

To receive a report from the Beating of the Bounds Working Group and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Report to: Full Town Council

Date of Report: 04.08.25

Working Group Writing the Report: Martin Lister and Cllrs Pete Samuels, Brian Stoyel, Julia Peggs, Rachel Bullock

Working Group Recommendations:

Members are asked to consider:

1. Approve the 2025–26 Beating of the Bounds event, scheduled for Saturday, 11 October 2025, with participants meeting at Waitrose car park at 10:30am.
2. Extend invitations to the Mayor's Chaplain Reverend Laura Bushell-Hawke, other local clergy, and the Town Crier to participate in the event activities.
3. Contact Botus Fleming Church to request their support in opening the church for the event providing light refreshments and history of the church.
4. Contact Botus Fleming Parish Council to request their approval for the Mayor to wear the chain of office when crossing the boundary.
5. Grant permission for the use of the Town Seals on promotional materials related to the event.
6. Approve ticket pricing at £5 per person, with tickets available for purchase from the library with immediate effect.
7. Approve an initial ticket allocation of 45 tickets. Should demand exceed this number, the Mayor will make a decision based on health and safety compliant, subject to final approval by the Assistant to the Clerk.
8. Approve complimentary tickets for the Mayor's Chaplain and her family, other clergy and their families, and any special guests as approved by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
9. Approve the use of Isambard House for free and for Councillor B. Samuels to provide homemade scones, including gluten-free options, with appropriate food hygiene certification confirmed.
10. The Mayor to contact BBC Spotlight to invite media coverage of the event.
11. Request Service Delivery to ensure boundary stones are maintained, accessible for the event, reporting any health and safety concerns directly to the Assistant to the Clerk.
12. Service Delivery Manager to conduct a site visit to carry out a Risk Assessment ahead of the event.
13. Approve that Saltash Town Council will absorb any outstanding costs should the event run at a loss, with expenses allocated to budget code 6230 PF Social Media Advertising.

14. Note that bus transport will be available for individuals unable to walk part or all of the route.
15. Note that a sufficient number of qualified first aiders will be required to ensure the event is conducted safely. This will be determined based on ticket sales.
16. Note that Saltash Rotary kindly offered their support route Marshalls for road crossings.

Report Summary

So what is Beating the Bounds?

Beating the bounds is an ancient custom which is still observed in some English and Welsh parishes in England. The custom dates from Anglo-Saxon times, as it is mentioned in laws of Alfred the Great. It was often followed by an ale feast which guaranteed its popularity.

A group of old and young members of the community would walk the boundaries of the parish, usually led by the parish priest and church officials, to share the knowledge of where they lay, and to pray for protection and blessings for the lands.

There are records of Saltash Beating the Bounds in 1871 and in 1890. It was the custom for both the Mayor and Town Clerk to be bumped on the first and last stone

Beating the Bounds is an annual event in many places in the country, Liskeard for example do this event every year.

Since the 1930's, Saltash only 'Beat the Bounds' on special occasions like jubilees and coronation years. Due to the popularity of the last few events, we have decided to make it an annual event again. For those of you who have never attended it, I recommend it, it's a quirky, historic day out.

Details of event:

- The date of the event is Saturday, 11th October 2025
- People will meet at the Waitrose car park side of the Waitrose bridge at 10.30am - I have asked Waitrose for permission; they are happy for us to congregate there but have asked for people to not park in the car park.
- The walk will take approximately 4 hours passing through Moditonham Quay, Botus Fleming, Hatt and Notter Bridge. The walk is approximately 5 miles.
- The Town Crier attended last year and made a declaration at the first and last stone. It would be lovely to have the town crier again.
- For those wishing to take part, but are unable to walk the route, a bus will be available to drive those passengers so they can still participate, like last year's event. The bus will be waiting in Waitrose car park at 10.30am.
- Last year, the Botus Fleming residents opened up their church hall for tea and cake, asking for donations. Eric Distin to be contacted again to see if they would like to offer this
- There are 5 boundary stones in which the walkers will pass. At the first and last stone there will be a blessing from the priest and a declaration from the Town Crier, before Mayor and other members of the walk are "bounced".
- At Notter Bridge the walkers will stop for a brief rest, a picnic or a drink/snack in the pub if they wish. The Notter Bridge Inn will be informed of this event like last time. We will suggest to participants that they take a picnic and plenty of drink for their journey.

- At 2.30pm the walkers will be collected from Notter by the Saltash Red Bus. The buses will transport us all to St Germans for the final leg of the trip. In the past we have hired 3 Red Buses which hold 45 people in total. I have spoken to Red Bus and they now have more buses, so we can potentially open this up to more people.
- At St Germans we will then catch the train back to Saltash.
- The day will end in Isambard House with a scones and cream for the participants. Brenda has kindly offered to make scones like last time.
- The Saltash Red Bus will be on standby for anyone wishing to return to Carkeel after the event if need be.

Key Facts

- Saturday 11th October 2025
- To be held every year
- Start at Waitrose (Waitrose notified)
- £5 a ticket not including rail travel
- Walkers purchase their own train tickets St Germans to Saltash
- Full route
- Notter Bridge refreshments – notify them of walk
- Red Bus to accompany except in very restrictive areas
- Bus to St Germans from Notter Bridge
- Red Bus back to Waitrose from Isambard House
- Saltash Rotary Club to supply route Marshalls for road crossings
- Isambard House refreshments Scones etc from Brenda etc
- Arrange brief stopover at Botus Fleming church hall for refreshments, contact Eric Distin
- Martin Lister to provide running commentary
- Rev Laura to provide blessings
- Risk Assessment provided by STC as per last year
- Service Delivery team to ensure 'stones' accessible
- Dogs permitted on leads

Event costing:

The hire of Saltash Red buses still waiting for costings from Saltash Red Bus. Last year they charged £75 for their 4 buses, which restricted us to 45 walkers. This year they have more buses so we could potentially sell more tickets.

There will be no costing prior to the event. Saltash Red Bus are happy to invoice the council after the event.

Ticket prices:

Due to the current economic climate, the working group decided tickets would be sold at £5 per adult, under 13s are £1 each child. This means that the event could potentially run at a loss. The tickets will be sold from the library and on Eventbrite.

Admin to take on the role of setting up Eventbrite, tickets and contacting landowners for permission as well as Botus Parish Council for permission to wear the chains.

We have 2 options:

- 1) Charge £5 a ticket and any losses can come from our events funding.
- 2) Charge more for the tickets so the Council does not incur any expenses. This could mean that less people would attend the event.

I would like this to be decided at the FTC meeting.

I am also seeking permission from the council to use the town seals in the advertising of this event. The town seals are on some of the boundary stones, so I think it is only right that we use them on the posters.

Risk assessment:

A risk assessment was created for the event last October. This risk assessment can be used for this same event.

Report Images



Gordon Bellingham, Town Clerk is bumped upside down on the boundary stone at Notter Bridge



Master Davy is bumped on the new boundary stone in 1934 (this is by the Croft on the A388)



Cllr Julia Peggs being bounced on the first stone last year



Cllr Richard Bickford being bounced







Budgets

Budget Availability: £963

Budget Codes: 6230 PF Social Media Advertising Budget remaining

Committed Spend: £90.00

How Does This Meet the Business Plan?

Beating of the Bounds is an historic event which meets the Boosting Jobs and Economic Prosperity strategic priority by promoting the town as a vibrant and welcoming visitor destination. It supports the Recreation and Leisure priority by providing cultural activities and acknowledges our unique position on the Tamar and Lynher Rivers. It's an event that appeals to both locals and visitors bringing people to the town.

End of Report