



Stoke Gifford Parish Council

2020/2021

# ANNUAL REPORT



Chair

ERNEST BROWN

# Chairman's Report

STOKE GIFFORD PARISH COUNCILS REPORT 2020 / 2021

The last twelve months have seen a quiet yet challenging time for the Parish Council with the main players being Covid 19 and the road restrictions throughout the area. The pandemic has hit us in many ways, with the impact on loved ones and lots of events having to be cancelled, like our well run annual Stoke Gifford fete.

I have always thought of running the council should be treated the same as any business and not a given that council can rely on increasing the precept to offset any financial impact, we serve to ensure residents 'get good value for money'.

With the impact of the pandemic we have seen little income, however due to good team work and fiscal management we have managed to overcome the financial loss and still end up in the black.

The increased number of houses is causing a real concern with the lack of infrastructure. Developers should not be allowed to build new homes without providing more facilities such as schools, GP surgeries, transport and improved road structure. The Parish is overcrowded and yes more houses are required but not at any cost. Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) are causing real concern in Cheswick Village and Stoke Park. These properties are often detrimental to the character and amenity which would no longer function as a sustainable residential location and not respect the requirement for mixed and balanced communities. Off street parking, noise and waste being a major concern. We are working hard with Southglos Council to ensure these matters and planning inadequacies are addressed.

Highbrook Park, the parish council is currently discussing plans with Southglos Council and the developer for a new community building. If successful this will give the parish a much needed foothold in the Harry Stoke area.

We continue to press Southglos council for a dedicated pedestrian tunnel through the railway embankment adjacent to Parkway Railway Bridge. The current footways are narrow and there is a great danger to pedestrians and cyclists using them. The restrictions put in place due to the pandemic have run their course and we are again requesting Southglos council to have them removed.

The much needed improved Little Stoke Community Centre is now fully open for business, it is a great area to spend some time for businesses and pleasure. The introduction of the Café, owned by the parish but privately run is doing extremely well and showed good foresight by the Parish.

This year has seen many changes to our road structure, the main event being the continuation of the Gipsy Patch Lane roadworks.. We continue to challenge the project team on a regular basis regarding the programme which should have seen road opening by July 21, now estimated December 21. There appears to be no real urgency in completing this programme, we have suggested on numerous occasions that road works could have been carried out in parallel to bridge works as the work is carried out by different contractors, NR & Streetcare.. When this project was first launched we made the team aware of the flooding risk under the bridge, again little notice was take and two pumps have now become three. On a positive note, we cannot look back but we can hope to learn from the mistakes, and will continue to press the project team to ensure the December date is achieved, no more excuses.

The Stokes - Unfortunately due to the age and deterioration of the building, associated with the high maintenance costs the building had to be handed back to Southglos property services. The youth service is now being run from the Little Stoke Scout Hut.

The parish groundstaff have continued to provide grounds maintenance of all our parks throughout the Lockdown. They have kept all our park facilities clean & tidy and deserve a Big Thank You from the parish council and residents.

The last 12 months have seen many changes and I would like to express my thanks to our Clerk -John Rendell and the Admin Team and Parish councils Caretaker / Cleaner for all that they have done to keep us going throughout these uncertain times.

Lastbutnotleast,athankyou toallourParishCouncillorsandDistrictcouncilmembersandespecially to all our local residents for attending the meetings online and offering to help and contribute in anyway possible

In conclusion, as a Parish Council we will continue to ensure residents are heard, get value for money and our green open spaces are maintained and protected.

*Ernest Brown*

Chair of Stoke Gifford Parish Council  
Southglos District Councillor

# Finance & General Purpose



Councillor

CLLR DAVE ADDISON

The start of the financial year coincided almost exactly with the start of the first lockdown. This closed all council facilities to the public and started a period of unprecedented financial uncertainty for the council. Income from hire of the rooms and sports facilities makes a significant contribution to the income of the council and, at the same time, we were completely in the dark as to whether we would incur any financial liabilities as part of the pandemic response.

The council took immediate steps to cut unnecessary expenditure and deferred all planned capital expenditure planned to upgrade the facilities. Some spending had to continue on essential maintenance of both facilities and parks but the end result was the council ended the financial year with sound finances and even a moderate increase in reserves due to the deferred projects.

The other significant change affecting the council's finances this year was the withdrawal from the lease on the Stokes Youth Centre. While this was a valuable community resource, particularly for youth provision, the building fabric was deteriorating, and we were faced with the prospect of escalating maintenance bills. This was an open-ended commitment which the council was not in a position to fund.



## LOCAL RESIDENT LITTER PICKING

*"thank you to all the volunteers who contribute so much time in helping us keep the recreational spaces / parks / streets and local highways clear from litter"*



## SGPC APPOINTMENTS

**Trevor Jones**

Councillor University Ward



Councillor

CLLR TREVOR JONES

**Paul Passaway**

Buildings Maintenance & Cleansing Operative.



Building Maintenance  
& Cleansing Operative

PAUL PASSAWAY

*"It's a pleasure to join the team at Stoke Gifford Parish Council, I've lived in the local area for over 25 years, and I feel I know the parks, buildings and the community that use them really well."*

*It will be nice to be able to keep the buildings looking presentable ready for the community to use them and to make sure all the facilities are fresh and in working order so that you can enjoy them at your leisure."*

Paul Passaway

# Planning & Transportation Report



Chair of Planning & Transportation

CLLR ANDREW SHORE

Your councillors have been working hard to ensure local residents voices are heard on planning applications that affect you. Official planning policies make it challenging at times, especially given the need for more housing. However, your council continue to press for the optimum development where we can and to resist those developments that adversely impact the community, local residents and the busy road network.

On transportation, we share residents concerns about the busy roads and the many roadworks. We continue to make representations to the decision makers in the District highways department, on matters that concerns us or which you raise with us.

## HMOs

Your council have opposed development that turns family homes into House of Multiple Occupancy – especially in the University Ward where parking is a key issue, where there is already a proliferation of HMOs and the addition of larger HMOs would be detrimental to the character and amenity of the area. We are pleased that a review of the planning policy around HMOs, by South Gloucestershire, is underway and will be published for formal consultation.

## STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

We have also resisted other inappropriate development such as the proposed de facto expansion of the UWE student village into a vacant unit at Cheswick Village. We do not feel this is the right use for this building, which would change the character of the area. South Glos Planners rejected the application. Instead, we believe that any expansion of accommodation for the UWE, should be provided on its existing and quite extensive grounds.

## DOMESTIC PLANNING APPLICATIONS

In addition to the larger applications, there have been many domestic planning applications. Whilst supporting the principle for people to make changes and extensions to their homes, we continue to scrutinise applications to ensure they are in-keeping with the area, are proportionate and of a good design. There have been applications that have been amended and even withdrawn following some of our Parish inputs.

It is of note that a new 'Householder Design Guide' Supplementary Planning Document (SPG) has been adopted by South Glos Council in March 2021. This document clarifies and expands on the design guidance and policy requirements, for applicants making domestic planning applications.

## LARGER DEVELOPMENTS

We have made representations to Bristol City Council about concerns with elements of the proposed cross-border planning application off Romney Avenue, including the bus gate and some of the proposed building heights.

Some changes have been obtained to the planned hotel, Aldi & Costa development adjacent to Sainsbury's on Fox Den Road, including the retention of more of the existing trees and the planting of newer, albeit less mature trees within the car parking area.

Your councillors strongly opposed an application for a new vehicular access to the old Coop site on Hatchet Road. This is already a busy road and another access would have compromised road safety. Following our strong representations, and despite highways officers surprising support for the scheme, the planning committee rejected this application.

## OTHER TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

Going forward, we will be pressing for the removal of the restrictions at Parkway Bridge, as the Covid pandemic eases and the traffic levels build back up.

Regarding the road-widening works under the rail bridge at Gipsy Patch (to facilitate an important new Metrobus route), we are concerned about the time it is taking to reinstate the road and the impact this is having on local businesses, nearby residents and the community as a whole. Councillors are actively engaged with South Glos officers, pressing them for a faster completion of the remaining works.

We continue to make pertinent representations to the decision makers in the District highways department, although we do not always have as much influence as we would like.

We continue to monitor the trial of the Voi rental scooters, having some concerns about safety but also seeing some of the potential benefits. Your comments on these scooters would be welcome.

## OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our Planning & Transportation meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can address the committee on planning applications being considered and on other matters relevant to both planning & transportation.

## GIPSY PATCH RAILWAY BRIDGE



# Recreation and Leisure Committee



Chair of Recreation  
and Leisure

MIKE BROWN

This has been a very difficult year with Covid-19 taking a stronghold on the country, fortunately for the Parish our finances have been very well managed by our exceptional staff and Councillors.

## PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

Ground staff have been very busy keeping all of our parks and open spaces in excellent condition and due to no football and rugby for the majority of the year they have managed to catch up on some much-needed maintenance in other areas, e.g., park furnishings, BMX track and play parks.

As last year we have received many complimentary comments by residents and visitors about how well kept our parks and open spaces and facilities are.

It has been great to see so many people enjoying these areas since the lock down and I'm sure that all of you are aware of how fortunate we are as a Parish to have such great parks and many of you having experienced them for the first time, they will continue to be used a lot more.

Although the majority of people do clear up their litter there are a few that do not and this has meant a lot of additional work for the ground staff, so a big thank you to the ground staff & the volunteer litter pickers.

If you are not aware, we are always looking for volunteers to litter pick in all areas of the parish not covered by our ground staff and litter picking equipment is available from the office.

We have had new signage put up in all of the parks and new notice boards in most areas.

## FOOTBALL

We did manage to get a few of football matches played before the end of season and look forward to being able to accommodate our local teams again for the start of next season.

## CRICKET

Bradley Stoke Cricket Club have shown an interest in using one of our parks for playing matches and the use of our facilities i.e. changing rooms, showers and, of course, tea and sandwiches although nothing yet agreed it's still being discussed.

## OUTSIDE KEEP FIT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

The new exercise equipment installed outside the Little Stoke community hall which, now that lock down has been reduced is being well used, there is also equipment available in Meade Park, please all enjoy as there plenty of opportunities for new users.

## LITTLE STOKE PARK COMMUNITY HALL

The new build has been completed and the new facilities have been up and running for well over 20 months now. The addition of the Community Cafe area has been a great success and with a lot of effort by the owner Hayley and her staff during this last year the cafe has been operating a takeaway service which has been a bonus for all park users during the lockdown period.

We do hope now that the covid restrictions being relaxed /ending that the facilities we have will be hired out to its full potential. although being advertised we could do with more renters so please could you all make people aware of the facilities we have available for clubs, parties & any other events.

In addition to the building extension, we have refitted the old kitchen and we are in the process of refurbishing the existing toilet facilities.

## BMX TRACK

This facility has been a great success & extremely popular & used by all age groups, what has been noticed is how some of the more experienced older riders help by organising when user numbers are high making sure the track is used safely & as far as we are aware there have not been any nasty accidents, we are also planning an overdue opening event so keep an eye the notice boards & journal.



# WE ARE OPEN!



Stoke Gifford Parish Council

## Little Stoke Community Hall

Fantastic facility available for hire for an assortment of events



Prices starting from  
as little as  
£11.25 per hour


Can cater for up to 120 guests.  
Perfect for meetings, celebrations, fitness classes, clubs and  
much more.

Community Hall

Modern Meeting Rooms

Free Wi-Fi 

Table & Chairs  
available

Built in Sound System with  
bluetooth link 

Free parking on  
site 

Onsite catering  
service available

Brand new kitchen available  
for use

Available between  
08:00 - 21:30

For more information, contact us on:

T: 01454 865202

E: [admin@stokegifford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stokegifford.org.uk)

[stokegifford.org.uk](http://stokegifford.org.uk)

Little Stoke Community Hall, Little Stoke Lane, Bristol, BS34 6HR

For more news on your community visit [www.stokegifford.org.uk](http://www.stokegifford.org.uk)

# Message from the Parish Clerk



Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

JOHN RENDELL

What a challenging year for everyone. Closing the Community Hall and sports facilities due to the COVID-19 lockdown meant that we have had to be incredibly frugal with the budgets and overall finances with very little income coming in. Councillors and Officers have worked closely together, and I am pleased to be able to report that despite the disastrous past twelve months the Parish Councils finances are in a very solid and stable position.

Virtual zoom/ teams' meetings were introduced across the Towns and Parishes allowing Council to continue to hold public meetings safely and ensure business can continue. Face to face on-site meetings will resume on May 18th, 2021 for the AGM and Full Council meetings held at Little Stoke Community Hall.

Following Government Guidelines and in-house Risk Assessments, additional cleaning programmes and daily safety practices have been introduced in the Community Hall, sports facilities and play area equipment ensuring the facilities and equipment are safe to use.

With the frequent updates from government and the ever-changing COVID-19 process the Council staff have risen to the challenge, deep cleaning the sports changing rooms, Community Hall, sanitizing all touching points including the outdoor sports facilities and play area equipment. The staff have really respected the importance of the additional deep clean to the council equipment meaning local residents are still able to use the sports facilities and Community Hall safely and with confidence. All the grounds recreational areas and parks have continued to be maintained throughout the year and kept to a high standard.

I would like to congratulate the team on their efforts this past year and a big thanks to all involved (including the local volunteers who litter pick the grounds), as the Community Hall sports pitches and Recreation areas have all remained a safe clean and tidy venue allowing local residents to get out and about with confidence.

Stoke Gifford are very fortunate to have such lovely recreational spaces and play areas which are enjoyed and cherished by many residents.

Like many outdoor areas across the country, we have found visitors/ users have risen around the parks and the help we receive from the many volunteers who take time out to litter pick the hot spots in the Parish have been gratefully received.

The Community Café at Little Stoke park has been able to run throughout the year and has been a focal point for so many to enjoy a hot drink and snack whilst taking their daily exercise.

## TOTAL MEETINGS ATTENDED 2020/21

Councillor Name	Total SGPC Meetings 2020/21	Attended	%
Dave Addison	19	18	95%
Brian Allinson	17	13	76%
Ernie Brown	22	22	100%
Mike Brown	20	18	90%
Keith Cranney	22	15	68%
Jenny James	14	4	29%
Trevor Jones	4	4	100%
Matt Lavis	17	5	29%
David Pembury	17	15	88%
Pauline Reich	14	13	93%
Andrew Shore	17	16	94%
Simon Waters	12	11	92%

Full Council Attendance (6)	Planning Attendance (8)	Finance Attendance (3)	Rec & Leisure Attendance (3)	Youth Attendance (2)
6	8	3	-	1
5	6	2	-	-
6	8	3	3	2
6	6	3	3	-
5	6	3	0	1
4	-	0	0	0
2	1	1	-	-
3	2	0	-	-
5	7	3	-	-
6	-	3	3	1
6	7	3	-	-
6	-	3	2	-

## PURCHASES/IMPROVEMENTS THIS PAST YEAR:

- Design and build Parish Council Website
- New play area equipment, Meade Park
- Replacement table tennis table and picnic bench, Meade Park
- BMX track improvements
- Storage container for sports equipment (LS park)
- Replacement rugby and football posts
- Updated General waste bins
- Installation of new notice boards around the Parish
- Update Basketball equipment, Trust Ground
- Various tree works

## PROJECTS FOR 2021/2

- Design and build of New Road play area  
<https://www.stokegifford.org.uk/council/public-consultations-new-road-play-area.php>
- Replacement Tower (play facility), Meade Park
- Continuing research into the takeover of Highbrook Community Centre



Meetings will be held on a Tuesday.

All meetings to take place at 19:00 unless stated but may be subject to change. Please refer to the noticeboards and Parish Council Website.

Venue: Little Stoke Community Hall  
(BS34 6HR) / Zoom

### FULL COUNCIL (Second Tues of Month)

(Annual Meeting) Tuesday 18th May 2021

Tuesday 8th June 2021

Tuesday 14th September 2021

Tuesday 12th Oct 2021

Tuesday 9th Nov 2021

### FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE

(Second Tues of Month)

Tuesday 13th July 2021

Tuesday 14th December 2021

### PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Fourth Tues of Month)

Tuesday 25th May 2021

Tuesday 22nd June 2021

Tuesday 27th July 2021

Tuesday 28th September 2021

Tuesday 26th October 2021

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

### RECREATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE (Third Tues of Month)

Tuesday 20th July 2021 (14:00)

Tuesday 19th October 2021 (14:00)

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

Thursday 16th September 2021 (15:00)

**Little Stoke Community Hall**  
[www.stokegifford.org.uk/services](http://www.stokegifford.org.uk/services)  
Tel: 01454 865202

**Outdoor Sports**  
[www.stokegifford.org.uk/services](http://www.stokegifford.org.uk/services)  
Tel: 01454 865202

**Little Stoke Community Café**  
Tel: 07751 194510

## REPORTING

### Report Fly Tipping

All fly tipping should be reported to South Gloucestershire Council so they can take action to remove it.

### Report Pot Holes

All pot holes and damaged road surfaces should be reported to South Gloucestershire Council so they can take action to repair them.

### Report Overgrown Footpaths & Walkways

Overgrown footpaths and walkways can be reported to South Gloucestershire Council so they can take remedial action.

[www.southglos.gov.uk/general-information/online-services/report/](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/general-information/online-services/report/)

### Report Graffiti

Stoke Gifford Parish Council are keen to keep on top of the ever increasing graffiti problem around the Parish.

Officers can report graffiti to South Glos Council whether on private or public land and as long as the property owner/ landlord will sign a waiver form the Parish Council can arrange for the clearance for an agreed fee between Councils.

Please report to Stoke Gifford Parish Council Officers for graffiti in the Parish.

**Phone: 01454 865202**  
**Email: [admin@stokegifford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stokegifford.org.uk)**

South Gloucestershire Council

**Phone Streetcare: 01454 868000**  
**Email: [streetcare@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:streetcare@southglos.gov.uk)**

*Note from South Gloucestershire Streetcare Department*

Our graffiti team price up each job individually so they can check that the graffiti removal is likely to be successful, assess if any damage may occur to the surface during graffiti removal and ensure they have access for their equipment. As a guide, for an averaged size tag on a residential property (e.g a rear garden wall) the charge would be £30.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF

### Council Members

**Dave Addison**  
Chair of Finance

**Brian Allinson**

**David Beesley**

**Ernest Brown**  
Chair of SGPC

**Mike Brown**  
Chair of Recreation & Leisure

**Keith Cranney**  
Vice Chair of SGPC

**Jenny James**

**Matt Lavis**

**David Pembury**

**Pauline Reich**

**Andrew Shore**  
Chair of Transport & Planning

**Simon Waters**

### Council Staff

**John Rendell**  
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

**Rachel Madden**  
Administration & Marketing

**Catherine Slade**  
Finance & Administration

**Paul Passaway**  
Building Maintenance & Cleansing Operative

**Ira Davey**  
Cleaning Staff

**Colin Kenyon**  
Head Groundsperson

**Ashley Jones**  
Groundsperson

**Steve Liddiatt**  
Groundsperson

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Western Power Distribution

Responsible for electricity sub stations and junction boxes, will remove graffiti on their equipment on request from members of the public.

**Phone: 08456012989 weekdays 8am-6pm** **Email: [info@westernpower.co.uk](mailto:info@westernpower.co.uk)**

### BT/Openreach

Responsible for telephone boxes and green junction boxes, will remove graffiti on their equipment on request from members of the public

**Telephone boxes (BT):**  
**Phone: 0800 661610** **Email: [customer.serv.payphones@bt.com](mailto:customer.serv.payphones@bt.com)**

**Green cabinets (Openreach):**  
**Phone: 0800 023 2023 Option 1: Damaged green cabinets and/or open doors on them**

### Royal Mail

Responsible for Post Boxes, will remove graffiti on their equipment on request from members of the public.

**Phone Customer service: 08457740740** **Email: [contactus@royalmail.com](mailto:contactus@royalmail.com)**

### Virgin Media Street Cabinets

Responsible for roadside street cabinets, will remove graffiti on their equipment on request from members of the public

**Virgin Media Graffiti Removal: 0330 333 0444**

Stoke Gifford Parish Council, The Community Hall,

Little Stoke Lane, Little Stoke, BS34 6HR

Tel/Fax: 01454 865202 | Email: [admin@stokegifford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stokegifford.org.uk)