



Annual Report

2020/2021



Thornbury Town Council

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Thornbury Town Council—working to develop and promote the interests of our community.

View from the Chair



This was a strange year in which to take on the role of mayor. We have had to adapt to many changes and different ways of doing things this year. All our council meetings have been online, and there has been very little scope for any of the usual Thornbury events to take place. However, I was able to attend a socially distanced service at the URC church to welcome their long-awaited new minister Neil Thorogood, the installation of Joy Ludlow as Priest in Charge at St Mary's and a small (non-public) remembrance ceremony to lay wreaths. There was no Carnival, no Thornbury in Bloom nor even a public remembrance parade. We look forward to all these and many other events returning once they are able to do so!

I am proud of the way that our Town Council team, both staff and councillors have adapted to the new regime, using Zoom for all our meetings, and ensuring that the work of the town council has continued largely uninterrupted. In particular, the staff need praise for the way they have risen to the many challenges this year has presented. They have ensured that Covid policies have been put in place and adhered to and have dealt with unexpected events calmly and efficiently on top of ensuring their usual work is done.

A major achievement this year was the independent steering group with support from the Town Council, completing the Neighbourhood plan and submitting it to South Glos to begin the formal consultation process. Negotiations have been completed for the police to occupy a large portion of the ground floor at the Town Hall. And, you might have noticed that the Town Council has a new website this year. Its looks great and makes accessing information so much easier.

We should take a moment to remember Clare Fardell. Clare passed away this summer whilst still an active member of the Town Council. She was first elected in 1983 and has been a councillor ever since. James Murray was co-opted to replace Clare, so we are again up to a full complement of councillors. A small ceremony attended by a (very) small numbers of councillors and Clare's husband Martin was held in the autumn to plant a tree in the Mundy Playing Fields in memory of Clare.

Before ending, I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone who has continued to volunteer throughout the pandemic in the Food Bank to help those in need, and Krunch for adapting how they support children, and the many other organisations that have managed to keep their services. Running.

Here's to a 2021 being a better year than 2020!

Cllr Jayne Stansfield, Mayor of Thornbury and Chair of Thornbury Town Council







Thornbury town Council Grants 2020/2021

Small Business Grants

GRANT AID	£
The Willow Tree Centre	300.00
KRUNCH South West	200.00
Sight Support West of England	370.00
Thornbury Duke of Edinburgh	476.00
PHASE Thornbury	350.00
JIGSAW Thornbury	1000.00
Thornbury Rugby Club	200.00
Thornbury Carnival	1000.00
Four Towns and Vale Link	1000.00
TOTAL AWARDED	4,896.00

Revenue Grants

GRANT AID	£
Thornbury Arts Festival	1250.00
Over 60's Tea Room	4640.00
Thornbury & District Community Assoc.	4100.00
Thornbury Community Composting	1500.00
Thornbury Christmas Lights Assoc.	1545.94
Thornbury in Bloom	1500.00
Thornbury & District Heritage Trust	7035.00
JIGSAW Thornbury	3120.00
The Inspire Arts Trust	500.00
Thornbury Volunteer Centre	3340.00
REKRE8	2400.00
Citizens Advice South West	7260.00
TOTAL AWARDED	38,190.94

REKRE8: We received funds for a coffee machine and grinder which will be a part of a quality café enterprise located at the skate park's youth hub. It will have the following benefits:

Giving young people employment opportunities for part-time work.

Giving parents and carers the opportunity for refreshment and shelter whilst accompanying children to the skate park

Engaging young people with training in associated areas such as Food Hygiene, First Aid, Cooking and other life skills.

Advancing the standing of the skate park as an important community facility which is valued across the town and beyond.

Thornbury & District Community Association: The Chantry hosts over 70 regular groups from the local community as well as a large number of ad-hoc meetings and activities. Over the past 2 years we have put in a huge amount of work to improve the quality of the facilities to ensure that the Chantry can be a much better facility for our users. We have refurbished the toilet facilities, insulated the attics, renovated the old social club room, installed new heating systems and have repaired and repainted the outside of the buildings. As well as this we have implemented a new website and modern business systems which will provide a much better service for our customers.

All of us involved in running the Chantry are extremely grateful to the Town Council for their continued financial support. The grant which the Council provides is critical in enabling us to fund our operating costs and helps to keep this wonderful historic facility available for all members of our community.



Sight Support West of England provides those living with sight loss in South Gloucestershire with access to appropriate local support services. Sight loss can have devastating consequences. It can restrict social interaction, cause isolation, remove a person's independence and lead to low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence and depression. Sight Support exists to ensure that individuals living with sight loss are fully supported to live their lives independently and to the full. We have adjusted our services due to the current crisis including creating a safe way to see people face-to-face in our Sight Centre, showing them how to safely use equipment and match them with the right equipment for their needs. Our new online training resources include audio-described fitness classes helping older blind and partially sighted people stay active. We have a new volunteering befriending service, connecting people who are lonely with others in their community. The money from Thornbury Town Council will help us to provide support to blind and partially sighted people living in Thornbury either virtually or face to face. We are really grateful for the support of Thornbury Town Council.



The Willow Tree Centre: As an organisation we have been established for over 15 years and currently comprise 18 training local volunteers providing free, confidential and unbiased listening and support service for girls and women (and their partners) in distress following unplanned pregnancy, after abortion and all types of baby loss. We were very thankful to receive a grant for the increased costs, incurred as a result of COVID-19, in having to move from a support service based on face-to-face appointments to one that was based on telephone and internet communications. The funding provides a remote call divert facility so that anyone in distress and that needs support can be assured that whenever they ring for help they get direct contact with one of our on-call volunteers; rather than have to leave a message and wait for a call back. It also provides for internet communications licences that enable support to be provided to clients in group sessions whenever required. This funding has meant that our organisation has been able to continue to support the mental health and wellbeing of our community despite COVID-19 threatening to isolate those in need of this support. Thank you Thornbury Town Council.



Over 60's Tea Room: Like so many groups Covid meant we sadly had to close our doors for far too long. We were able to open briefly in the Autumn but with vastly reduced capacity and strict Covid policies. Many of our Visitors and Volunteers didn't feel safe and happy to return but the ones that did told us how much they had missed us.

We are hoping to reopen in May and look forward to welcoming back our Visitors. To start with, we may need to reduce our hours and days, but look forward to getting back to normal as soon as we can. As a number of our Volunteers have decided they no longer feel they can help us, we are looking for new Volunteers. Anyone who feels they would like to join us please get in touch.

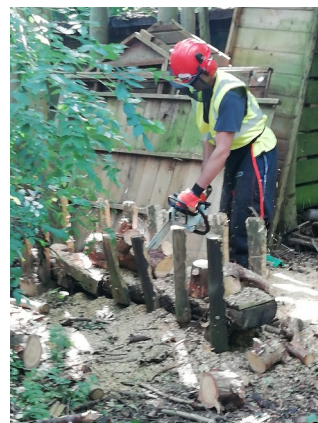
The Committee are using the time before we can reopen to give the Tea Room a little refresh as after 27 years of service the room is looking a little tired. We are greatly looking forward to seeing the Tea Room thrive again and welcoming back our visitors and friends.

As always we are very grateful to the Town Council for their continued support with awarding us our Revenue Grant. We use this to reduce our rent charges and without it we would not be able to open.

Thornbury Community Composting: The grants given to Thornbury Community Composting have always been very much appreciated and even more so during this last difficult year. The site had to close at the end of 2019 due to lack of funds and had just re-opened when the first lockdown came into force. Some of the grant has been used to buy supplies needed to meet health & safety requirements linked to Covid so that the site could re-open safely in early summer 2020.

A larger part of the grant has been used to purchase a larger chainsaw to replace the older one and a generator so that an electric chainsaw can also be used meaning more wood can be processed during the work periods.

Heavy rain in recent months flooded the wood stores and the floor areas were disintegrating and needed to be rebuilt. The remaining money from the grant has been used to buy the materials for this repair work which is now underway.



Much appreciation from Thornbury Community composting volunteers and residents using the site.



Thornbury and District Museum: Our grant from Thornbury Town Council has been used to meet one of the unavoidable costs of keeping a building in use, namely the rent we pay to the Armstrong Hall Trust. This allows the museum to use other sources of income to support providing a museum service to the community and visitors from elsewhere. We are very appreciative of this grant.

THORNBURY BEAT TEAM ANNUAL REPORT



The Thornbury Beat team was PC Paula Manos, PCSO Bethany Gardner, PC Natalie Jones and PCSO Sheryl Drewitt. Beth recently left us and we now have PCSO Justyna Domalewska to complete our team. We also have a new Sergeant - Claire Leahey who replaced our Acting Sergeant Craig Doyle. We work out of Thornbury at the rear of the Town Hall in the old Citizen Advice area which will be refurbished in due course to be more adequate for our needs in the long term.

Some of the key roles of the local Beat team is to reassure the public, be visible and accessible, working with the community, key figures and multi-agencies to build a safer and stronger community. With local knowledge we are best placed to deal with ongoing and regular/repeat issues by working in partnership with the anti-social behaviour team, housing associations, local authorities and schools to problem solve, safeguard individuals and hopefully find resolutions. This leaves our response officers free to respond to the high volume of emergency and priority calls received on a daily basis.

This last year throughout the Covid pandemic and lock downs policing and our role has changed significantly. We had additional work dealing with Covid and suspected breaches, following our engage, explain, encourage and enforce rules Avon and Somerset Police adopted. With all the sad and difficult situations Covid has brought the Thornbury community have been fantastic on the whole following government guidelines and adhering to the rules making our job easier. Questioning who people have in their houses or where people are going is something we've never had to do on a regular basis in Policing before.

There has been a significant decrease in crimes such as Burglary, Criminal Damage, Vehicle Crime and Theft seeing 100 less reported in the period March 2020 to March 2021 than the same period the year before. Anti-social behaviour has also decreased from 113 to 65 incidents in the same annual comparison. Our work, patrols and engagement still goes on, albeit with face masks and social distancing where possible and embracing online meetings.

With intelligence gained we stop/searched a local drug dealer and seized a substantial amount of cocaine, Officers are in the process of seeking charging decisions from CPS. Criminal Damage including the planters on the High Street, planters and hanging baskets in St Marys Centre we successfully identified suspects from CCTV. The majority have been dealt with by out of court disposals such as restorative justice whereby apology letters written and financial compensation for damage caused. Two Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) were issued to those identified as causing ongoing anti-social behaviour in the community which has certainly kerked their behaviour.

You can get in touch with us through our website

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk or by phoning 101



You can also keep up to date with what's happening through our beat page by simply typing in your post code.