



YATE TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006

**TO BE PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
AT 7.30PM ON 25 APRIL 2006
AT POOLE COURT, YATE.**

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Thursday 13 April 2006

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
ON TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2006 AT 7.30PM AT POOLE COURT, YATE**

A G E N D A

- 1 To confirm that the notice of meeting has been advertised according to the law.
- 2 To approve the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 26 April 2005 as a true and accurate record.
- 3 To receive the Yate Town Council Annual Report:
 - (a) To receive annual report from Councillor Margaret Marshall, Chair of Yate Town Council and Town Mayor.
 - (b) To receive and approve statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005.
 - (c) To receive annual report from the Chair of Yate Town Council's Environment and Planning Committee.
 - (d) To receive annual report from the Chair of Yate Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee.
 - (e) To receive annual report from Wills Davis Attwell Charity.
 - (f) To receive annual report from Yate United Charities.
 - (g) To receive annual reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors for Yate.

Councillor Sue Walker	Yate Central	Councillor Ruth Davis	Yate Central
Councillor Mike Drew	Yate West	Councillor Ian Blair	Yate West
Councillor Alan Lawrance	Yate North	Councillor Mike Robbins	Yate North
Councillor Tony Davis	Dodington	Councillor Kay Crowe	Dodington

- 4 Town Affairs.

Signed:

Councillor Margaret Marshall
Yate Town Council Chair & Town Mayor

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2005 AT 7.30PM
AT POOLE COURT, YATE**

PRESENT

Councillor Alan Monaghan – Town Mayor/Chair

Members of Yate Town Council and South Gloucestershire Council. (Councillors Justin Aldhouse, Ian Blair (part-meeting), Margaret Bracey, Kay Crowe, Tony Davis, Mike Drew, Sue Evan-Jones, John Ford, David Marshall, Margaret Marshall, Martin Monk, Mike Robbins, Cleo Trotter, Sue Walker, Chris Willmore and Audrey Young.)

Members of the public, a representative from the press and PC John Gilman.

Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and RFO.

Apologies received from Councillors Arthur Adams, Diane Adams, Clare Beasley, Ruth Davis, Alan Lawrance, Wully Perks and Geoff Say.

1 NOTICE OF MEETING

It was confirmed that the notice of meeting had been advertised according to the law. The Chair declared the meeting to be a properly constituted meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED The Minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 27 April 2004 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

3 CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Alan Monaghan welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on projects and activities of the Town Council during the past year, which have included events such as the Easter Egg Extravaganza/St George's Day celebrations and the success of the campaign to prevent land on The Common being allocated to travellers.

It was explained that Yate Town Council aims to empower Yate residents by leading the town to a bright future.

Councillor Monaghan extended thanks to Yate residents and organisations, which contribute to the vibrancy of the town. Sincere thanks were also offered to Councillors, Town Council staff and the local press.

4 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

A detailed statement of the Town Council's Accounts for period ending 31 March 2004 was presented to the meeting. The RFO offered to respond to any questions. No questions were raised.

Information in relation to the Annual Audit of Yate Town Council Accounts was **NOTED**.

Thanks were extended to the RFO.

RESOLVED The Town Council's Statement of Accounts for period ending 31 March 2004 be accepted.

(Councillor Ian Blair entered the meeting.)

5 ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Margaret Bracey, the Chair of the Town Council Environment and Planning Committee, having circulated a written report, highlighted some of the environmental projects undertaken by the Town Council during the past year. Projects included the enhancement of St Mary's Play Area and the installation of the Community Arts Wall at the Witches Hat Play Area.

It was **NOTED** that Yate Town Council continues to play an active role in submitting comments on all planning applications. Recently, the Joint Parishes Consultative Committee compiled a list of comments on the proposed Nibley Park and Ride scheme.

6 ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIR OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor Mike Drew, the Chair of the Town Council Finance and General Purposes Committee, having circulated a written report, commented on the publications produced by the Town Council including the town guide, website and quarterly newsletters. Councillor Drew also highlighted that development in the town centre is currently on hold due to the imminent sale of the shopping centre.

Councillor Drew thanked the Town Clerk, the RFO and Town Council staff for their support.

7 CHARITY REPORTS

Reports were received from Yate United Charities and Wills Davis Attwell Charity and were accepted by the meeting.

8 REPORTS FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Written reports were received from South Gloucestershire Councillors Ruth Davis, Sue Walker, Ian Blair, Mike Drew, Alan Lawrance, Mike Robbins and Tony Davis. Councillor Kay Crowe provided the meeting with a verbal report.

9 TOWN AFFAIRS

Howard Lewis Park

Local residents raised the issue of vandalism/bad behaviour which has occurred within Howard Lewis Park and on the Ridge estate within recent weeks.

The police representative reported that presently, patrols are carried out every evening and the Crime Reduction Unit is surveying the site in a bid to alleviate issues.

Parking Within Bennetts Court

Local residents raised the issue of heavy congestion within Bennetts Court, Yate due to onstreet car parking.

Members of South Gloucestershire Council and the Town Council gave an assurance that every effort would be made to reinforce the concerns of the residents to South Gloucestershire Council. Local residents were also advised to attend the local Area Forum to express their views. Residents were thanked for bringing the issue to the attention of the Town Council.

Garden Wall Surrounding Selected Properties in Bennetts Court

It was reported that a small garden wall bordering a public footpath in Bennetts Court has been knocked down in part and is unsafe.

The local resident was advised to undertake a land registry search to ascertain ownership of the wall and subsequently, who takes responsibility for maintenance.

Sun Chemicals

Concern was expressed regarding storage of chemicals within Sun Chemicals, Station Road.

It was agreed that Yate Town Council would contact the Health and Safety Executive and the Environmental department at South Gloucestershire Council to ascertain the statutory controls in relation to the storage of chemicals, the conditions attached to the Sun Chemicals site and information with regards how the conditions are monitored. The concerned local resident was also advised to attend the residents' liaison group.

Traffic Congestion – Longs Drive & Station Road

It was reported that lorries frequently obstruct Longs Drive/Station Road and that residents desire double yellow lines so that congestion is reduced.

The local resident was advised that Yate Town Council would pursue the issue with the Highways department at South Gloucestershire Council.

Future of Secondary Education in Yate

Concern was expressed regarding the future of secondary education in Yate.

It was explained that Yate Town Council would urge the Executive Member for Children and Young People to publicly discuss the issue and to look at the way forward. Yate Town Council to also question why the local education authority is withholding central government money earmarked for King Edmund School.

Crossing From Shopping Centre to Link Road Car Park

A resident enquired about the possibility of a pedestrian crossing from the shopping centre to the Link Road car park. The resident was advised that this proposal will be implemented as part of the Tesco extension.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.15pm. The residents were thanked for bringing various issues to the attention of Members. Councillors, Town Council Appointed School Governors and Town Council Staff were thanked for their commitment to the town of Yate.

CHAIR'S OVERVIEW OF 2005/2006

It is hard to believe that I have been in office for a year now and am already looking back. The last year has been rather eventful and one thing we definitely can't complain of is boredom. There have been several highlights which I would like to share with you in this report.

During this year we have been looking outward in friendship. It was the 20th anniversary of our Twinning with Bad Salzdetfurth in Germany. This event was celebrated in both countries and the bonds have been strengthened between our two towns. The Civic Service was held in October instead of June this year to enable us to celebrate this event. The service was very well attended by our guests from Bad Salzdetfurth and a large number of our community. It was an occasion that was enjoyed by everyone that attended.

There have been times when we have been reflective. The Remembrance Service in November saw a very large number of people attend our service in St. Mary's Church. It was so pleasing to have a large number of young people not only attend the service but also taking a major role in delivering it. It is very important that young people remember what that generation gave in order for us to live in freedom today.

And also times when we have been worried. King Edmund School was threatened with closure. This is such an important community facility and we can thank the residents who organised themselves that this school was saved.

We have had several consultations with the new owners of the Shopping Centre. This has been a major concern to all of us on Yate Town Council. The Shopping Centre is at the heart of our town and offers many of our facilities. It is important for us to have some input in the development. It is early days in all the discussions and the owners are still doing their investigations. However, on a positive note they are consulting with us and meeting on a regular basis.

We have a group of young people who are very engaged and in the process of getting Yate nominated a Fair Trade Town. We are hoping this will happen shortly, so watch this space. It is good to see our young people doing such positive things as young people usually get a very poor press. Thanks to them for all they are doing.

We were awarded Quality Town status and received second prize in a national council website competition this year. Our MP Steve Webb presented us with our certificates. This is a tribute to all our staff and councillors. They all work very hard to make Yate the nice place it is. There are some people who try to run this place down but Yate is a town that offers so much to young and old alike. This is where it is beneficial to see our town through the eyes of our many visitors. They are very impressed with the facilities we have to offer here.

That is another reason it is good to have received national recognition for all that goes on here and my thanks go out to all of you who make this possible. The residents who give their time to the many groups that operate in the town, the councillors and most importantly all the staff on our Town Council who work tirelessly to improve our town. You are the ones with the vision and will help take the town forward in the future. It is a team effort and given our history of making things happen there are sure to be great things happening here in the future. A big thank you to you all! You are doing a great job!

Overall it has been an extremely positive year and I have enjoyed going out and meeting so many people in the town and would like to thank everyone for their hospitality.

Councillor Margaret Marshall, Chair of Yate Town Council.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

To view the statement of accounts for year ended 31 March 2005, please visit
www.yatetowncouncil.gov.uk
and go to Publications/Annual Accounts.

CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2005/2006

Being a very busy Committee, the past year has passed quickly.

The Town Council is frequently asked for views on highways and transportation consultations. The need for a vastly improved transport infrastructure is our highest need, particularly as Yate has a large population.

The latest owners of Yate Shopping Centre are now settled in and looking to improve the centre, working with Yate Town Council, for the benefit of local residents.

After the 2005 very successful Easter Egg Hunt, it will take place again this Easter in Kingsgate Park, where we will also be hosting the Music Festival in June. Kingsgate Park Play Area will also be upgraded.

All councillors are proud of the Peg Hill Skateboard and BMX Park. Sadly the wooden fencing around the park suffered vandalism. This was replaced by metal fencing. I wish the young people carrying out this destruction would realize that the extra money spent has to be replaced by their own families in the increase that is inevitable from local taxes.

Some councillors had a busy day helping the Friends of The Common to plant 200 trees - another group we are pleased to work with.

This year's Spring Clean event will take place on Saturday 29 April 2006 at Watery Lane. Yate Town Councillors invite any members of the public who would like to join us on this occasion. You only need strong/waterproof footwear, plenty of good will and humour. Gloves, litter pickers and black bags will be provided. It is a lovely way to work together.

Celebrations are being held again at the Heritage Centre site for England's Patron St George. This year, we are hoping for better weather. Please come along and celebrate with us, encourage your children to take part in the "What I like about England" competition on Saturday 22 April 2006.

The Annual Garden Competition will happen again this year. Why not enter? There is a wide selection of categories and many beautiful gardens in our town.

Looking to the future, a plan for the refurbishment of Yate Parish Hall is being drawn up for you, the public, to decide how you want it to look. The revamp of Millside Playzone is looking nearer to completion and the Yate West Kickabout project is still underway. Lastly, I extend my thanks and gratitude to the Estates team for all their hard work throughout the year.

Councillor Margaret Bracey, Chair of Environment and Planning Committee.

CHAIR OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT 2005/2006

During the current year the council has by way of grants funded youth work through the Yate Ecumenical Church Council, St Nicholas Family Centre, the Joint Parishes Youth Forum Steering Group and the N50 Night Bus. Grants have also been made to other community groups to assist them in starting up or in continuing their work. Improvements have been made to Peg Hill skateboard and BMX Park, Tyndale Park, Millside Playzone and St Mary's Green.

The council has continued to support the Three Parishes Tourist Information Centre, Frome Vale Special Needs Playscheme, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Transport and a five week holiday playscheme at the Parish Hall. Events such as the St George's Day celebrations at Yate Heritage Centre were started whilst others, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, continued in Kingsgate Park, with more events planned in 2006/2007. These activities are part of the council's policy in involving the local community in the town.

The council just like any other household has to decide what it can afford to do. As chair of the committee responsible for making recommendations to the council regarding its budget I try to keep in mind that the more the council does, the more taxes it will have to raise. The council through its members, committees and staff interacts with many individuals and bodies (governmental, business, voluntary and private) to achieve its aims at minimal cost. The more the council does the more it costs you either in time or money, therefore just like any household, it must prioritise the things it does.

That is why the council, through its members and staff, needs you to keep telling it what you think is most important to you, what you think it is doing right and where it is going wrong. This way, the decisions the council members make are more likely to be representative of the needs of the majority of its residents.

Councillor Martin Monk, Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee.

WILLS DAVIS ATWELL CHARITY

ACCOUNTS AND REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

INCOME

Balance Brought Forward

Business Reserve	£ 6,009.76
Current Accounts	£ 1,096.17
One Year Fixed Rate Bonds	£ 40,000.00
COIF Charirites Investment	
Income units held 31.12.05 502.21 units	£ 4,515.16

£ 51,621.09

Income

COIF Int Div	£ 168.24
Fixed Rate Bond Interest	£ 2,315.71
Rents	£ 240.00
Interest Business Reserve	£ 111.83
Interest Current Account	£ 0.55
COIF Units Increase 01.01.05 - 31.12.05	£ 715.41

£ 3,551.74

£ 55,172.83

OUTGOING

Expenditure

Grants Paid	£ 385.00
Charges	£ 23.00

£ 408.00

Balances Carried Forward

One Year Fixed Rate Bond	£ 45,000.00
Business Reserve	£ 3,439.30
Current Accounts	£ 1,094.96
COIF Charirites Investment	
Income units held 31.12.05 (502.21 units)	£ 5,230.57

£ 54,764.83

£ 55,172.83

The Trust owns two parcels of land, which they currently lease.

The Trust is applied as follows:

Education, etc – the yearly income of the Charities shall be applied by the Trustees in assisting poor young people under the age of 21 years' bona fide resident in the Parish of Yate, to further their education or training or to purchase the necessary equipment for their advancement in life or to enable them to earn their own living as the Trustees think fit.

The Trust awarded grants to five young people in the parish of Yate in the 2005/2006 financial year.

The availability of the Trust fund is advertised widely through the Town Council Annual Newsletter, on school notice boards and in the Library.

Applications are available by telephoning 01454 866507 all completed application forms to be returned to Poole Court by 30 September each year.

Trustees: Reverend David Harrex
Councillor Mike Drew
Mrs Stephanie Davies

YATE UNITED CHARITIES
FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR END 31 MARCH 2006

Income

2005		£
April 01:	Balance at bank	236.82
May 30:	Interest on shareholdings	31.41
Aug 30:	Interest on shareholdings	32.67
Nov 30:	Interest on shareholdings	32.67
2006		
Feb 28:	Interest on shareholdings	38.66
March 31:		_____
		372.23

Expenditure

2005		£
May 27:	Ten (10) beneficiaries @ £10 each	100.00
2006		
March 31:	Balance at bank	272.23

		372.23

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RUTH DAVIS 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR YATE CENTRAL WARD)

I continue to deal with casework, take an active interest in Yate Common, as well as being an LEA governor for Kings Court Primary School, a member of Frome Vale area forum and a member of the cabinet. In June of last year my role on cabinet changed from being Executive Member for Traded Services to Leader of the Council and leader of the Liberal Democrat group. The council is run by a three-party administration and the other two party leaders are both deputy leaders of councils.

The consensus budget this year was very difficult to agree as we believed that the residents should have a further £9 million spent to protect existing services and provide additional ones that were needed, partly due to the increase in numbers and cost of looking after the elderly and those with learning difficulties. This led to a three-party agreement that there would be job losses, increased charges in some areas and no further bus tokens for the elderly or the disabled, but that enhanced community transport and use of our own fleet of adapted transport with enhanced free bus passes valid across the ex-Avon area from 9am on weekdays and during the day at weekends and bank holidays would replace them.

We have worked with our ex-Avon unitary colleagues to get an agreement to restrict future housing growth for the South Gloucestershire area for the next twenty years to match the expected natural increase needed to meet the existing population, subject to a review of the Green Belt and appropriate roads and other facilities being provided.

We have also signed up to a pilot Local Area Agreement with other local partners such as the health community and the police to agreed priorities such as dealing with childhood obesity and antisocial behaviour.

More locally King Edmund Community School was saved from closure and a new vocational centre is being built on their site for all young people in the area to access and Brimsham Green is about to have a new sports hall.

There are continuing talks with both the health community and the new shopping centre owners to try to secure the promised minor injury unit along with a new children' centre and enhanced outpatient consultant facilities prior to the closure of the acute hospital at Frenchay, something we strongly opposed on behalf of local residents.

Councillor Ruth Davis, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate Central Ward.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR SUE WALKER 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR YATE CENTRAL WARD)

King Edmund School is settling down following the upheaval caused by the threatened closure and morale is now good. The new head, staff and young people seem to be working hard to continue to raise standards and move forward.

The reduction in charges introduced at Yate Train Station Car Park has improved parking in the Station Road area. Cars for sale in Station Road have now become a problem as there are so few parking spaces for local residents.

Balanced use of The Common is another issue which is of interest and concern to local residents in my area.

As a Councillor on South Gloucestershire Council, I serve on the Licensing, Regulatory and General Purposes Committee which has had a particularly busy year with the change in the licensing laws. The workload has increased 100% with 1,600 existing and 1,600 new applications. The staff coped exceptionally well with this complex process and workload should now settle down and the department can concentrate on the main focus of their work - health promotion (including anti-smoking) and health & safety enforcement issues like skin piercing and caravan sites. They are targeting health and safety in the work place which has seen a shift from slips, trips, falls and back injuries to concerns like stress and repetitive strain injury.

As Chair of the International Committee, I have introduced and timetabled a change in the way the Committee works. Previously it received information on international issues but in future it will hold a series of workshops and conferences involving the many groups across the county who have international links.

The process will start with an audit/mapping of existing schools, community and charity links and the future focus will be on having advice and information, learning about new initiatives and best practice. Its aim will be to enable and encourage new links and breakdown prejudices and barriers.

A major part of my time has been taken up with starting the University of the 3rd Age and I would like to thank Yate Town Council and Pat Taylor of South Gloucestershire Council for their support in this. Membership is now at almost 300 and activities include Tai Chi, Walking, Cinema, Theatre, History, Book Club, Travel, Bridge, Wine Tasting, Home Brewing and Computer Studies. It has been overwhelmed by the response and at the moment has difficulty finding premises large enough and group leaders to cope with the demand. I'm delighted with the success and hope it will continue to grow and flourish.

Case work continues to be a major part of the Council duties with local people calling at my home and phoning about a variety of problems. I particularly enjoy this aspect of my work as a Councillor as it keeps me in touch with local opinion on a range of issues.

Councillor Sue Walker, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate Central Ward.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR IAN BLAIR 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR YATE WEST WARD)

I have served on the following South Gloucestershire Council Committees:

Children & Young People Select Committee (Chair)
Corporate Co-ordination Select Committee
Licensing & General Purposes Committee
Development Control (East) Committee
School Organisation Committee
Admissions Forum
Frome Vale Area Forum

As chair of the Children and Young People Select Committee I have been following closely the development of the new department as it integrates all the services for children, education social services and youth services. As this major reconfiguration of the department takes place the select committee has been checking that the highest standard of service to children and young people is maintained.

The select committee's work has included looking at the measures the department takes to ensure that standard of education in South Gloucestershire is continually improved. Of particular concern are the young people that for a variety of reasons the Council look after. We have recently considered the way in which the Council arranges for these vulnerable young people to be fostered ensuring the best possible outcomes for them. We are also carrying out a review of the services provided for young people, particularly between the ages of 13 and 19 by the Youth Service.

The council is now responsible for the licensing of premises that serve alcohol. The function used to be carried out by magistrates. As all pubs in the area have had to be relicensed this has taken up a considerable amount of time sitting on Licensing Panels.

As a member of South Gloucestershire Council I am involved with a number of groups working in the community. The Museums and Heritage Group brings together representatives of the voluntary museums and centres, such as Yate Heritage Centre, who are involved in the preservation of our heritage and in its presentation.

I also chair Yate West Community Safety Group. This group work in Yate West to develop of safer and hopefully stronger community. We organise exhibitions to show people in the community how they can be safer in their homes, supporting other groups working in the community and through small projects such as introduction of better lighting to reduce the fear of crime in the area.

Councillor Ian Blair, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate West Ward.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE DREW 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR YATE WEST WARD)

South Gloucestershire Council faced its usual budget problems as government imposes more duties on local authorities but does not allow the cost of such services in its calculations. For example the government imposed the duty to provide free bus passes to pensioners but only provided the money to enable travel within the district which would have been very useful. South Gloucestershire members agreed unanimously to provide travel throughout Avon and allow the passes to be used from 9.00am instead of 9.30am. This of course cost a lot of money. The bus passes provide far greater benefit than the old bus tokens to the overwhelming majority of people. Of course there are some people who are unable to take advantage of the buses. Improvements have been made to the Community Transports scheme to cater for most of these people.

My main activity this last year has been in the setting up of the Merlin Housing Society which, subject to the result of the ballot which will be declared this week, will be taking over the housing stock of the council.

While the majority of councillors including me do not wish to hand over the control of council housing to a Housing Society, the rules by which the government controls social housing is loaded against the tenants who do not agree to transfer to a housing association. In South Gloucestershire's case the tenants pay around £8 million per year to the government out of their rents. If the housing stock is run by a Housing Association then there is no such charge. The council is restricted in the amount of money it can borrow to maintain and improve the housing stock and the government has made it a duty for all social housing to be at the "Decent Homes" standard (not a particularly good standard) by 2011. We would like to be able to do better than that. The government sets the rent levels for all social housing so funds cannot be raised from rents for improvements.

Having studied the evidence I moved the proposal to council that we consult and go out to ballot of the tenants for the transfer of their homes to a Housing Association. I sit on the shadow Housing Association as a nominee of the council. The council nominates five members of the board. Five are chosen by the tenants and five independent members are chosen by the other members of the board. The result of the ballot will be known on Friday.

I sit on the council's Health, Housing and Community Care and Corporate Services Select (Scrutiny) committees. I chair the local Area Forum. I am a regular member of the council's Employees Appeal Panel dealing with grievances, dismissals etc. I also represent South Gloucestershire at the South West Provincial Council where I am a member of the Employers Management Committee. I have recently been appointed to the Regional Management Board as a representative of the SW Employers.

Councillor Mike Drew, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate West Ward.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALAN LAWRENCE 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR YATE NORTH WARD)

In May 2005 I had the great honour to be elected Chairman of South Gloucestershire Council, which has enabled me to engage with many people and groups both within and beyond the boundaries of the Authority.

I have sought to raise the profile of the Authority and thus have been pleased to travel as far north as Tewkesbury, into the valleys of Wales and south to Taunton in Somerset. As the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire remarked on an occasion hosted by the Authority, "South Gloucestershire always do things with great style and today is no exception".

Within South Gloucestershire I have been most fortunate to attend some wonderful occasions. In Bradley Stoke I marvelled at the dedication of young people at a special needs international Judo Championship. In Staple Hill a telling Drumhead Service was held for the eightieth Jubilee anniversary of the local British Legion. The South Gloucestershire Festival of Youth Sports in which hundreds of young people engage with great enthusiasm has to be seen to be believed.

Every few weeks the Authority organises a Citizenship Ceremony. It is an occasion when people from many countries formally take a pledge or oath of allegiance to the Crown. The Chairman of Council actively participates in this rite of passage and it is a delight to see the joy experienced by those who have chosen to become British Citizens.

I have chosen this year the Jesse May Trust as the recipient of the Chair's Charity Fund and throughout the year officers, family and friends have run many miles and undertaken strange tasks to secure several thousands of pounds that is being donated to the Trust which supports tragically ill young people.

To date I have undertaken 136 events and activities, but still look forward to the final weeks of Chairmanship, which will include an invitation from the Duke of Beaufort to attend the Badminton Three Day event.

Though I have been very busy as Chairman I have maintained my activities as a Councillor representative on the Avon and Somerset Police Authority where I am Chairman of the Professional Standards Committee. While there is still much room for improvement I'm pleased to record a much improved performance by the Force during the past year.

Local people have not forgotten I am their local councillor and have sought my assistance during the year. I have endeavoured to respond positively and proactively to all genuine requests and I look forward to continuing my service to the people of Yate.

Councillor Alan Lawrence, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate North Ward.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE ROBBINS 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR YATE NORTH WARD)

The NHS and PCT quango have continued to negotiate towards securing Modern Community and Acute Health Facilities for South Gloucestershire at a rate that is quite alarming! Further progress at this speed will give us a hospital some time in the next century, that is if the local authority PCT can afford to equip and staff the facility! One of the PCTs which has determined your health has borrowed the money to build a mental health facility but has no money left to staff the hospital, so it is closed but your taxes are still going to pay the interest on the loan, that is sound Quango economics! I don't need to tell you about the nurses we were importing a while ago. The media told us enough about them, now they are telling us how many beds we are going to have to shut down, how many staff they will sack and the redundancy money we will have to pay to save us from quango economics.

The local authorities have been consulted on the level of SHA's and PCT's was thought to be adequate for the service. Once again our recommendations were totally ignored. We have had some improvements made to the local environment with the road and bridge resurfacing in Quarry Road and a new drainage system for recycling at the concrete plant which has considerably improved the safe walk to school through woods for children and adults alike. The repair to the footpath is almost complete, forming part of the Yate entrance to the Avon Forest, a continuation of the Frome Valley Walkway and an extra dimension to the Ridge Walk which The Friends of Ridgewood do so much to maintain and improve. We have also had some improvements to the local sub-stations which were causing danger in the areas where the fences had been damaged. The refurbishment has taken place and the fences afford the young people in the area's much greater protection.

Once again, the unholy alliance of the combined forces of Tory and Labour defeated us by one vote in our effort to keep the Ridge Woods, our open spaces and children's play area's free from mobile phone masts, not just because they could be a potential danger but in open spaces they are ugly. The good housekeeping of the new owner's of the Shopping Centre does them credit. I just hope that the new Tesco extension will do likewise.

Concern is being expressed over the future of the MOD land being used to build more new houses, instead of creating a suitable extension to the town's shopping centre, providing us all with a centre to be proud of.

The St George's Day celebrations suitably impressed a Canadian visitor. He was here to search out the history of his family who originally came from Yate and he certainly enjoyed himself, as did many of the children who attended the festival. My congratulations to everybody concerned.

Councillor Mike Robbins, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate North Ward.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KAY CROWE 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR DODINGTON WARD)

I am a back bencher on South Gloucestershire Council for Dodington ward.

I am a member of Dodington Parish Council and we work closely with Yate and South Gloucestershire councils on such issues as Abbotswood Action, Yate Town Centre and health issues. One of the main things Dodington has done recently is the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) in Kelston Close, Abbotswood. I am a governor of Abbotswood Primary School. In that area I am also on the committee of St. Nicholas Youth Club. The Abbotswood Action group is trying to engender community spirit in the area. This is difficult because the land belongs to an absentee landlord.

I am the South Gloucestershire Council representative on the Yate Library Consultative Committee. We are very anxious to get a new library for Yate built as soon as possible, but because of the repeated changes of ownership of the shopping centre we are becoming increasingly disillusioned about it. I have been involved in the meetings about the Sea Stores, which the government refers to as the Highways Agency land, and which they seem to want to put housing on.

There are some traffic calming humps in Shireway. Some local residents do not like them and we have been having consultations on alternative traffic calming methods, working closely with Dodington Parish Council and Pat Hockey, the South Gloucestershire Council Executive Member for Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment.

Years ago we came up with the idea of having an Access Ability group in Yate/Sodbury when I was on a community work course. I am now chairman of the group which eventually got set up. The aim of the group is to enable disabled people to take part in normal community activities. We have a mailing list of about 200 people. We provide information and have initiated a new group called Shop Mobility (South Gloucestershire) by giving them a grant of £500. It has a number of electric scooters and wheelchairs based at Yate library which people can book to use around the shopping centre. I am the treasurer of the group.

As a South Gloucestershire Councillor I attend the local (Frome Vale) area forum, which considers the highways task register, transport schemes, and which allocates grants to local voluntary organisations.

On South Gloucestershire Council I serve on the Licensing (Regulatory) Committee which has been working very hard recently. It deals not only with licensed premises but many other types of licenses. I am also on the Development and Control East (Planning) Committee which covers this half of South Gloucestershire. We have just approved the South Gloucestershire Local Plan. The Local Transport Plan has just been produced. I also serve on the Community Care, Housing and Health Select Committee, and the Communities Select Committee.

One of my roles as a South Gloucestershire Councillor is overseeing the appointment of LEA school governors for the whole of South Gloucestershire, and while you are reading this I am anxious to find a governor for St. Mary's School, Yate, so please give me a ring if you are interested.

Councillor Kay Crowe, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Dodington Ward.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TONY DAVIS 2005/2006
(SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR DODINGTON WARD)

I have continued to be the Councillor for Dodington ward on South Gloucestershire Council.

I have been a member of the Corporate Coordination Select Committee reviewing South Gloucestershire Council's policy on Housing Stock transfer and the way the Council communicates with the general public.

I am also involved in a small working party looking at ways in which the Council could become more efficient and make savings.

I also sit on Joint Consultative Committee which deals with the Council's trade unions.

Apart from local casework, especially the issue of the Shire Way and Rodford Way traffic management, I have been particularly active in issues to do with young people, including working with YDC Ursay (the local Youth Forum).

I am a member and supporter of "The Friends of Yate Common".

I am also a governor at King Edmund Community School.

Councillor Tony Davis, South Gloucestershire Councillor for Dodington Ward.

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