

This report covers the work of Patchway Town Council from May 2016 to May 2017.

In 2017 Patchway celebrates 15 years of twinning with Gauting in southern Germany. We will welcome the Mayor of Gauting and a group of residents and Councillors to Patchway in May, when a varied programme has been arranged including a Civic Dinner, a tour of local groups and schools and a coach trip to Exmoor. This visit will also be attended by the Mayor and officials of Clermont l'Hérault in southern France, with which Patchway has been twinned for 22 years. In October, a group from Patchway will visit Gauting.

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 in 2016. 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. Meetings of a Project Group comprising stakeholders including the Town Council, have recently resumed and, hopefully, progress will be made within the next twelve months. The Town Council will embrace the opportunities which this brings to create a vibrant and well-resourced community with new facilities for all its residents. 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 vital services for families with children aged 0-19 years. The Royal British Legion Club closed in 2015 and was demolished during the last year to make way for new housing.

The other major change for Patchway will be the development of the airfield by the new owner, YTL. Representatives of this company have briefed the Council twice during the past year and we look forward to working with them over the coming years as they build a new town of 5,700 homes with schools, shops and an employment area.

The Town Council is working with Southern Brooks Community Partnerships to compile a Patchway Community Plan during 2017 and will be carrying out surveys to capture the views of residents on what is needed in our community and what the priorities should be. This will help the Town Council and SGC to improve the town for the future.

The first section of the development on the airfield will be a museum in the old hangars, Aerospace Bristol, which opens during the summer of 2017, the new home of Concorde 216. The Museum will bring together nationally-significant exhibits and hidden archive records to tell a fascinating chapter of Patchway's history for the first time. It will have educational facilities to benefit local schools. We are proud to have this exciting museum in Patchway.

A new opportunity for our area will be provided by the West of England Devolution Deal being progressed by the government to bring the authorities which used to be Avon into a new body with additional responsibilities and funding.

Due to government cuts in funding to South Gloucestershire Council, a reduction in opening hours of Patchway Library from October 2017 was proposed. After discussions and a meeting in the library, the Town Council took the decision to make up the shortfall in funding so that the opening hours will remain as at present. The Town Council is aware of the importance of the library to residents, not only for borrowing books and CDs but for obtaining information on local services, accessing computers and training courses and for the varied provision for children from pre-school to teenage, which are very well supported. 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. In the financial year 2017-

2018, the Town Council has had to increase its precept on the Council Tax by 3% to cover these extra responsibilities.

The Council welcomes the establishment of the Residents Association for Charlton Hayes (ReACH) and welcomes all new residents of Charlton Hayes into the community of Patchway. Eventually, this development will be home to up to 6,000 residents. All residents are encouraged to contact 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.

In January, Mrs Winifred Williams was made an Honorary Freeman of Patchway in recognition of her many years of voluntary service in our community. A ceremony was held in Callicroft House and the presentation was jointly made by the Chair of South Gloucestershire Council and the Mayor of Patchway.

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 installed a kissing gate at the rear of Windermere Road which gives access to the Park for disabled buggies by the use of a radar key.

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 agreed to allocate part of the £2m Section 106 sports funding for Charlton Hayes to fund these developments and progress on the planned improvements is currently being made. 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.

A very successful Remembrance Day Parade was held in Scott Park in November, organised by the Royal British Legion, supported by Patchway Sports & Social Club. We are now planning events for 2018, which will be a national commemoration of “100 Years of Remembrance”. The Town Council plans to work with the RBL, Fleet Air Arm Association and any other interested local groups to arrange the lighting of the beacon in November, an exhibition of World War I material and the dedication of the War Memorial with the names of the fallen of both World Wars. In the meantime, the Council is extending the memorial garden in the Park with additional planting and the installation of two memorial benches which have kindly been donated by the Fleet Air Arm Association and the Sports & Social Club.

Thanks to support from residents who signed usage forms, an application was made to South Gloucestershire Council to dedicate Callicroft Farm Track as a public right of way, which will give it permanent legal protection for encroachment or destruction. This application was approved during the year. The path runs from Gloucester Road (next to the Restore charity shop), crosses Hazeldene Road and links with Ashford Road. Originally, it was a cart track which continued up to Callicroft Farm, which stood near to Patchway Town Council’s offices.

The Boundary Commission are carrying out a review of South Gloucestershire during 2017 and the Town Council has requested that the SGC boundaries for Patchway should be the same as the Town Council boundaries to avoid confusion.

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, Callicroft Road 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.

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. 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 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.

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.

The Metrobus will run up Highwood Road to The Mall from 2018 and new bus shelters will be installed at its stops on this road. The Town Council has installed a new shelter at a stop near Cranbourne Road, which was not scheduled to have a metro shelter but which is well used by passengers.

The Council works closely with Southern Brooks Community Partnerships (SBCP) and financially supports the provision of community work in Patchway. 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. This year, South Gloucestershire Council introduced a new scheme, Member Awarded Funding. The three SG Councillors for Patchway had a sum of £9,000 to allocate to local groups and, by working together, were able to support 12 voluntary organisations in the Patchway area. The Council fully supports Patchway Festival in practical and financial ways. The 24th 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 Police are now holding a regular monthly surgery in a mobile police unit in Scott Park.

The Patchway Safer and Stronger Group has been renamed Community Engagement Forum and is now run by SGC as a joint committee between Patchway and Filton. The Town Council support this forum and also work closely with the Communities Against Hate Crimes Group, 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,

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. The Men in Sheds Group has moved from Scott Park to Blakeney Road Allotment Site, where it has facilities to store recycled wood and a workshop to transform this into many useful items for the community.

A welcome development has been a part-time post of a Green Spaces Worker for Patchway, funded first by a government grant and then by the People's Lottery. 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. Members of Patchway Conservation Group have helped with these projects. The "Pocket Park" in Arlingham Way, a very small area of

previously neglected open space continues to be enthusiastically supported by local families and now has play equipment, raised beds planted out by local children, a kick-about area and basketball hoop. The Town Council has just agreed to add some additional equipment.

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 2016 the recipients of the awards were Hannah Wood and Callum Somerville.

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. This year, these have included the Police, the Head of Patchway Community College and the development company for the airfield. Councillors are provided with training throughout the year on a variety of local government topics.

Patchway has been a Quality Town Council for five years. To gain this award, the Council had 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.

Eve Orpen

Mayor

May 2017

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. K. Walker (co-opted in February 2017 upon the resignation of Mr. C. Mills)

TOWN CLERK: Mrs L.M. Hamid