

## **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:** 22.06.26

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

### **Working Group Recommendations:**

Members are asked to consider:

1. Approving the event to take place on Saturday, 3 October 2026, with participants meeting at Waitrose car park at 10:30am.
2. Inviting the Mayor's Chaplain and family, with complimentary tickets provided for them, together with the Mayor and Mayoress.
3. Providing delegated authority to the Administration Department to obtain the necessary permissions for the Mayor to wear the Chains of Office when visiting other parishes and securing consent from relevant landowners for access across private land.
4. Approving that ticket prices for 2026 remain at £5 per adult and £1 for children under 13, with tickets available for purchase from the Saltash Library Hub from 1 August 2026.
5. Approving an initial allocation of 45 tickets, inclusive of complimentary tickets.  
  
Should demand exceed this number, delegated authority be given to the Mayor to determine whether additional tickets can be made available, subject to compliance with health and safety requirements, the availability of the red bus, and final approval by the Office Manager/ Assistant to the Town Clerk.
6. Approving free use of Isambard House, with Cllr B. Samuels to supply homemade (including gluten-free) scones, subject to confirmed food hygiene certification, with Town Council coverage of ingredient costs (Approx £40).
7. Requesting Service Delivery ensure boundary stones are maintained and accessible for the event and report any health and safety concerns directly to the Town Clerk.
8. Delegating to the working group working with the Mayor's Secretary to review and approve the events risk assessment, displaying on the Town Council website and Fore Street noticeboard once tickets go on sale.
9. Approving the hire of four Saltash Red Buses at a cost yet to be confirmed (noting the 2025 cost was £75 per bus), to be allocated to budget code 6202 Civic Occasions.
10. To confirm the requirement for two qualified first aiders, equipped with a Town Council first aid kit. Attending Town Councillors with valid first aid qualifications will be invited to fulfil this role. Should no suitably qualified individuals be available, a member of staff will be requested to attend, with additional hours approved.
11. Delegating to the Communications Department to advertise the event, using the town seals on all promotional material and extend invites to all media to attend.

12. To appoint the Town Crier to attend to deliver the cry at cost of £25 to be allocated to budget code 6202 Civic Occasions.
13. To approve that Saltash Town Council will meet any shortfall should the event operate at a loss, with any such expenditure charged to budget code 6202 Civic Occasions.

## **Report Summary**

Beating the Bounds is an ancient custom still observed in some English and Welsh parishes. Dating back to Anglo-Saxon times, it is referenced in the laws of Alfred the Great. Traditionally, the event was often followed by an ale feast, which undoubtedly contributed to its popularity.

The custom involved members of the community, both young and old, walking the parish boundaries, usually led by the parish priest and church officials. The purpose was to pass on knowledge of the parish boundaries to future generations and to offer prayers for the protection and prosperity of the land.

Records show that Beating the Bounds took place in Saltash in 1871 and again in 1890. It was customary for both the Mayor and Town Clerk to be ceremonially “bumped” on the first and last boundary stones.

## **Details of event to take place on Saturday 3 October 2026**

Tickets for the Beating of the Bounds event will be available for purchase from the Saltash Library Hub from 1 August.

Ticket prices have been set at £5 for adults and £1 for children under 13 years of age.

### **Timeline for 3 October event:**

#### **10:20:**

- Participants will meet at 10.30am on the Waitrose bridge side of the Waitrose car park, subject to permission being granted by Waitrose.

#### **10:30 – 14:30:**

- The walk will be led by local historian Martin Lister and will follow a route of approximately five miles, taking around four hours to complete.
- The route will pass through Moditonham Quay, Botus Fleming, Hatt and Notter Bridge.
- A refreshment stop will be provided at Botus Fleming Church.
- Saltash Rotary Club has kindly offered to provide route marshals for the event, including a rear marker, to assist in keeping the group together throughout the walk.
- To ensure the event remains accessible, a bus will be available for participants who are unable to complete the walking route. The bus will depart from the Waitrose car park at 10.30am and will enable passengers to take part in the day’s activities.

- Participants will pass five boundary stones along the route. At both the first and final boundary stones, the Mayor's Chaplain will give a blessing. If the Town Crier is in attendance, a formal declaration will be made before the Mayor, followed by the traditional "bouncing" ceremony.
- A short rest break will be taken at Notter Bridge, where participants may choose to enjoy a picnic or purchase refreshments from the public house. The Notter Bridge Inn will be notified of the event in advance.

### **Approximately 14.30pm:**

- Participants will be collected from Notter by the Saltash Red Bus and transported to St Germans for the final stage of the event.
- Participants will then travel by train from St Germans to Saltash, with train fares payable separately on the day and not included within the ticket price.
- The event will conclude at Isambard House, where participants will be served a traditional cream tea.
- A Red Bus will be available from Isambard House at the close of the event for those requiring transport back to Waitrose.

### **Budgets**

**Budget Availability:** £4,583.33

**Budget Code:** 6202 Civic Occasions

**Committed Spend:** Approx £2,000 (dependent on Remembrance associated costs)

### **How Does This Meet the Business Plan?**

Beating of the Bounds is a historic event that supports the Council's strategic priorities in several ways. It contributes to the Boosting Jobs and Economic Prosperity priority by promoting the town as a vibrant and welcoming destination for visitors. The event also supports the Recreation and Leisure priority by providing a unique cultural and heritage-based activity that celebrates the town's history and its distinctive location on the Tamar and Lynher Rivers. Appealing to both residents and visitors, the event encourages participation, attracts people to the town, and helps strengthen community engagement while supporting the local economy.

**Councillor Rachel Bullock**  
**Beating of the Bounds working group**

## 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)*



*Jack is "bounced" on the same stone last year, 92 years later*



*Last year's Beating the Bounds*

*The Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Daphne Skinnard and her partner along with former mayor Cllr Rachel Bullock and her consort Matthew Bullock*



*Participants at Moditonham Quay last year*



Walkers heading to Pillaton



The last stone at Notter Bridge



Waiting for the train to Saltash at St Germans



Participants enjoy a well-deserved cream tea at Isambard House