



Brixham Town Council Annual Report 2015 – 2016

Published May 2016



Message from the Chairperson

The past year has been a very busy time for Brixham Councillors as well as staff. Last May saw the election of seven new Councillors as well as seeing newly appointed Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk not long in their posts. Their job made even more difficult for them due to being without an Admin Assistant for a long period of time.

The new Councillors soon settled in and have made a magnificent improvement to the Council. Throughout the year Councillors and staff have among many other things, been working hard to reduce the running costs of the Town Hall; achieving significant savings in water bills and negotiating better terms from gas and electricity suppliers plus a full electrical safety check of the whole building as well as improvement to security.

A new fire escape has been installed as well as upgrading fire safety measures to ensure compliance with latest legislation.

Despite misleading information being sent to the press Brixham Town Council has never had a plan to close the pannier market being held in the Scala Hall. In fact the opposite is the future intention, with long term plans to upgrade the Scala Hall, making it more appealing for future users. A new manager of the Pannier market is now in place along with new people running the cafe. These people have a good vibrant relationship with BTC and are already implementing fresh ideas to take the market into the future.

BTC has been instrumental in the survival of Shoalstone. We have already seen the long term future of the pool more assured by the efforts of Shoalstone Pool Ltd and the Friends of Shoalstone Pool.

Despite the Mayor of Torbay refusing to pass on the Government Support Grant to Brixham we have managed to carry out our commitments as well as balancing our budget.

Christmas saw an even greater turn out for our Lantern parade and firework display. We have also helped support many groups around the town through our grant scheme.

As a Council we have achieved "Fair Trade Town" status as well as "Purple Angel" accreditation for dementia awareness.

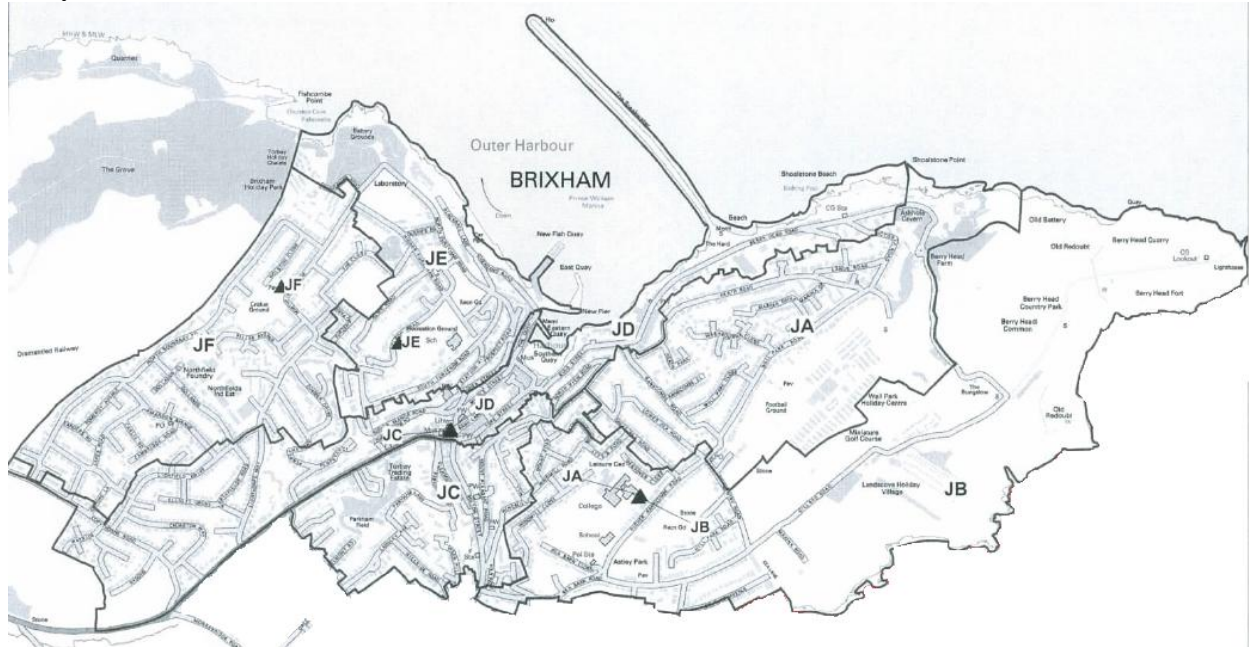
Over the past two years it has been my privilege to have been Chairman of the Council. I have had the honour to represent the Town on many occasions, attending Civic functions, presenting awards and opening ceremonies etc.

I wish to pass on my thanks and gratitude to my fellow Councillors and our staff for all the hard work and support you have given.

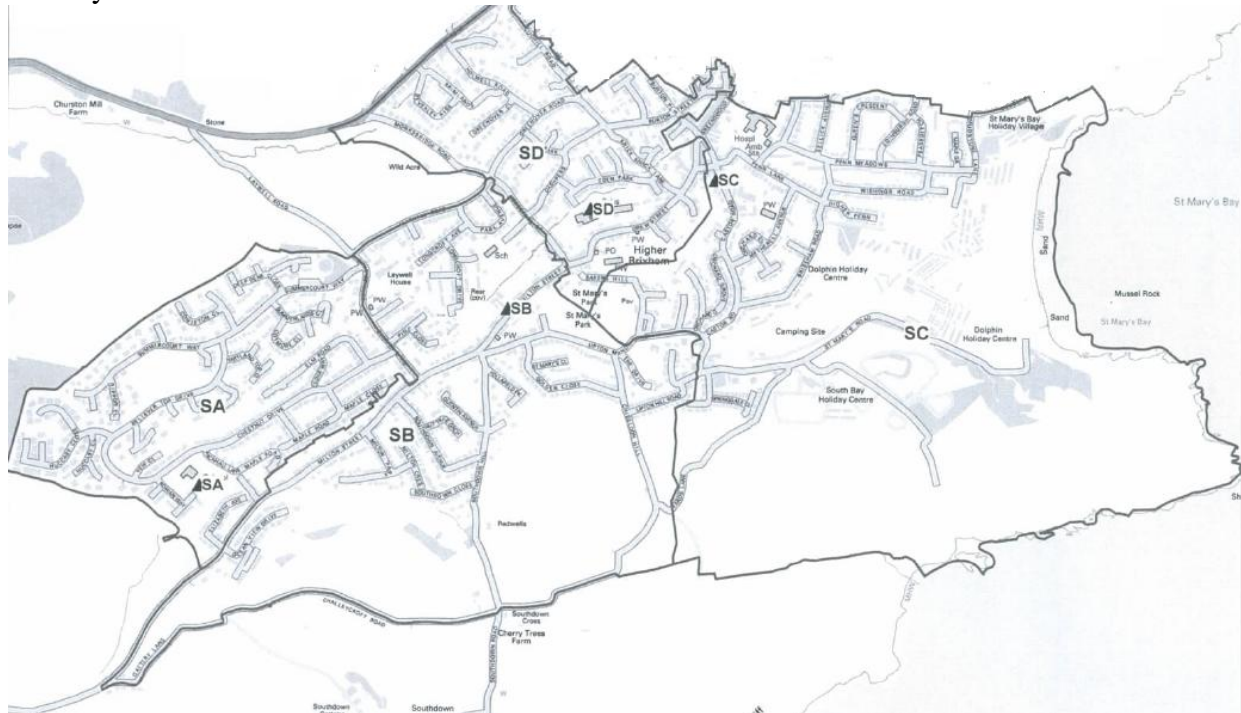
Cllr Paul Addison Brixham Town Council Chairman 2015 – 2016

Ward areas:

Berry Head With Furzeham



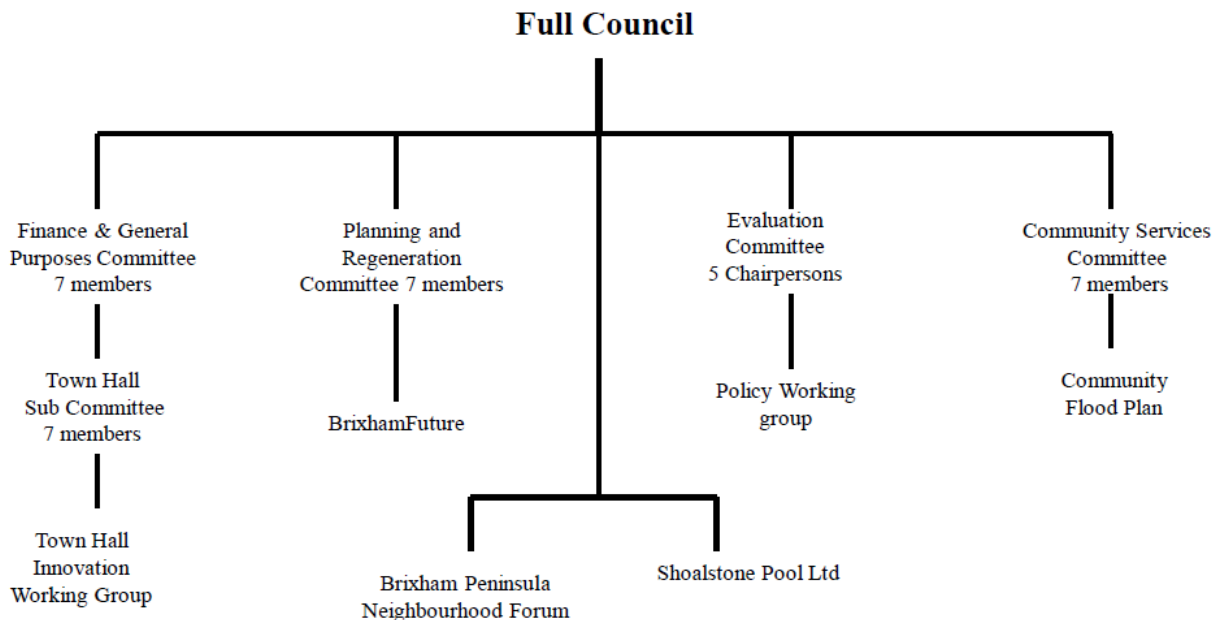
St Marys with Summercombe



The membership of the Town Council:

- Paul Addison *Chairperson 2015/16*
- Victoria Campbell
- Ian Carr
- Rosemary Clarke *Vice Chairperson 2015/16*
- Steve Clutterbuck
- David Giles
- Mike Morey
- Jill Regan
- Jessica Stock
- Jackie Stockman
- Sophie Walker-Haworth
- Jacqui Wilbraham

Committee Structure



The Brixham Signal

In January we saw a change in format for the newsletter which has received good feedback and additional support.

The newsletter is produced by the Town Council staff, issued quarterly and is delivered by Royal Mail. The deadline for submission of articles and information is one month prior to the publication dates of 1st of January, April, July and October. Articles, non political, should be no more than 250 words and can be submitted by any community group in Brixham. Letters are also welcome but would be subject to editorial control for publication.

The number of delivery problems with the Signal is now much less than previously, Brixham Town Council has tried to address these with Royal Mail but with multi occupancy buildings being regarded by Royal Mail as one address and domestic addresses above or in shops being regarded

as business addresses it has been impossible to overcome all issues. Anyone who does not receive a copy of the Signal is encouraged to let the Town Council know via email or phone so that the delivery service can be monitored and improved.

A copy of the newsletter is also available on our website and there are a small number of spare copies kept in the Town Council office.

Allotments

The Town Council undertakes the administration and monitoring of the allotment gardens. Brixham Town Council has a policy of 'one person one plot' to enable those on the waiting list to more readily get an allotment. The Stoney Park Allotment Association works closely with the Town Council with regard to waiting lists and availability.

All Town Council allotment gardens are monitored once a month, except during prolonged periods of bad weather, especially in the winter, and plot holders who are not cultivating their plots adequately are contacted to ensure that no plot falls below standard or into disuse.

There are five Town Council run allotment gardens in Brixham:

1. Dixon's Land, between Alma Rd and Holborn Rd, this has 65 plots.
2. Wall Park, beside Wall Park Football ground, this has 34 plots.
3. Drew Street, this has 11 plots.
4. Mount Pleasant, this has 2 full size plots.
5. Penn Lane, this has 13 plots.

Social Media

There are a number of ways to keep up to date with Brixham Town Council within the Social Media. We have of course an excellent website where you can view all agendas, minutes and reports for each of our meetings. You can also view details of the Neighbourhood Forum and BrixhamFuture meetings and agendas.

The Town Council boasts the additional facility of the Community Events Diary. There has been an increase year on year for this facility and all groups are actively encouraged to use the calendar to advertise their events during the year.

The Town Council also has Facebook, linked in and twitter sites giving notification of forthcoming meetings and events.

Meetings

All meeting dates are advertised in the Brixham Signal and on the Town Council website, they are open to the public and prior to the start of each meeting, members of the public are given an opportunity to speak to the Council.

The Council has held ten Full Council meetings over the past twelve months with an average attendance by Councillors of 87.5%.

	21.05.15	09.07.15	03.09.15	11.06.15	22.10.15	26.11.15	14.01.16	18.02.16	31.03.16	21.04.16	
Paul Addison	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Victoria Campbell	1	A	1	1	1	A	1	A	1	1	70%
Ian Carr	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	90%
Rosemary Clarke	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	90%
Steve Clutterbuck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
David Giles	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Mike Morey	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	90%
Jill Regan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Jessica Stock	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Jackie Stockman	1	A	1	A	A	1	1	A	1	1	60%
Sophie Walker-Haworth	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	A	80%
Jacqui Wilbraham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%

Full Council meeting dates for 2016/17:

All meetings will be held in the Function Room of Brixham Town Hall and commence at 7pm, unless otherwise stated.

16.06.16
21.07.16
01.09.16
13.10.16
17.11.16
12.01.17
16.02.17 (in the Scala Hall)
16.03.17
20.04.17
18.05.17 (Annual Meeting)
25.05.17 (Parish Meeting)

Neighbourhood Plan

Representative – Cllr J Stockman

The Neighbourhood Forum continues to meet regularly at the Town Hall. The plans are being drawn up and will shortly be available for consultation.

Draft sketch plans are available to view at the Town Hall and on the Town Council website. To find out more information about the Neighbourhood Plan, please visit www.brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/brixhampeninsulaighbourhoodplan.php

Planning Committee

Chairperson - Cllr I Carr

It has been a busy year in many respects. Members of the committee, along with other Councillors, were heavily involved in working to take forward BrixhamFuture (currently a working group of the council that the committee is responsible for).

The committee has also been using its voice to comment on planning applications, to make sure development maintains or improves the built environment of the town. In particular, the committee has been proactive in trying to preserve and enhance the town's two conservation areas - specifically Brixham Town Conservation Area, which remains on Heritage England's 'At Risk Register'.

Members of the committee have also been heavily involved in developing the Brixham Peninsular Neighbourhood Plan, which will become an important planning document once adopted following consultation and referendum. Members have also been involved in a group putting together plans for the future regeneration of the town centre following the demise of the Tesco development.

Highways issues have also been high on the agenda, and projects to help improve the town are ongoing, and details of these will hopefully be forthcoming very soon.

Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP)

Chairperson – Cllr J Stock

In setting the BTC budget this year, we have had to consider the continuing cuts that Torbay Council is making across the Bay. We went out to consultation on our own BTC budget to ensure that the areas we focused upon matched as much as possible the priorities of the residents of Brixham. We also made representations direct to Torbay, speaking out against the cuts they were proposing, particularly for the Museum and Connections services.

This year we have updated our reserve policy and introduced further categories into our budget to make the cost centres more transparent. We have also increased the monies in the 2016/17 budget that go directly to support the groups and events that take place within Brixham.

We have continued to make sure that we get best value for all BTC expenditure, considering all payments and contracts, for example we have achieved cost savings by renegotiating the utility bill contracts for the Town Hall.

We have also focused on getting as many of the allotments rented out as possible, ensuring that the rentals are standardized across the allotment fields and that all plots are now measured. We have undertaken maintenance on the water supplies this winter, to reduce the leaks in the system.

With regard to the Town Hall complex, a new group was set up in July last year, the Town Hall Innovation Working Group, whose aim is to take forward the regeneration and redevelopment of the building. We would like as a council to ensure the whole Town Hall centre provides a wide range of facilities to the residents of Brixham, and is used to its full capacity, including Brixham Theatre, the Scala Hall, Brixham Seaworks and the meeting rooms. The group has brought in outside help and experience to take this forward.

We have continued to improve the current situation, increasing security with the fob access system and extended CCTV, and improving the facilities on offer to hirers. We have also been in negotiation with the Pannier Market to ensure its continuation within the Scala Hall.

Grants have been given to:

Group	Amount	Project
All Saints Church	£300.00	Festival of the Sea
BATS	£5,000.00	Part of the rolling programme towards regeneration and rejuvenation of the Theatre
Brixham Foodbank	£2,500.00	Rent and food
Brixham Girlguiding	£500.00	Girlguiding fete
Brixham Heritage Museum	£5,000.00	Consolidation of material to illustration the history of Brixham Town Hall and Theatre
Brixham Pirate Festival	£3,000.00	To help provide entertainment, infrastructure and health & safety
Brixham Society of Arts	£400.00	Assisting with the cost of hiring the Scala Hall.
Indigos Go Wild Youth Club	£1,400.00	BMX lessons to the youth
Youth Genesis	£4,000.00	The Girls Group, Streetbase, The Place Youth Drop-In projects
	£22,100.00	
Grant Budget	£20,000.00	
Transfer from Projects Fund	£2,100.00	
Balance	£0.00	

Friends of Shoalstone Pool were also granted £5,000 from the Shoalstone Pool budget in support of them helping to finance the additional work required to the sea wall.

Members' Allowances

Brixham Town Council ('the Town Council') in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 made the following scheme: Brixham Town Council Members' Allowances Scheme whereby for each year a basic allowance shall be paid to each Councillor and a Councillor may elect to forego any part of his or her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

Allowances paid to Brixham Town Councillors for 2015 -2016 were as follows:

R Clarke	£240.96
V Campbell	£232.98
J Wilbraham	£232.98
J Regan	£232.98

All other Councillors elected to forego their entitlement to an allowance.

The budget categories and amounts were agreed in January 2016 to set the precept for 2015/16.

2015/16 (Unaudited) Accounts

Financial Statement For year end 31st March 2016

		2014/15	2015/16
Receipts			
	Precept	£194,300.00	£223,028.00
	Projects	£17,699.39	£24,720.15
	Allotments	£673.00	£3,964.43
	Other income	£4,639.85	£3,088.49
	Newsletter	£6,856.96	£4,677.48
	Town Hall	£68,379.08	£67,472.07
	Bank interest	£29.03	£300.59
	VAT Charged	£4,839.50	£1,638.67
	VAT Recovered	£24,535.86	£21,663.54
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£321,952.67	£350,553.42
Payments			
	Staff costs	£84,969.86	£75,263.83
	General admin	£8,669.18	£6,887.34
	Insurance	£6,520.15	£3,409.87
	Members allowance	£456.49	£1,089.26
	Civic Service	£1,133.80	£995.50
	Courses & travel	£441.20	£451.80
	Grants	£34,680.88	£22,100.00
	Newsletter	£12,695.05	£13,669.86
	Projects	£16,970.89	£36,115.17
	Seasonal Display	£25,677.24	£34,826.96
	Allotments	£2,694.47	£2,260.29
	Audit	£1,465.00	£1,315.00
	Town Hall	£60,658.46	£56,970.91
	Election	£0.00	£12,204.77
	Rent, Rates & utilities	£36,563.71	£22,859.00
	VAT Paid	£1,681.91	£1,051.94
	VAT Input	£26,217.77	£22,715.48
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£321,496.06	£314,186.98
	Surplus for the year	£456.61	£36,366.44
	General fund b/fwd	£183,875.39	£184,332.00
	General fund c/fwd	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£184,332.00	£220,698.44
	Lloyds Bank		
	Current	£90,394.93	£25,473.75
	Deposit 1	£14.99	£100,028.27
	Deposit2	£100,014.04	£100,596.77
	Petty Cash	£51.88	£66.11
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£190,475.84	£226,164.90

Debtors Control Account: £9,681.78

Creditors Control Account: £7,422.96

The accounts are audited by the internal Auditor, Mr K Abraham and the annual return is submitted to the external auditor. The accounts are then advertised as available to view in the Town Council office.

Budget set for 2016-17

INCOME

Allotments	£3,800.00
Newsletter Advertising	£5,000.00
Projects	£0.00
Christmas	£1,170.00
Shoalstone	£0.00
Town Hall (Rent & Room hire)	£68,152.00
Interest	£0.00
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	£78,122.00
Precept	£233,848.00
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	£311,970.00

EXPENDITURE

General Administration

Audit	£1,500.00
Bank Charges	£0.00
Civic Award	£100.00
Civic Service	£850.00
Courses	£1,000.00
Election Expenses	£13,000.00
Meetings	£1,900.00
Member Allowance	£1,500.00
Newsletter	£11,800.00
Noticeboards	£500.00
Post and Carriage	£1,400.00
Public Notices	£250.00
Staff Salaries inc National Insurance and Pensions	£81,000.00
Stationery	£1,250.00
Subscriptions	£2,500.00
Travel	£400.00
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	£118,950.00

Council Projects

Future Projects (Planning Committee)	£5,000.00
Community Projects Fund	£30,000.00
Youth Council	£2,000.00
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	£37,000.00

<i>Premises</i>	
Town Hall:	
Health and Safety / Fire Prevention / Scheduled Inspections	£16,000.00
Insurance	£4,500.00
Rates	£6,000.00
Repairs and Renewals	£17,550.00
Service Level Agreements	£26,000.00
Utilities	£31,000.00
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	£101,050.00

<i>Community and the Environment</i>	
Allotments	£4,800.00
Community Events	£10,000.00
Grants	£20,000.00
Foodbank	£2,000.00
Seasonal Displays	£28,170.00
Shoalstone Pool	£15,000.00
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	£79,970.00

Total Expenditure	£336,970.00
Less Income	£78,122.00
From Reserves	£25,000.00
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	£233,848.00
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Community Services Committee

Chairperson – Cllr S Clutterbuck

At the first meeting held by the newly elected members we picked up from where the old council left off by putting the finishing touches to the Lanterns, Lights and ‘luminations. This was a great success largely due to the hard work put in by the Town Council Officers. This year’s event planning is now well under way with a change in the format bringing more of the town into play and making it a two day event, including a show in the theatre and events in the Scala Hall as well as street activities.

Over the last 12 months, the Committee has also:

- Re introduced the Chairpersons Cadet, which is designed for a young person within the local youth groups to shadow the Town Councils Chairperson at official functions.
- Reviewed the Outstanding Sports Achievement Award and Civic Award policy.
- Considered introducing a Brixham lengthsman responsible for weeding, cleaning graffiti, grass cutting. Discussions are still ongoing with this and it is hoped a decision will be made shortly.
- Heard a presentation about a community orchard project.
- Looked at Torbay Council assets to see if any are a viable option for the Town Council to run.

Evaluation Committee

Chairperson – Cllr R Clarke

The Evaluation Committee consists of the Chairperson of the Council, Vice Chairperson (who chairs this committee) and the Chairpersons of the other committees. Its role is to evaluate the overall performance of the Town Council and Committees.

The Committee developed a Brixham Town Council strategy for 2016 – 2019 which it put out for consultation. Now that this is in place the Committee can use it to evaluate the performance of the Council. It is using the strategy to develop a work plan for staff.

Over the last year members of the Evaluation Committee have revised and developed required policies and procedures which the Council needs to have in place. These are not just pieces of paper to be filed away. One example is BTC has revised one which addresses training and development of Councillors and staff. By developing their skills and competencies we will deliver a quality service to our local community.

The following existing Policies, Procedures, Protocols and strategies were revised:

- Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Data Protection
- Financial Risk Assessment
- Lone Working
- Member Officer Protocol
- Reserves Strategy
- Training Statement of Intent:
- Use of e-mail, internet, telephone and social media

The following Policies, Procedures, Protocols and strategies were produced:

- Anti Bribery Policy
- Brixham Town Centre managed sites policy, guide, terms and conditions
- Environmental Policy
- Registration of Gifts and Hospitality Policy
- Press and Media Policy
- Recruitment Policy
- Staff Appraisal Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

At each meeting members discuss information from the Town Clerk of the workings of the office which they have found useful. An update on personnel matters is also provided. In addition the Committee has recruited a part time Admin Assistant.

Shoalstone Pool Limited

Representative: Cllr S Walker-Haworth

It has been a big year for Shoalstone Pool Limited, full of exciting developments but certainly not without its challenges!

There were some issues with recruitment and staff performance at the start of the 2015 summer season, but these were very successfully resolved with the appointment of a great duty manager for the pool who, with the support of the directors, oversaw an impressive team of young lifeguards.

The weather last summer also proved challenging, with grey days and rain meaning that visitor numbers were down – and donations took a similar hit.

None of this stopped the pool remaining open though, and on sunny days there were an abundance of people enjoying the facility. It remained a popular location for local children at the end of the school day, and also for more serious swimmers, especially early in the mornings. Highlights of last year included the Fun Day, organized by Sam and the lifeguard team, with performances from local musicians, a variety of stalls, and all sorts of fun and games in the pool itself.

Shoals Cafe on the Lido also launched successfully, adding another dimension to the site and drawing people in with its menu featuring lots of Brixham fish from breakfast through to evening meals.

As the summer drew to a close, attention turned to sustainability and the improvements that needed to be made to keep the pool open in the future. The board of directors split into working groups tackling areas including operations, fundraising, financial procedures and recruitment, welcoming volunteers from the community to add their expertise to the discussions.

In December, we successfully bid for funding from the Coastal Revival Fund, kickstarting a programme of renovation and improvement works which has recently drawn to a close in time for the 2016 summer season. The work that has been done includes the renovation of the pool floor and the pool surrounds, extensions to the railings, enhancements to several of the changing cubicles and the installation of a shower for pool users. There is still much that could be done to improve the pool further, but this work has gone a long way to restoring the pool to its former glory and creating a top class destination for locals and tourists alike.

Everything is now in place for the start of the summer season, with the pool due to open on 28th May. SPL is continuing to work to secure Shoalstone's long term future, with efforts focused particularly at the moment on registering the pool as a Community Asset and converting to registered charity status as well as exploring further sources of funding – both from grants and revenue from poolside activities.

As has been the case for many years, the support and hard work of the Friends of Shoalstone Pool has been instrumental in all of this, and we are extremely thankful for their ongoing efforts. Thank you also to the many other volunteers who give up their time and energy to help keep the pool open for everyone.

Here's to a summer full of sunshine and swimming at our glorious local lido!

BrixhamFuture

Representative: Cllr D Giles

BrixhamFuture is currently a working group of Brixham Town Council but will eventually become a Community Interest Company (CIC).

As was the case when the original group was formed making the arrangements for the new company is taking a little time to resolve but the company will broadly be based on the agreement

reached with Brixham Town Council in June 2015 which recognises that BTC is the lead organisation in regeneration in the community and that all projects are to be agreed between the parties and other agencies and partners where necessary.

Even in the short period since this agreement was reached BrixhamFuture has already delivered a fully costed scheme for the provision of Solar Powered Belly Bins in Brixham, which BTC resolved to support at Full Council on 22nd October 2015.

This project is now with Torbay Council, where Nigel Makin of BrixhamFuture and Councillor David Giles recently attended a Waste Work Stream meeting where further progress was made regarding the proposal. There remains a very long way to go at this point, with no certain outcome but BrixhamFuture met the challenge that the council set for them to deliver a project in 2015 and this augurs well as the group moves forward.

In March 2016 the group led the SPRING CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN day. The event was a successful collaboration with Brixham Chamber of Commerce, Brixham Community Partnership, Brixham Town Council and Pride in Brixham and many individuals and businesses also lent their assistance on the day.

The present membership are all volunteer townspeople with a wide variety of backgrounds, including tourism, fundraising, retail, engineering, project management and community business managements and consists of John Brennan, Sara Caselton-Bone, Keith Dodd, Janet Howard, Nigel Makin and Pauline Neal.

Additional interest has been received from other parties who want to lend their assistance to the regeneration work in our community.

The group will continue with its task of prioritising, evaluating and recommending regenerational and development ideas to the Town Council and other partners as well as being free to develop and deliver projects of their own under the joint BF/BTC agreement.

Three Town Councillors and invited guests also attend each of the sessions which at this stage are all workshops, but a new format is being discussed for public meetings and news will follow on this subject at a later date.

If you are interested in joining BrixhamFuture ideally you will bring to the table some or all of the qualities listed below:-

- a love of Brixham and a passion to play a part in its future development
- a skill set that will include at least one of the following elements - planning, project management, business management and/or management accounting, media, youth or community work, marketing and fund raising.
- attendance at 8-10 workshops per year plus any additional public events.

If you can offer any or all of the above to the future progress of the group please contact Sara.caseltonbone@gmail.com, dgdmvc@hotmail.co.uk_or you can contact the Town Clerk who will pass on your details to the group.

BrixhamFuture has built strong links with existing organisations such as the Neighbourhood Forum, Brixham Chamber of Commerce, Brixham Community Partnership, Torbay Council and the Torbay Development Agency already and invite you to join them too in this exciting enterprise.

Fairtrade

Representative: Cllr R Clarke

Brixham became a Fairtrade Town in Feb 2015. It is something the Brixham Fairtrade Working Group had worked towards and is only given when a reasonable amount of criteria has been fulfilled. It shows that a significant amount of establishments (businesses, cafes, shops, schools, churches, local groups, etc), are supporting Fairtrade. They do this by committing to selling, serving and/or using Fairtrade products. It shows that as a group we are active within the community, putting on events and raising awareness. This is great news and we are now able to promote and publicise our award and hopefully attract more interest in what Fairtrade is about and why it is important.

Throughout the year as well as holding meetings the Group has given a presentation on Fairtrade to ACE group meeting; presented pledge certificates to a number of establishments including YES and the first B&B to support Fairtrade; held a Fairtrade coffee morning to celebrate One World week; continued to visit new Cafes to talk about using Fairtrade products; produced a leaflet; took part in Christmas lantern parade dressed as Fairtrade bananas and had a stall at the Christmas market in Scala Hall.

In May a number of people, young and older as well as members of BFWG produced peddle powered Fairtrade smoothies. The bike was made by students at the South Devon College as a fun way of promoting Fairtrade fruit. Fun it proved to be as peddlers put all their effort into getting the pedals going while the fruit and juice were blended into one!

The Group is producing a directory of businesses, cafes, shops, schools, churches, local groups, etc, which are supporting Fairtrade. The Group is looking forward to having its own banner produced from a design from pupils from Brixham Church of England primary school.

As in previous years, Fairtrade Fortnight in February and March was used to 'spread the word' by holding events. A 'Shared Fairtrade supper' was held and 3 short films from the Fairtrade Foundation were shown. Five Cafes signed up to take part in 'Fairtrade BIG breakfast' by offering a Fairtrade Breakfast at sometime during Fairtrade Fortnight. They were The Guardhouse Café, Millie & Me, Oats, Port Espresso and West Country Deli. A new member joined the Group and held a successful Fairtrade coffee morning at her home.

The Group is booked to have a display in the foyer of Brixham Library for Fri 6 to Fri 20 May.

So please continue to support the work to which Brixham Fairtrade Working Group are voluntarily committed by, whenever possible, buying Fairtrade goods from our local Cafes and shops, and thereby helping people in other countries to obtain a better quality of life. If you would like to get involved in Brixham's Fairtrade campaign or to register yourself as a Fairtrade outlet in the directory, please get in touch via our Secretary, Rosemary Clarke, on clarke1959ra@gmail.com. Or Join us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/fairtradebrixham>

Community Flood Plan

Representative: Cllr R Clarke

600 properties are at risk of flooding in Brixham. Flooding can be devastating. There have been several major flood events within Brixham over the years. Heavy rainfall in 2004 caused the Higher Brixham Watercourse to flood 15 properties. 13 properties were flooded in October 1993 when a flash flood resulted in a 2 foot wall of water. In Brixham, there is a high risk of flash

flooding from rivers, surface water and from combined sewers overflowing, as well as coastal flooding.

Following a presentation to Brixham Town Council members were keen to support the development of a flood plan and nominated two Councillors as a point of contact. A 'Drop in information day' was held and a number of volunteers were recruited to produce a flood plan. Representatives of Torbay Council, the Environment Agency and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue worked with the volunteers.

As well as working to produce the flood plan volunteers produced a leaflet for householders to raise understanding of the local flood risk and what people can do to prepare which were hand-delivered to properties at risk of flooding.

A core group of volunteers produced Brixham Community Resilience Flood Plan. The aim of this flood plan is to increase resilience within the local community through developing a robust co-ordinated approach to flooding that compliments the plans of responding agencies. A copy is available in the library and Town Hall.

Advice on what to do before, during and after a flood is on the Town Council website, along with an Emergency Telephone Directory that lists who does what during a flood and their emergency contact numbers.

Please continue to support the Flood Plan group. If you would like to get involved in the Group or volunteer to be a Flood Warden or a member of the Community Emergency Response Team, please get in touch via the Town Clerk.

Strategy Working Group

Representative: Cllr D Giles

The group, consisting of Councillors Ian Carr, Rosemary Clarke, Jessica Stock, Sophie Walker-Haworth and myself met through the summer and early autumn of 2015 to continue and complete work on a Town Council Strategy Document that had its genesis in the previous council prior to May 2015.

Following input from fellow councillors the document went out for public consultation in the autumn of 2015.

It was pleasing to note that some ideas which were subsequently put forward by members of the public were added to the document before its adoption by Full Council in December 2015 and it is now available for viewing on the council's website which can be found at www.brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Brixham Town Council continues to welcome comments and ideas from members of the public which will reinforce and build upon the Strategy Document, which covers the period 2016-2019, but have already begun work on several fronts to take the strategy forward.

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