00
Avon Wildlife Trust (Keynsham Branch)	£1000.00
B&NES Carers Centre	£ 688.56
Bath Area Play Project	£1100.00
Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation	£ 929.00
Bristol Baseball Club	£ 750.00
Chandag Junior School PTA	£1000.00
Citizens Advice B&NES	£1100.00
Community At 67	£ 900.00
Churches Together Salford & Keynsham	£1100.00
Creativity Works	£1000.00
Dorothy House Hospice Care	£ 657.00
Focus Counselling	£1000.00
Golden Oldies Charity	£ 574.00
Keynsham & District Mencap Society	£1100.00
Keynsham Bowling Club	£1000.00
Keynsham Cricket Club	£1000.00
Keynsham Community Energy	£1100.00

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

GRANTS COMMITTEE



Keynsham Explorer Scouts	£ 900.00
Keynsham Hockey Club	£1100.00
Keynsham Life Saving Club	£ 774.50
Keynsham Light Opera Group	£ 300.00
Keynsham Rugby Football Club	£1100.00
Keynsham Table Tennis Club	£ 396.00
Keynsham Community Radio	£1100.00
Keynsham Walkers Are Welcome	£ 500.00
Keynsham Wombles	£ 800.00
Queens Road Methodist Church Pre-School	£ 611.98
Royal British Legion	£1000.00
Somerdale Community Shed	£ 300.00
Southside Family Project	£ 445.00
St. Francis Church	£ 350.00
St. John's School Association	£1100.00
The SHIPS Project	£ 700.00
Swan Advice Centre	£ 450.00

Keynsham Town Council Grants Committee will be offering £22,000 in general grant funding and £15,000 funding for Environmental related projects. Application forms are downloadable from the Town Council website or on request by emailing admin@keynsham-tc.gov.uk or telephoning 0117 9868683 from 1st April – 30th April 2022. Closing date for applications is Friday 13th May 2022 and decisions will be made on 15th June 2022.

Council Staff


<p>TOWN CLERK Dawn Drury</p> <p>townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>	<p>DEPUTY TOWN CLERK Post to be filled</p> <p>deputytownclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>
<p>RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER Post to be filled</p> <p>RFO@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>	<p>ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Post to be advertised</p> <p>Email to be agreed</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATION OFFICER Vivienne McDonnell</p> <p>vivienne@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>	<p>BUSINESS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER Post to be advertised</p> <p>Email to be agreed</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jackie Sydenham</p> <p>reception@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Lisa Edwards</p> <p>admin@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>
<p>LEAD YOUTH WORKER Post to be advertised</p> <p>Email to be agreed</p>	<p>YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER Kelly Low</p> <p>kelly@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>
<p>YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER Michael Frison</p> <p>michael@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>	<p>YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER Daniel Morgan</p> <p>Daniel@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>
<p>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR Kelvin Bush</p> <p>groundsmaintenance@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>	<p>CEMETERY ATTENDANT Chris Champion</p> <p>cemeteryattendant@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>
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<p>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKER Kevin Summers</p> <p>Kevin.groundsman@keynsham-tc.gov.uk</p>	

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

 0117 986 8683

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