

I am Duncan Hounsell of the Saltford Liberal Democrats. **Saltford Brass Mill** in The Shallows, Saltford, is a gem of 18<sup>th</sup> century industrial heritage and is of international interest among academics and researchers. It has a “European” dimension with the technology, once cutting-edge, and manpower coming at one time from the German and Belgian borders. The building, a listed building and a scheduled ancient monument, is held on a long lease by B&NES Council. There is a small band of volunteers who put up interpretation displays, open the building for visitors, do routine husbandry, and provide educational talks on the history of the Brass Mill.

This B&NES administration has shown commendable interest in the Saltford Brass Mill. Council Leader, Cllr Paul Crossley, visited in 2012. This led to important surveys being undertaken on the structure, asbestos, and the electrical system. Deficiencies in the electrical system were identified and the Mill was closed to casual visitors as a consequence. Cllr Bellotti and Cllr Stevens visited the Brass Mill last Summer and were impressed by the potential of the site. The volunteers were delighted to hear from Sir Graham Watson MEP on his tour of the Brass Mill in January this year that Cllr Bellotti was committed to the repair of the damaged roof making it watertight **and** a re-wiring of the electrics with a May target.

I and the volunteer team would welcome an update from Cllr Bellotti with information about the extent of the works, the likely completion date, the size of the investment by B&NES Council, and whether the work will be sufficient for the re-opening of the Mill to visitors. The volunteers are willing to undertake any Health and Safety work within their capacity if required. It is the opening of the Mill to visitors that motivates and galvanises the volunteer team. Their continued presence and dedication are crucial to the longer term management of the Brass Mill.

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