

This report covers the work of Patchway Town Council from May 2015 to May 2016.

Patchway has been pleased to join in the celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday this spring, not only by lighting our Beacon on The Tumps, supported by Army Cadets, Scouts, St. Chad's Church and a good crowd of residents and by presenting commemorative mugs to all residents aged 90 and over, who all received an invitation to a Civic Service in Thornbury, but also by taking part in the Clean for the Queen campaign. This took the place of the Big Spring Clean organised by Keep Britain Tidy Campaign and invited communities to tackle badly littered areas and improve the appearance of towns and villages all over the UK. The Town Council staff, assisted by groups on Community Service Orders, cleared many of the back lanes of dumped rubbish and collected large items including fridges and freezers. The Council paid for the disposal of these items as, due to austerity measures, South Gloucestershire Council is unable to carry out these duties.

Patchway is embarking on a new phase of development and the Town Council will embrace the opportunities which this brings to create a vibrant and well-resourced community. The development of Charlton Hayes will create 2,600 homes and to date over 1,000 properties are occupied. Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood will provide another 5,700 homes in the next ten to fifteen years on the site of the former Filton Airfield. The Town Council is determined to capitalise on the funds which will be made available to provide community facilities for these new residents and to rejuvenate Patchway as a 21st century town. A Vision for a new Patchway Town Centre was adopted by the Council and has been endorsed by South Gloucestershire Council and included in their Draft Policies, Sites and Places Plan. A new opportunity for our area may be provided by a Devolution Deal recently announced by the government to bring the authorities which used to be Avon into a new body with additional responsibilities and funding.

The Town Council is keen to see progress on the project to create a real Patchway Town Centre linking the new and old communities across Highwood Road, although this has been delayed by uncertainty on the

relocation of the Fire Station and future use of the clinic, which are under review at present. There have already been welcome developments in Rodway Road in the past few years: the relocation of Patchway Post Office to the Spar in Rodway Road and the new Patchway Library and Children's Hub in Rodway Road which have changed the face of the area as well as providing a number of vital services for families with children aged 0-19 years. There will be the opportunity for the Town Council to work with SGC during 2016-17 in relation to maintaining the service to the public provided by Patchway Library.

The Council welcomes all new residents of Charlton Hayes into the community of Patchway and encourages them to call at the Town Council office in Callicroft House for information and requests. The Council meets regularly as a stakeholder with the various developers of the Charlton Hayes development, South Gloucestershire Council, housing associations, health and police representatives. This stakeholder group has been attempting to achieve a GP surgery in Charlton Hayes, bring forward the opening of a new primary school, now scheduled to open in 2018 or 2019 and ensure that the temporary green space at Ringsfield Lane remains open as long as possible before it becomes part of the new school's playing field. The Council will continue to work to provide facilities for all its residents, old and new.

The Council is proud that Norman Scott Park was registered as a Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field and this is marked by a Jubilee plaque and a Jubilee Oak in the Park. The Tree Council's "Jubilee Diamond Trees" book included a section on Patchway's Jubilee Tree planting ceremony in Scott Park. During 2016 the Council will be installing a kissing gate which will give access to the Park for disabled buggies by the use of a radar key.

Sadly, the Royal British Legion Club in Rodway Road closed in 2015 but the war memorial has been relocated from the car park of the Club to Scott Park, where it has been cleaned and the surrounding area landscaped. A very successful Remembrance Day Parade was held there in November. It is planned to build a wall behind the memorial and to

add the names of those from the Patchway area who lost their lives in both World Wars.

The Council takes very seriously the importance of play to children and young people. The Council provides play facilities which are well used and appreciated by all age groups at Scott Park, Blakeney Road, Bevington Walk and Gorse Covert. The Council ensures that the play areas are continually repaired and improved and are inspected annually by a safety consultant. We also have an accessible play area, funded through a government grant, “Aiming High”, which supplies facilities for children with disabilities and is a very welcome addition to our children’s play area in Scott Park. This year the Council has added a small area on the wide grass verge at the top of Callicroft Road with a bench and two spring animals to provide a resting place for residents on their way to the shopping centre at Rodway Road or Gloucester Road. This was funded by the Patchway Safer & Stronger Group.

The Council has basketball courts at Scott Park and Bevington Walk and practice hoops at Blakeney Road field and maintains skateboard facilities at Scott Park, which are popular with young people and are continually maintained and improved. This year safety repairs were carried out to the skateboard park. The 321 running route of 1 km in Scott Park is well used by runners and walkers of all ages during the week. 321 is a government initiative to encourage people to start exercising to improve their health.

The Council also supports the maintenance of the BMX Track at The Tumps which provides a much used facility for young cyclists after school and at weekends as well as providing a home for Bristol BMX Club, which is working hard to improve the facilities by installing floodlights to the track. A regional BMX event will be held in Patchway this summer.

The Council makes a financial contribution towards the organisation of a free summer holiday scheme for primary aged children which is held at various venues in Patchway, including Charlton Hayes.

The Council has been consulted during the year on a number of planned new developments including revised plans for the East Works site, land adjacent to the Vue Cinema for ice-skating and sky-diving centres and the building of two additional stores in Asda's carpark. The Council has urged the construction of wider or additional highway access to these sites.

New transport developments which the Council has been consulted on include the Metrobus extension from The Mall, across the airfield, along Gipsy Patch Lane to Parkway Station and reopening the rail loop from Henbury through Filton to Bristol to benefit the new housing development on the airfield. On the railway plans, the Council supported the proposal that the site of the former station of Henbury should be utilised rather than building a new one nearby. Works are now in progress to electrify the railway line through Patchway to South Wales including running cables through Patchway tunnel.

Following extensive consultation on a Traffic Review of Patchway, this work was carried out by South Gloucestershire Council between January and March 2016, causing considerable inconvenience to residents during the contract. The scheme has included measures to reduce speed and dangerous parking and to support local shopping centres and incorporates many features which the Town Council had been requesting for years. New sections of cycle path have been added by SGC to the network during the year parallel to Coniston Road, adjacent to the motorway bund.

The Council, as a member of Patchway Community Sports Association, has been pleased to adopt a Strategic Sports Strategy for Patchway, which emphasises the importance of Scott Park being the sports hub for Patchway for outdoor sports facilities and the aspiration to find a site for indoor sports facilities in the heart of the community. South Gloucestershire Council has now agreed to allocate part of the £2m Section 106 sports funding for Charlton Hayes to fund these developments and we hope that some of the planned improvements will be commenced in 2016. These include a floodlit multi-use games area, new cricket nets and improvements to changing facilities. Patchway

Town Council has agreed to fund the future management and maintenance costs of any improvements carried out and will be applying for additional funding from various grant-making bodies.

The Town Council's groundstaff continue to maintain Scott Park to a high standard and provide facilities for teams from both men's, women's and junior football teams during the winter and a pitch for Patchway Cricket Club in the summer. In addition, the floodlit courts are available for evening training. The Council also encourages youth workers to bring groups of young people to use our facilities whenever they are available.

From April 2014 South Gloucestershire Council withdrew various street care services throughout the district and Patchway Town Council, as well as other local councils, had to take on these duties to maintain services to our community. These responsibilities involve our groundstaff cutting highway verges, emptying dog bins and providing and servicing hanging baskets and flower and shrub beds and the Town Council does not receive any funding from SGC to cover these costs.

The Council's groundstaff also maintain the planters in Rodway Road as well as shrub beds in Scott Park and the two picnic areas in the Park. The Town Council has recently installed extra boundary signs at various approaches to Patchway and placed a box of flowering plants at the foot of each. We have continued our employment of a street cleaner who supplements the work of South Gloucestershire Council in Patchway and has considerably improved the appearance of the streets and back lanes. From 2014 we now have to pay for the collection of the litter which was previously funded by South Gloucestershire Council.

Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport, who have been based in temporary offices in Scott Park for a number of years, finally moved to permanent premises in Alveston this year. They have donated one section of their office to the Men in Sheds project and this will be located in Blakeney Road Allotment Site during the summer months. The site in Scott Park will be renovated and will give the Council the opportunity to extend the planted area adjacent to the War Memorial. Several former

councillors have been remembered by trees planted in their memories in this area, which is maintained by the groundstaff.

The Council works closely with Southern Brooks Community Partnerships (SBCP) and financially supports the provision of community work in Patchway. The Council has opposed the decision of South Gloucestershire Council to cut its funding for family support work, which is vital to many local families. SBCP also carries out valuable work in our community with young people, older people and sufferers of dementia. Due to South Gloucestershire Council reducing its amount of youth work in Patchway to two evenings a week, SBCP has taken on the running of Patchway Youth Centre in Coniston Road and the Town Council financially supports the youth work both in the centre, in Scott Park and on the street to meet the needs of our local young people.

The Council makes grants to a large number of local organisations, particularly those providing facilities for the elderly and the young in the area. The Council fully supports Patchway Festival in practical and financial ways. The 23rd Festival will take place this year in July.

The Council is also a member of the Priority Neighbourhood Group, which is badged as “Patchway A Good Place to Live” and which has achieved many improvements for the community during the last three years. Southern Brooks Community Partnerships is the lead organisation in this work.

The Council is an active member of Patchway Safer and Stronger Group and Communities Against Hate Crimes, both of which work with residents and professionals to identify problems and work to make Patchway a better place. The Council has welcomed the establishment of a Speedwatch by volunteers in Patchway, supported by the police. A new bus shelter has been installed in Highwood Road at the junction with Durban Road, following requests from residents,

The Council has signed twinning charters with Clermont l’Hérault in France and Gauting in Germany and is represented on the committee of Patchway Twinning Association, supporting its aim of building

friendships between organisations and individuals in the three towns. 2015 marked 20 years of twinning with Clermont l'Hérault and this year will mark 15 years of twinning with Gauting. A group from Patchway visited Clermont in October. This April we have welcomed a group of eight young people from Gauting, who spent a week in Patchway doing work experience in four local primary schools and plans are underway for an international camp attended by French, German and local young people next summer. The Council sent a message to the Mayor of Clermont of support to the French people following the terrorist attack in Paris.

Each year the Council provides illuminated decorations at each of the four shopping centres in Patchway for the Christmas period and the entrance to Charlton Hayes from Highwood Road.

The Council provides two allotment sites at Pretoria and Blakeney Roads and assists with grass cutting there as well as funding improvements such as storage containers, raised beds and parking areas. Thanks to the hard work of the allotment holders, both sites have a communal room with kitchen area and flush toilets.

A welcome development this year has been a part-time post of a Green Spaces Worker for Patchway, funded first by a government grant and now extended by the People's Lottery to cover the whole of 2016. This worker has set up community groups to care for one of the raised beds at The Parade in conjunction with Merlin Housing, an open area behind the Youth Centre in conjunction with Southern Brooks Community Partnerships and a community allotment at Blakeney Road Allotments in conjunction with the allotment association there. Recently, additional government funding was received to establish a "Pocket Park", a very small area of previously neglected open space, behind Arlingham Way and this has been enthusiastically supported by local families and now has play equipment, raised beds planted out by local children, a kick-about area and basketball hoop.

Patchway Conservation Group, who volunteer to maintain and improve our open spaces by tree planting, hedge laying, rubbish collection and

grass cutting, now work alongside our groundstaff to tackle projects on The Tumps, Eagle Meadow and Gorse Covert. The efforts of this group will be enhanced in the next three years by the support of a government funded scheme “Wild4Life” which will be working in Patchway to encourage community involvement in environmental projects.

Each year the Council makes a presentation in memory of Alderman Norman Scott to two pupils of Patchway Community College. Norman Scott was the first Chairman of Patchway Parish Council in 1953 and prior to that, as a Gloucestershire County Councillor he fought for the establishment of a secondary school for Patchway. The Alderman Scott Awards are two silver cups which the two winners hold for one year plus book tokens and these are awarded to pupils who give exceptional service to the College. In 2015 the recipients of the awards were Jack Turner and Zemez Sonmez.

The Council makes an annual contribution towards the production costs of the quarterly community newsletter, “Patchway People”, which provides a useful service in disseminating information of local interest throughout the area and is run entirely by volunteers. The Council will continue its own information sheet, "Town Council News", which is included in Patchway People.

The Council will continue to work to improve Patchway for the benefit of all its residents and is always pleased to take up matters on behalf of individuals and groups. At the beginning of Council meetings in alternate months the first half hour is set aside for residents to raise matters of concern which can either be responded to immediately or in writing after the meeting if enquiries need to be made. This gives the opportunity for residents to take a more active part in the local government of Patchway.

The Council welcomes speakers at its meetings on interesting topics to keep Councillors informed of local developments. During the year we have had two visits by senior police officers explaining their major cost-cutting re-organisation, a talk on the problem of youth housing from 1625 Independent People, a visit from the Director of Housing & Communities at Merlin Housing Society and a visit from Bovis Homes to update the

Council on the development of Charlton Hayes. Councillors are provided with training throughout the year; this year a course on the duties of a Town Councillor was run by Avon Local Councils Association and two sessions of Equal Opportunities training were run in November and December. The Council has examined its procedure for deciding on grant applications to make this more transparent.

Patchway has been a Quality Town Council for five years. To gain this award, the Council has to show that it engages with its residents and works to improve the quality and range of local services. It must also have at least 80% of seats filled by members elected at the last election; have a qualified clerk; have adopted a local code of conduct; hold at least six council meetings each year; publish an annual report; provide regular information to residents on council activities, and produce properly prepared and audited accounts. Recently this award has been renamed Local Council Award Scheme and Patchway has applied for the Quality Award.

Patchway has two Wards of Callicroft and Coniston and 15 Councillors. The names of the Councillors elected in May 2015 are listed below. The Council employs twelve staff and has an office at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.

Chris Mills
Mayor

May 2016

MEMBERS OF PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL 2015-19:

Callicroft Ward: Mrs P. Coleman, Mr. P. Cottrell, Mr. K. Dando,
Mr. M. Greensword, Mr. R. Loveridge,
Mrs R. Messenger, Mrs E. Orpen, Mr. S. Scott
(co-opted in April 2016 upon the resignation of
Mr. D. Tiley).

Coniston Ward: Mr. E. Bathe-Taylor, Mrs M. Bathe-Taylor,
Mr. J. Butler, Mr. E. Gordon, Mr. M. Grotzke,
Mrs E. Martin, Mr. C. Mills,

TOWN CLERK: Mrs L.M. Hamid