

Mayor's Report to Full Council 21 10 2019

Fellow councillors my first report to Full Council was short. The role has gathered momentum apace since then. The Deputy Mayor Cllr Billy Drummond and I have been quite busy. I would like to thank Cllr Drummond who is always ready to step in when events clash or I am away, he is a great support. I believe it has also been useful for some of you to accompany me when my consort is not available. I hope you have found it useful and interesting. It is a practice I will continue as it gives more members an insight into the role. I have attended a range of events and meetings totalling 72 in number. Cllr Drummond has attended 19. We seek to meet as many requests as possible. I will highlight a few in rough categories.

AGMs and Charity Coffee Mornings

Visiting these events reinforces for me the huge number of organisations there are in Newbury and the wonderful work they do. All are providing important services. From Lions to Grandparents support, from Loose Ends AGM to City Arts reception and exhibition.

Military Commemoration

Given that we have been commemorating the 70th anniversary of WWII there have been several memorial events. Air Force Welford unveiling of the memorial at Welford camp and the Unveiling and Deditcaion of the Memorials in memory of the US Air Force at Greenham Common, in memory of those from the base who lost their lives in service. These were moving occasions and serve as reminder to us all of what our countries went through together. I attended 211 Squadron Air Cadets Inspection and Presentation Ceremony. The Lord Lieutenant presented awards and I presented the NTC cadet cup to the cadet, who due to their achievement and service had been chosen to be the Mayors Cadet for the year. Kieran Fell was the winner. Cllr Andy Moore also attended this event in his role as WBC Liaison Cllr. Cllr Colston accompanied me to a Sunset Ceremony at Hermitage base.

Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant

The Lord Lieutenants and the High Sherriff's at Home were among the grander occasions affording an opportunity to meet and network with other Mayors and heads of various organisations. These occasions are the opportunity for the Lord Lieutenant and High Sherriff to invite those in public service to their homes to say 'thank you' to all in Civic service representing their communities.

Church Services

In the company of Cllrs Drummond and Moore, I attended the licencing of the new vicar of St Johns. One of those times when someone approaches you on arrival saying , 'Will you do the second welcome speech to the new vicar, you don't have to say a lot'; I was thankful that I know my area and had done a quick background check

prior to event. The Sheriff's Judicial Services at The Minster in Reading was a colourful event. All West Berkshire Mayors and Council Chairs gathered at Reading Civic Centre. We then processed to the Minister. There we met the High Sheriff, Judges and Magistrates. The music and singing were truly uplifting. The choir from Down House amazing. I opened the Rathayatra Festival in high winds, leading the cart and deities' statues around the town a colourful but tense event given the inclement weather.

Business

Several local shops, restaurant and businesses have been asking for the Mayor's presence. The 10th anniversary of International Taste Solutions was a day of contrasts. Introduction at Racecourse, double decker ride to and from factory visit, afternoon presentation at racecourse and evening auction and dinner. I did not attend the whole day. This company supports several local and national charities each year.

Senior Citizens

The deputy Mayor and I have attended several Care Homes to a range of events, they are always great fun. When visiting individuals for their 100th Birthdays I have concluded if you make it past 80 you are on a roll. The 100-year olds are always 'really with it'. The Mayor's Drive was of course the highlight, even if rather hot in full regalia. Many thanks to all of you who drove guests. We have now launched the parcel fund - look out for fundraising coffee morning.

Schools and College

We have attended debating competitions, art exhibitions, food tasting, sports events including Bisham Abbey Sports Centre for the Berkshire School Games. The achievements and standards in our places of education are to be commended.

Twin Towns

Many of you were present at the Official Ceremony sealing the Twinning with Carcaixent. It was a weekend of debates, dinners, and even Brexit. Cllr Norman accompanied me to the dinner and disco. Cllr Norman is a mean dancer, perhaps I should show the video!

We of course also had a special Council Meeting to say goodbye and thank you to our former Civic Manager, Joyce Lewis. A happy event tinged with sadness.

I am pleased that we now have a full team; Elisa Adams Civic Manager, Kieran Fell Mayors Cadet, and Fr Peter Codd, Chaplin.