

This report covers the work of Patchway Town Council from May 2017 to May 2018.

Much of the Council's attention this year has been focussed on planning for a bright future for Patchway.

Plans have been drawn up and funding obtained for major improvements to Scott Park to provide modern sporting facilities for residents of all ages and interests. The first phase of these improvements will be a floodlit, artificial turf practice court for football and rugby and new, enclosed, cricket practice nets. Funding for these works has come from Bovis Homes, to provide sports facilities for the residents of Patchway and Charlton Hayes. Recently a useful meeting was held with representatives of national bodies for football, cricket and Sport England to discuss the plans for developing sporting facilities in Scott Park. The second phase, for which funding still has to be sought will be to rebuild the pavilion in the park with new showers, disabled facilities and upstairs viewing and social area. Also, adjacent to the skateboard area, a floodlit basketball court.

A Vision for a new Patchway Town Centre was adopted some years ago by the Council and has been endorsed by South Gloucestershire Council and included in their Draft Policies, Sites and Places Plan in 2016. This vision will create a real Patchway Town Centre, linking the new and old communities across Highwood Road. We hope it will include traffic calming and landscaping in Rodway Road, more parking for the shops and improvements to the shop frontages to make the area more attractive. The Town Council also has funding from Bovis Homes to extend or rebuild Patchway Community Centre in Rodway Road to create 50% more space for community activities and events and discussions are underway with stakeholders to agree plans for this. 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 and the new Patchway Library and Children's Hub, 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 The Royal British Legion Club, which closed in 2015, has been replaced by new housing.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, commencing in the autumn of 2018. The opening of the Bristol Aerospace Museum in the autumn of 2017 was a great event and the museum is bringing thousands of visitors, including school groups, to see the fascinating aeronautical history of Patchway.

The Town Council has been working with Southern Brooks Community Partnerships this year to compile a Patchway Community Plan and has carried out surveys to capture the views of residents on what is needed in our community and what the priorities should be. This Plan is a living document which will be continually updated over the next five years by sub-groups on the following topics: Health & Wellbeing; Children, Young People, Families and Education; Parks & Green Spaces; Traffic & Transport; Training, Jobs & the Economy; Older People; Crime & Community Safety; Housing, Community Facilities & Engagement. Residents who would like to join one of these sub-groups are welcome to contact the Town Council.

The Plan will help the Town Council and SGC to improve the town for the future and as a result of the work to prepare the Plan, an investment of £40,000 has been made to support local voluntary groups in Patchway.

The Council works closely with Southern Brooks Community Partnerships (SBCP) and financially supports the provision of community and youth work in Patchway. We are very pleased that the Priority Neighbourhood work in Patchway, which involves partnership working between Southern Brooks and other agencies, has been funded for another three years. SBCP also carries out valuable work in our community with 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.

Patchway is twinned with two towns: Clermont l'Hérault in France and Gauting in Germany. The Town Council is actively involved in exchange visits, particularly with young people and their teachers. During the last year, a group of teachers from Gauting has visited Patchway schools and a group of young people have carried out a week of work experience in our primary schools. In May 2018, Patchway was represented by Cllr. Elaine Martin, our Deputy Mayor, at a weekend meeting in France celebrating 45 years of twinning between the French and German towns. Also attending this weekend were a group of young people from Patchway Community School who held discussions with young people from Germany, France and Spain of the future of international co-operation between twinned towns.

As reported last year, South Gloucestershire Council had planned a cost-saving programme to reduce opening hours of libraries. 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 would remain as before. 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. From 2014, we have had to

pay for the collection of the litter which was previously funded by South Gloucestershire Council.

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 2019 and ensure that the planned green spaces and play areas are delivered as soon as possible to benefit the residents. The Council will continue to work to provide facilities for all its residents, old and new.

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 planning events for 2018, which will be a national commemoration of “100 Years of Remembrance”. The Town Council is working 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 in September in Patchway Library and the dedication of the War Memorial with the names of the fallen of both World Wars. The Council maintains the memorial garden in the Park with additional planting and the installation of two memorial benches in July 2017, which have kindly been donated by the Fleet Air Arm Association and the Sports & Social Club.

The Boundary Commission carried out a review of South Gloucestershire during 2017 and, although the Town Council will still have 15 elected Councillors, there will be 1 South Gloucestershire Councillor for Patchway Coniston and 3 for Charlton & Cribbs, which includes Callicroft Ward.

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. The new kissing gate at the rear of Windermere Road which gives access to the Park for disabled buggies by the use of a radar key as been appreciated by residents with mobility problems.

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, Arlingham Way 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 Town Council's groundstaff continue to maintain Scott Park to a high standard and provide facilities for teams from both men'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 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.

The Council's groundstaff also maintain the planters in Rodway Road as well as shrub beds in Scott Park and a picnic area 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.

The Metrobus will run up Highwood Road to The Mall from 2019 and new bus shelters have been 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 makes grants to a large number of local organisations, particularly those providing facilities for the elderly and the young in the area. Last 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 25th 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 Coniston Community Centre.

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 supports this forum and also works 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.

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. We hope to extend the lights down the whole length of Charlton Boulevard when this road is opened.

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. There is also a Community Allotment at Blakeney Road site organised by Southern Brooks where residents can learn about vegetable growing and try their hand at this in a supported way. Some of those residents have gone on to take on their own plot.

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 2017 the recipients of the awards were James Connors and Summer-Lea Trim.

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 Sovereign Housing on its support to Charlton Hayes residents in the formation of a residents' association, Network Rail on the electrification of the line and the creation of disabled access at Patchway Station, the Youth Leader of Southern Brooks on their outreach youth work and the future Head of Charlton Hayes new primary school. 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 2018

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