

The Chair of Saltford Parish Council, Cllr Chris Warren, provided a summary of the Parish Council's key actions and achievements since May 2015 at the council's February 2019 meeting.

A comprehensive version of the report follows:

SPC's Key Actions and Achievements May 2015 – January 2019

The current SPC councillors were elected in May 2015. At their first meeting, Councillors agreed to adopt this five-point vision for Saltford:

1. Green Belt land surrounding the village protected from development, including fracking and a road bypass.
2. Its own re-opened railway station on the existing site in place or already underway.
3. A decreasing carbon footprint.
4. A positive, healthy and caring community that encourages Fairtrade, and values and protects the local environment including its heritage.
5. Is a good neighbour to surrounding villages, towns and cities.

Over the course of 41 Saltford Parish Council meetings and 24 Planning Committee meetings to date (plus three Annual Parish Meetings), and further to attending numerous external meetings and consultation events, key actions and achievements of the current council include:

Community Infrastructure and Heritage

- Supporting SCA with funding (£2000 financial contribution in 18/19), advancing the rescue of the new non-profit-making Saltford PO and Library, and agreeing in principle further financial support if required.
- New 'Lest We Forget' railings and 'Poppy' gates for the War Memorial, as Saltford's fitting tribute to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1.
- Blue Plaque for Admiral Kelly at Saltford House to mark his remarkable contribution to ending slavery.
- Taking ownership of the old BT telephone box by the Bird in Hand. It will soon be refurbished as a Wi-Fi hub.
- Genealogy project for Saltford residents to enable them to find out more of their family's past at the time of the First World War.
- Technical, practical and financial assistance for SCA/Saltford Wi-Fi hub.
- Supporting St Mary's Church provide a venue for the new Saltford Heritage Centre.
- Grant to Saltford Brass Mill to replace some of the 'starts' (oak struts that project from the wheel and support each blade) (Sept 16)
- Grant to Saltford Brass Mill of £510 to install non-slip decking strips on the access footbridge for the safety of visitors (March 2017).

Community Events:

- Organising and hosting the annual Salford Neighbourhood Watch AGM. This is an open meeting for residents to ask the police team questions, hear about crime issues, and meet to share ideas and concerns.
- Annual Salford Parish Council Community Awards, publicly recognising the positive contribution made by individuals and groups to Salford life. Winners are given certificates, and cheques to donate to organisations of their choice.
- Annual Parish Walk each June – free guided walk, open to the public.
- Partnership events, including the World War 1 commemorative event at Salford Hall in November 2018.
- Supporting the Salford Festival 2017 by giving a grant of £1000 to the Salford Community Association (Jan 2017)
- Councillors represent SPC at wider events held in the community, for example attendance at Holocaust Memorial Day as arranged by the Chair of B&NES Council.

Lobbying and public consultation responses:

- Lobbied since May 2015 for the re-opening of Salford Railway station and kept residents informed about progress regarding this live project.
- Responded to major public consultations in the interests of Salford i.e. West of England Spatial Plan 'shaping a new blueprint for development which will determine where new homes and workplaces would be built over the course of the next generation' (Jan 16).
- Engagement at conferences i.e. Joint Transport Study (Jan 16)
- Responded to B&NES Local Plan Options Consultation (Jan 19), including lobbying B&NES Council on the protection of Salford's Green Belt in the forthcoming Local Plan.
- As well as responding as a council, Councillors have raised awareness to residents about how to comment or take part in consultations i.e. (Nov 15) B&NES Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 'Bath Breathes' Clean Air Zone Consultation (Jan 19).

Traffic and environmental issues:

- Actively supported The Re-Opening of Salford Railway Station (as above)
- Made representations to central Government on Shale Gas Development (Fracking) Consultation (Jan 19)
- Contacted B&NES to review how it calculates the subsidy it provides per passenger journey for Community Transport in the B&NES area (with particular reference to Keynsham and District Dial A Ride)
- Conversated with residents regarding parking issues (Jan 2016)
- After listening to the concerns of local residents about road safety, SPC requested that B&NES Council consider installing 20mph speed limits and other traffic calming measures throughout the entirety of the Manor Rd and Courtney Rd lanes between Salford and Keynsham

- Listened and responded to resident's concerns regarding B&NES Council's proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce no parking at any time in lengths of High Street (April 2018)
- Councillors have been watchful on pollution levels recorded at monitoring points on the Bath Road, with SPC regularly publishing information given to the Council about nitrogen dioxide levels.
- Identifies priority roads in need to repair and submits an annual request to the B&NES Highways Maintenance Programme, e.g. resurfacing of Claverton Road (Nov 18).

Local Planning matters:

- Investigated and provided responses to B&NES for over 230 planning applications since May 2015.
- Written to hundreds of households likely to be affected by planning consultations. Letters intend to raise awareness of planning applications and invite residents to speak at the meeting at which the planning consultation is being discussed.
- Letters also detail how to request a Parish Councillor to make a site visit to a site where a planning application has been made. Councillors regularly meet with residents who wish to discuss planning applications prior to a meeting.
- Providing written planning guidance for Saltford residents (available on the website)
- Raised contraventions when required and supported residents when raising planning contraventions.

Communicating with residents:

- Regularly updating the website detailing agendas, minutes, finance information and latest SPC news
- Contributing a page in every bi-monthly S.C.A.N edition detailing SPC actions and news, as well as creating relevant articles in S.C.A.N.
- Regular e-newsletter about SPC news
- New Facebook and Twitter social media accounts, offering rapid access to news about local events and issues
- Updating the noticeboards by the shops in 2015 so that they could hold more SPC information as well as community information.
- Provided a grant to Saltford Community Association of £500 to support the cost of producing six bi-monthly editions of S.C.A.N (Nov 18)

Community care and support:

- Councillors have actively supported Mead Lane residents since 2015 regarding their concerns about the mooring trial and associated parking proposals.
- Councillors regularly monitor, and fund any repairs or conservation work, required for SPC's assets. Assets include the War Memorial railings and gate, basketball goalpost, Fairtrade Village road signs, and the Youth Shelter.

- Councillors nominate some winners of the SPC Community Awards for the B&NES Chairman's Awards in recognition of their service to Saltford
- SPC is responsible for the management and safety of St Mary's Churchyard. In addition to managing the annual grounds maintenance contract, Councillors carry out the annual headstone and memorial safety check, as well as commissioning and acting on tree surveys, walls and other aspects of the churchyard are cared for and maintained appropriately. The churchyard is designated as a closed churchyard and SPC is responsible for maintaining public safety.
- SPC actions resulted in the permanent removal of a rope swing over the River Avon in time for the 2018 summer holidays. The rope swing was located in an area that has been the site of recent accidents involving young people.
- SPC oversees the management of the Wick Church Close Allotments
- Councillors attend meetings held by external organisations as 'link members', information from these meetings are passed on to all Councillors at the monthly meeting. Councillors attend regular meetings held by the following groups:
 - Keynsham Area Forum
 - ALCA (Avon Local Councils Association) B&NES Area Group
 - Saltford Community Association
 - Saltford Sports Club
 - River Avon Users Consultative Committee (RAUCC)
 - Saltford Environment Group, Saltford Business Network
 - Saltford Fair Trade Group.

Financial responsibility:

- Councillors have managed the Council's income responsibly and appropriately, transparently and in line with its 'Financial Regulations'. Parish Council accounts are published on SPC's website, audited, and open to public inspection. Spend is decided at meetings and every transaction is authorised by two councillors.
- SPC raises the precept each year which is collected with the Council Tax. In 2019/20 the precept was increased by 2.2%, in line with the rate of inflation.
- Councillors oversee SPC's Financial Assistance Grants, and have recently created a policy to further ensure appropriate spend. A few examples of grants made since 2015 include:
 - Nov 2015: Keynsham and District Dial a Ride £500 towards two sets of heavy duty wheelchair restraints for the mini-bus.
 - Two Wellsway School pupils who won places at an international science exposition in Mexico - £300 towards the costs of building a litter picking robot and transport costs.
 - Nov 2016: Grant of £1600 to Saltford District Guides towards installation of a new heating and hot water system for the guide hut

- Sept 2016: Grant to Citizens Advice B&NES to fund the training of a volunteer based in Keynsham One Stop Shop to help advise local residents.
- May 2017: Grant to Great Western Air Ambulance Charity of £350 for 50 simulation lungs.
- March 2018: Grant to Salford Football Club of £3407 (c. half the cost) towards the erection of a new barrier around the first team pitch. This improves safety for spectators and players, as well as meeting the requirements of the County League.
- January 2019: Grant to Salford Community Association for the amount of £1114 to fund the provision of three wifi hotspots in Salford (Salford Hall, Salford PO and Library, and the red ex-BT phone box on the High St / The Shallows).
- Catalyst funding for a combination of new solar PV panels on Salford Hall roof and support for extensive programme of energy efficiency measures for the hall.