



# YATE TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

**TO BE PRESENTED AT THE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
AT 7.30PM ON 24 APRIL 2007  
AT POOLE COURT, YATE.**

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Councillor Ruth Davis                      Yate Central

Councillor Sue Walker                      Yate Central

Councillor Ian Blair                        Yate West

Councillor Mike Drew                      Yate West

Councillor Alan Lawrance                Yate North

Councillor Mike Robbins                 Yate North

Councillor Kay Crowe                      Dodington

Councillor Tony Davis                      Dodington

Contact details for Yate Town Councillors

Contact details for Yate Town Council Officers

Tuesday 17 April 2007

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE  
ON TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2007 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 note the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 25 April 2006. (*The Minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record at the Town Council meeting held on 9 May 2006*).
- 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 2006.
  - (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 Atwell Charity.
  - (f) To receive annual report from Yate United Charities.
  - (g) To receive annual reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors for Yate.

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

- 4 Town Affairs.

Signed:



Councillor Margaret Marshall  
Yate Town Council Chair & Town Mayor

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2006 FROM 7.30PM – 8.30PM AT POOLE COURT, YATE**

**PRESENT: Councillor Margaret Marshall – Town Mayor/Chair**

**Members of Yate Town Council and South Gloucestershire Council. (Councillors Ian Blair, Kay Crowe, Tony Davis, Ruth Davis, Mike Drew, Sue Evan-Jones, John Ford, Alan Lawrance, Alan Monaghan, Martin Monk, Wully Perks, Mike Robbins, Cleo Trotter, Sue Walker and Chris Willmore.)**

**Members of the public.**

**Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and RFO.**

Apologies received from Councillors Justin Aldhouse, Clare Beasley, Margaret Bracey and Geoff Say. Apologies also received from Wendy Mayo of Ridgewood Community Association.

**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**

The Minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 26 April 2005 were received and **NOTED** having been approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record at the Town Council meeting held on 10 May 2005.

**3 CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillor Margaret Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to report on activities and events held by the Town Council during 2005/2006.

It was explained that celebrations of friendship had taken place with residents of Yate's twin town of Bad Salzdetfurth to commemorate twenty years of the twinning link.

Residents of the town were thanked for their input in preventing the closure of King Edmund School.

It was explained that the new owners of the shopping centre are frequently consulting with the Town Council so that the views of local people can be represented. It was also reported that the Fairtrade signing event had been held in Yate Shopping Centre in March and that it is hoped that Yate will soon be granted Fairtrade town status.

Finally, the achievements of the Town Council were **NOTED** including the obtaining of Quality Town Council status and also, the award for second place in the NALC 'Website of the Year' competition. Members and staff of the Town Council, along with the community as a whole, were thanked for their input in making Yate a wonderful place to live.

#### **4 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

A detailed statement of the Town Council's accounts for period ending 31 March 2005 was presented to the meeting. The RFO offered to respond to any questions. No questions were raised.

Thanks were extended to the RFO.

**RESOLVED** The Town Council's statement of accounts for period ending 31 March 2005 be accepted.

#### **5 ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Cleo Trotter (Vice-Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee) presented a written report prepared by Councillor Margaret Bracey, the Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee. The report highlighted some of the environmental events undertaken by the Town Council during the past year including the Spring Clean and Annual Garden Competition.

It was **NOTED** that Yate Town Council is regularly consulted on highways and planning matters and continues to play an active role in submitting comments in response to these consultations.

#### **6 ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIR OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Councillor Martin Monk, the Chair of the Town Council Finance and General Purposes Committee, having circulated a written report, offered to respond to any questions. No questions were received.

The report explained that the Town Council grant-aids various groups and facilities in the community such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and the N50 night bus. Local residents were asked for their input to help the Town Council to prioritise local projects and initiatives.

#### **7 CHARITY REPORTS**

A report was received from the Wills Davis Atwell Charity and was accepted by the meeting.

A report was also received from Yate United Charities. Those present enquired about the extent of the charity's capital assets. It was **NOTED** that the financial statement does not comply with the guidelines set by the Charity Commission.

It was suggested that due to the nominal monetary assets, the charity either wind itself up and donate the proceeds to a relevant body in the area or transfer the funds to a body such as Age Concern or the Pop Inn Café and ask that they apply the funds to a project which will benefit the elderly of Yate.

## **8 REPORTS FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

Written reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors Ruth Davis, Sue Walker, Ian Blair, Mike Drew, Alan Lawrance, Mike Robbins, Kay Crowe and Tony Davis were received and **NOTED**.

## **9 TOWN AFFAIRS**

### **9/1 Proposed O2 (UK) Ltd Telecoms Mast at Station Road, Yate**

*(Councillors Ian Blair, Kay Crowe, Alan Lawrance and Mike Robbins declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion).*

Local residents expressed great concern regarding the proposed installation of an O2 (UK) Ltd telecoms mast at Station Road. It was **NOTED** that a pre-planning application consultation letter had been received by the Town Council Planning Sub-Committee. It was also **NOTED** that the Town Council had objected to the proposals.

**RESOLVED** A letter of objection be sent to Needham Haddrell Chartered Surveyors (copying the Planning Department at South Gloucestershire Council) stating the following:

- unsuitability of the site (invasive and intrusive);
- alternative sites have not been fully investigated. It is unacceptable that the Indesit site was discounted because it was on 'shut down;'
- safety concerns and health risks;
- environmental impact (the mast will be an eyesore);
- will affect amenity of the site;
- will pose a distraction to motorists.

### **9/2 Health Services**

Residents present enquired about the current situation with regards the proposed new Yate health facility. It was explained that there are 3 available options:

1. Link Road site;
2. Self-contained re-development on existing site;
3. Developing a site along West Walk which would involve relocating the library and the Pop Inn Café.

It was explained that a board meeting of the Primary Care Trust will take place in May 2006. A South Gloucestershire Council Cabinet meeting will also take place in May 2006. After these meetings, the position will become clear.

### **9/3 New Licensing Laws**

A query was raised as to whether the new licensing laws have had an impact on the Yate community.

South Gloucestershire Councillors explained that there has been an increase in violent crime overall in South Gloucestershire, but this has not been reflected in Yate.

### **9/4 Highways Agency Depot**

It was reported that a public consultation event on the draft concept statement for the development of the Highways Agency Depot site is taking place on Friday 5 May 2006 between 1 – 6pm at Yate Library.

**RESOLVED** A response be sent to the Planning Co-operative asking that they please run an alternative session either during an evening or on the weekend to allow those who work during the week to contribute.

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The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

## **Chair of Yate Town Council Report 2006/2007**

It is amazing to think that a year has passed since I last reported back to you. It has been quite an exciting year planning many projects to take place in the future.

There have been several events to help build the community and many people enjoyed the Music Festival, St George's Day, and International Festival at the Heritage Centre, a Safer South Gloucestershire in Yate West and an Easter Egg hunt in Kingsgate Park. These have been tremendously successful and we have been asked to repeat all the events so I look forward to meeting more of you there over the coming years.

We have continued our rolling program of refurbishing and modernizing our play areas. This year was the turn of the Millside Play Area. Children loved this and I had an opportunity to try out the new aerial slide which was great fun. We are now in the process of planning the improvements to Kingsgate Park. This project will be an exciting new type of development for us with very different type of play equipment.

Talking of young people, the Council and the Twinning Association have been active in supporting Brimsham Green School with their Comenius links with Germany, Spain and Poland. This gives young people an opportunity to meet with and explore other types of communities. Our twinning link with Bad Salzdetfurth has again met this year and our friendship has been strengthened. We have been working with our partners in Germany for over 21 years.

Consultation is now well underway for the Parish Hall. This building is in a very poor condition and needs urgent attention. This is an ideal opportunity for us to be able to create a building that will serve the future needs of the community in Yate. We have been working with architects to come up with some ideas of what could be built in that space.

I am very proud to be able to report that we now have a Town Centre Strategy Group led by the Town Council which brings everyone with an interest in the Centre together. It is extremely important at this time as we have so many developments taking place at the moment. Tesco is about to produce its plans for redevelopment following a lengthy consultation process. Dominion Trust are continuing to improve facilities in the Shopping Centre and the Primary Care Trust have secured funding to rebuild the Health Centre. I know there will be some considerable disruption over the next few years but the gain should outweigh any temporary disadvantages. We will be consulting with all the developers and update you as soon as we have more information. We have also been in negotiation with the Leisure Centre to encourage them to improve facilities as many of you have brought this to our attention.

The final event that I would like to report to you is that the Town Council has secured a £20,000 grant from the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative to develop the community. Many local groups and businesses have attended the initial project meetings and a steering group has been set up to investigate projects which will further develop our town.

As you can see there are so many projects in the pipeline which will make Yate an even better place to live. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see in the town then please let us know and we can see if they can be incorporated. I look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Councillor Margaret Marshall

Chair and Mayor of Yate

April 2007

To view the Statement of Accounts for year ended 31 March 2006, please visit:

[www.yatetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.yatetowncouncil.gov.uk)

and go to Publications/Annual Accounts 2005/2006.

## **Chair of Environment and Planning Committee Report 2006/2007**

The Transport situation has not shown very much improvement since my report last year. The needs are still, like the population in Yate growing.

The Sea Stores site is now closed and planning applications are being drawn up for its future.

Yate Town Council is still working very closely with the Town Shopping Precinct, also the Town Strategy Group for the benefit of the whole community.

All our play areas are very well looked after by the Estates Staff. Sadly we have been having some problems with vandalism; just a few seem to want to spoil things for the many.

The Music Festival last July was a huge success, thanks to the Councillors and the Friends of Kingsgate Park, who had the vision for the event to happen. We look forward to it happening again this year. Easter time the Easter Egg Hunt was very popular and successful.

The Garden Competition was held again, sadly there are many with lovely gardens or containers that don't come forward to compete, let's have a record number this year!!!

The Councillors who with the help of volunteers from the public, Guides and Boy Scouts, had an interesting day in Environment Week clearing up rubbish, from a stretch of the river Frome in Templar Road, also at Abbotswood shopping Centre. What a shame there is even a need to have to clear up.

Yate Parish Hall has been a popular venue for over 80 years including its time as a picture house but it does need to be renewed. We urge all residents of Yate to look at the plans and have your say on how you would like it to go forward.

The Yate Kickabout area is going forward, it will be a lovely area for the youths of Yate to let off steam and enjoy being healthy and active.

As this is my last report as a Councillor of Yate, I would like to express my gratitude to all the Councillors, who have been a pleasure to work with, also the Estates Team, who are a very willing and hard working team, last but not least to all the Office Staff, who are always pleasant and helpful at all times.

Councillor Margaret Bracey

April 2007

## **Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee Report 2006/2007**

I am not going to bore you by repeating all that is shown elsewhere.

Yate Town Council has hard-working staff whom ensure that the Town Council's policies are undertaken with financial prudence.

My main aim as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is to ensure that all opinions are heard and that good use is made of your hard earned money.

The Town Council has steadily been increasing the involvement of all citizens in the decisions it makes and aims to continue doing so.

I believe that, though only a small part of the overall budget, the Town Plan could be one of the most significant projects started this year, because of the involvement of such a wide range of the people who live or work in Yate. It can be a focus for the growth of a healthy community over the next 10 or 20 years. Please join in and have your say!

Councillor Martin Monk

April 2007

## WILLS DAVIS ATWELL CHARITY

### ACCOUNTS AND REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

#### INCOME

##### **Balance Bought Forward**

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

£54,764.83

##### **Income**

COIF Int Div	£ -
Fixed Rate Bond Interest	£ -
Rents	£ -
Interest Business Reserve	£ -
Interest Current Account	£ -
COIF Units Increase 01.01.06 - 31.12.06	£ 527.67

£ 527.67

£55,292.50

#### OUTGOING

##### **Expenditure**

Grants Paid	£ -
Charges	£ -

£ -

##### **Balances Carried Forward**

One Year Fixed Rate Bond	£ -
Business Reserve	£ -
Current Accounts	£ -
COIF Charirites Investment	

502.21  
units £5,758.24

£5,758.24

£5,758.24

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 six young people in the parish of Yate in the 2006/2007 financial year.

The availability of the Trust fund is advertised widely through the Town Council Annual Newsletter, on notice boards in local schools, the Leisure Centre the Town Centre 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 2007**

**Income**

		<b>£</b>
<b>2006</b>		
April 01:	Balance at bank	272.23
May 31	Interest on shareholdings	32.36
Aug 31:	Interest on shareholdings	33.46
Nov 30:	Interest on shareholdings	33.46

**2007**

Feb 28:	Interest on shareholdings	42.45
March 31:		_____
		413.96

**Expenditure**

		<b>£</b>
<b>2006</b>		
May 22:	Ten (10) beneficiaries @ £10 each	100.00

**2007**

March 31:	Balance at bank	313.96
		_____
		413.96

**Notes**

Yate United Charities funds are managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.  
The latest statement of fund valuation was at 31 December 2006 and is as follows:

A/C No 453180001B	£528.11
A/C No 453180001T	£470.10
A/C No 453180002T	£3145.99
<b>Total holdings as at 31 December 2006 - £4144.20</b>	

## **Annual Report from Councillor Ruth Davis 2006/7**

(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 cabinet, as leader of South Gloucestershire council. The council is run by a three-party administration and the other two leaders are both deputy leaders of council.

The consensus budget this year was again difficult to agree as we believed we needed to spend a further £3.6 million to protect existing services and provide extra ones that were needed, partly due to the increase in numbers and cost of looking after the elderly and those with learning difficulties and having to build up funds to cover waste disposal fines anticipated in the future, despite residents' fantastic achievements at recycling, being one of the highest recycling areas in the country.

We are awaiting final plans for the town centre developments. Tesco want to replace their store now and the plans for the replacement health centre including the new children's centre and enhanced outpatient facilities are progressing and we hope to hear soon whether the library can be extended.

There are two housing development sites in the ward that are likely to be progressed shortly, the Sea Stores site and Cooper's in Westerleigh Road. With regard to both sites local residents have had input (eventually) in to the concept statements and we are waiting to see the final proposals.

Councillor Ruth Davis

April 2007

## **Annual Report from Councillor Sue Walker 2006/07**

(South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate Central Ward)

At South Gloucestershire Council as Chair of the International Committee I have been pleased with the changes we have introduced. Instead of regular lunchtime meetings, the Committee is hosting 2 or 3 large events throughout the year which are attended by a whole range of different groups who have European or International Connections. It gives groups the opportunity to share information and expertise and encourage one another.

I also serve on the Licensing, Regulatory and General Purposes Committee at South Gloucestershire Council. This year has also been busy with more changes in licensing laws particularly relating to casino and gambling.

Most of the time I spend on casework relates to concerns about parking outside and around schools. Residents are also concerned about litter in and around the town centre – particularly the roundabouts and along the Link Road.

Another common complaint relates to lack of dog bins and not emptying them frequently enough. Please phone StreetCare 86800 to log complaints.

The state of the Leisure Centre continues to cause concern and I have spoken to the Chief Executive of the Leisure Trust several times. The recent decision to put in a hairdressers to raise extra revenue in rent has been criticised and is an example of The Trust being out of touch with users and local opinion. The Trust and South Gloucestershire Council will need to invest substantially in the building to improve things, particularly the changing rooms and pool area.

I have continued my involvement with the U3A (University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age). It now has 400 members and over 20 different activity groups, coffee mornings, theatre, languages, book clubs, walking, curry club, arts, computers, music, history etc. It has a strong committee and some excellent group leaders and the first AGM was well attended.

The one way system in Eggshill Lane is still a problem. After liaison with the local police, the motor police and highways, the police have been concentrating their efforts on the area in an attempt to stop motorists ignoring the one way signs.

The Common is managed by South Gloucestershire and in part, by Yate Town Council with considerable input from the Friends of the Common. There is pressure from all quarters, dog owners, walkers, cyclists, the disabled, group event organisers, grazing etc. Those involved seem to work really well together to strike a good balance and reports on the birds, wildlife, flora and fauna are very encouraging. Congratulations to all involved.

Lack of activity from the Youth Service is disappointing, the whole town is really crying out for more youth work, both formal and outreach. Lack of activities for young people comes out over and over again both in resident's surveys and on the doorstep.

Community Transport has been a great concern to both individual users and groups. The committee have taken on board comments and have explained that internal changes, plus their move to new premises, should enable them to improve their performance and extend their service.

Councillor Sue Walker, April 2007

## **Annual report from Councillor Ian Blair 2006/07**

(South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate West Ward)

I have served on the following South Gloucestershire 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

Recently I took part in the preparation by the Department for Children & Young People of its application for Beacon Status in School Improvement and in conjunction with the PTC Beacon Status in Healthy Schools. The department achieved the award in both areas.

With other members of the Select Committee I took part in a review of how the department is prepared to provide the Youth Offer. The review found that while the service provided was good the provision was not evenly spread. Recommendations were made to the Cabinet that further work was needed to audit the Youth Provision across the authority and bring options for improvement.

I have continued to serve on the Development Control Committee covering this area and also on the Licensing and General Purposes Committee.

As Local Member for Yate West I have met regularly with the local Community Safety Group. However, as a result of changes to Ward Boundaries, Yate West will no longer exist as a district ward. The Community Safety Group will no longer be a separate committee but will form part of the new Safer Stronger Community Group that will cover all of Yate.

As a member of the Corporate Select Committee I have been scrutinising the process of the recent transfer of the Council's housing stock. This has been a very big decision for the Council and a reluctant one.

I have been happy to serve as a councillor for Yate both at district and town level. I hope to continue to represent Yate after 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Councillor Ian Blair  
April 2007

## **Annual report from Councillor Mike Drew 2006/07**

(South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate West Ward)

South Gloucestershire 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 did not fully fund it.

I am increasingly concerned about the 'Cabinet' model of decision taking. The government effectively imposed this model on the Council – the alternatives concentrated power in even fewer people. I have to say that I do not think it is a good idea. The previous model, now banned by central government, had decisions taken by committees, with all parties represented on all committees. That meant there were 70 Councillors all involved in direct decision making. Officers had to convince a majority of members that what they wanted to do was a good idea. Now, they only have to convince the Executive Member for a particular service. Cabinet is supposed to oversee everything, but that is an impossible task for 9 people, each with their own Executive Brief. We saw in the Cambrian Drive open space issue how difficult it is for cabinet to act as scrutineers – or for ward councillors and the public to have a real impact on decisions. Under the older model I believe there was genuinely more chance of ward councillors and the public influencing decisions.

My main activity this year has been in the setting up of the Merlin Housing Society which has now taken over the housing stock of the council. I have put a lot of time into this as I think it is vital to make sure the interests of our tenants are protected. Now we need to ensure our residents get a share of the proceeds of sale spent locally – and that our former tenants get the improvements Merlin promised. Most councillors, including me, did not want to hand over control of council housing to a Housing Society, but in the end the government's rules on spending meant that the only way to get the repairs and improvements the houses need was to transfer them: the government will allow Housing Societies to borrow money on improving housing but won't let the Council do this.

During the past year I have been on two select committees, various working groups and chair the Area Forum. I am a regular member of the council's Employee Appeal Panel, dealing with staff grievances, dismissals etc. I represent the Authority on the South West Provincial Council, where I am a member of the Employers Management Committee. A year ago I was appointed to the Regional Management Board, a senior body co-ordinating local authority issues across the region, as representative of South West Employers. This may seem remote from the needs of Yate – but throughout my time as a councillor I have firmly believed that if we get employment and personnel practices right, we will be able to empower our staff to do a better job. I'd like to see council employees all focussed upon local residents and their needs – trusting residents to know what they need and keen to use all their resources to provide what communities want. Part of making that dream come to life is getting management and personnel practices right.

I am a member of the Fire Authority.

Councillor Mike Drew  
April 2007

## **Annual report from Councillor Alan Lawrance 2006/07**

(South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate North Ward)

During the past year, in addition to responding to local concerns and issues, I have served on the Development Control East, Licensing and Safer South Gloucestershire Committees as well as the Fairtrade Working Group, Frome Vale Area Forum and Full Council. I have also continued to have a responsibility as one of the Council's representatives on the Avon and Somerset Police Authority.

Local people remain concerned about small but significant issues. They have been troubled by such concerns as thoughtless parking, insensitive planning applications, the future of the shopping centre, a leisure centre that seems to have little interest in young people, anti social behaviour and safety. With my colleague councillors I have attempted to address all concerns in a pro-active manner.

Community Safety has been a focus of much of my activity through the year. As a Member of the Police Authority, where I chair the Professional Standards Committee – monitoring complaints, and also a member of the Performance and Audit and Appointments Committees a great deal of my efforts have been directed to the further development of Neighbourhood Policing.

One of the most positive developments in Neighbourhood Policing during recent years has been the appointment of P.C.S.Os. The Police Authority enthusiastically sought to appoint more than 500 officers, but sadly the Government changed its mind and withdrew funding. The Authority's belief in the positive impact of the officers has meant, despite burdening extra local costs, that more than 400 will still be appointed.

I'm pleased to report that though there is still much to do there has been a vast improvement in the Force's performance both in reducing and investigating crime. South Gloucestershire has its problems but it is in comparison with similar areas throughout the country a relatively safe place in which to live.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the electors of both East and North Yate for selecting me to represent them over the last sixteen years on the Town Council and twelve years on South Gloucestershire Council. Boundary changes have prompted me to stand in another area of Yate in the coming elections and I hope those residents will allow me to serve them for the next four years.

Councillor Alan Lawrance  
April 2007

## **Annual report from Councillor Mike Robbins 2006/07**

(South Gloucestershire Councillor for Yate North Ward)

This is my second enjoyable year as the Vice-Chair and Deputy Mayor of Yate Town Council. I feel very honoured to have held this position and to have supported the Mayor on her busy schedule.

Being a member of the Environment and Planning Committee, the Finance and General Purpose Committee and the Yate North Ward Member of South Gloucestershire Council, has presented problems that the given pleasure when solved and frustration when, usually through lack of finance, have remained unresolved.

The recurring maintenance problems of hedges, footpaths, cycleways and roads are restricted by lack of funds. Company litter in particular sometimes make you wonder how the managers live in private when they allow their companies packaging waste to be distributed across the countryside by the four winds. Waste is an ever increasing problem which we have to solve. The amount of food waste we create amounts to 6.7 million tons, a third of all we buy ends up in the waste bin, food waste accounts of about one fifth of our domestic waste (up to 2% in two years). The real issue in the creation of this waste are the carbon emissions and the associated effects on climate change in the future. We have a chance to make a difference.

In the field of packaging the enormous amount of plastic waste that is not biodegradable usually ends up decorating the hedgerows and streams of South Gloucestershire which is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It will need a concerted effort by all of us to redress. Plastic recycling is a must.

We complain about the rates but without waste control they will get higher. Councils are looking to increase their recycling rates for household rubbish from 27% to 40% by 2010. South Gloucestershire Council is already there. The people of South Gloucestershire are leaders in the field of recycling and we already recycle 40% but with plastic we need to be much better. The government is aiming to impose fines of £150 per ton on land fill waste in excess of agree limits - this we do not want to pay for.

Another area which has concerned me and to which I have devoted time, is the improvement of hospital facilities in South Gloucestershire. A recent achievement I was able to contribute to was the withdrawal of the proposed closure of Cossham Hospital and the setting aside of £13000.000 towards the development of the Yate Community Hospital which will cause some disruption but will be a tremendous asset in the long term. Another problem that needs resolving is the site for the Breast Scan Unit which is vitally important to the neighbourhood.

I have mentioned a few of the things in which I have been involved. Finally I would like to say the local environment has been a great concern - the dumping of lorry loads of tyres on public footpaths. If seen please take down the lorry number and report it to the Council. The Ridgewoods and the Upper Frome Walkway all have had problems.

The forthcoming plan for the enlarged Tesco's and the improvement to the Shopping Centre by the Dominion Trust and the pursuit of improvements to the Leisure Centre will create a better area for the town. Successful town events like St Georges Day, the Garden Competition; the Christmas Lights and the Music Festival have all been events which I was glad to be involved in.

Councillor Mike Robbins, April 2007

## **Annual Report from Councillor Kay Crowe 2006/07**

(South Gloucestershire Councillor for Dodington Ward)

I am a South Gloucestershire councillor for Dodington Ward, which includes part of Yate; the Abbotswood area.

On South Gloucestershire council I serve on the Licensing Regulatory and General Purposes Committee, which deals with almost all types of licenses. I am also on the Development Control East (planning) committee, which covers this half of South Gloucestershire and also on the Community Care, Housing and Health Select Committee, and on the panel which appoints school governors throughout South Gloucestershire.

In my own ward I'm a member of the Abbotswood Action group which is trying to improve the environment around the shops and flats. We recently organised a litter clear up to draw attention to this. I'm also a governor of the local Abbotswood Primary School.

In the Yate area, I'm the South Gloucestershire representative on the Yate Library Consultative Committee. The library has applied for a lottery grant to improve and extend the library on its existing site. I attend the meetings of the Yate Town Centre Strategy Group which is attempting to influence the development of the town centre. As a South Gloucestershire Councillor I attend the local (Frome Vale) area forums which take decisions on local transport schemes and allocate grants to local voluntary organisations, and at which local people can have their say.

I am also a Dodington Parish councillor. We work closely with Yate Town council and South Gloucestershire Council and the Joint Parishes Consultative Committee on local issues, e.g. the Sea Stores development and the proliferation of mobile phone masts, for example.

As a wheelchair user myself I have a strong interest in enabling the disabled to take a full part in normal community activities. I am chairman of the local Access Ability group, and treasurer of the Shop Mobility scheme - you may have seen our electric scooters and wheelchairs in use in the shopping centre.

Councillor Kay Crowe  
April 2007

## **Annual Report from Councillor Tony Davis 2006/07**

(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 Co-ordination 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.

I am involved in the group looking at the future of street lighting.

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  
April 2007

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