Newbury Town Council

Mayors Report for the Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 22 June 2021.

This is my first report to Council since being elected on the 4th May 2021.

There have been no coffee mornings due to COVID-19, I cannot wait for the restrictions to be lifted.

I won’t subject you all to a detailed report on every event, but there are few things that I think are worthy of specific mention.

On the 14th May I opened Mr Simms sweet shop on Northbrook Street, a great place to take the young ones.

On the 19th May I visited the Falkland Grange residential care home, which is part of the Porthaven Care Home Group, which is now carbon neutral. In their bid to become carbon neutral they are supporting an energy project in Indonesia called the Musi River Hydro. They are also supporting a willow tree planting project in the Lake District by planting 800 tree’s (one for every Porthaven resident).

On the 20th I May I visited the opening of the Greenham Community Larder, this was to introduce the Community Larder, a variation on the more commonly known food bank model. This is a much needed initiative in the Greenham. I expressed much thanks to Greenham Trust, Newbury Town Council, Greenham Parish Council, Eling Trust, and the W E Lawrence Trust as well as private supporters.

On the 21st May CEO Hugh Peacocke, Cllr Jo Day, Cllr Martin Coulson, Cllr Nigel Foot and I met with West Berks MP, Laura Farris for an update on the Town.

On the 22nd May I attended the SEWA UK stall in the Market Place, along with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Garry Norman.

I am sure Cllr Norman will back me up with the quality of the food and the chia.

On the 24th May I opened the revamped outside garden space at the Chequers Hotel. It has been a few years since I have been in, but judging from the changes it won’t be long before I am back.

On the 25TH May I had the honour of unveiling a Blue Plague in memory of PC Alexander, a Berkshire boy born and bred and the first person to be treated with penicillin, but sadly died in 1941.

Much thanks went to Anthony Pick, chairman of the Heritage Working Group and Brian Sylvester, from Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery for his kind words on Albert. Dave Stubbs, a well-known former Town Marshal, and a former TVP officer, gave a moving speech and two young female PC also attended. And thanks also to Sovereign housing for allowing the Blue Plaque to go up on Carnarvon building on Andover Road.

On the 29th May I had a great time at CODE NINJAS. It is an ideal place to take youngsters from 5 till 14 years of age to learn about computer programing, it brought out the kid in me.

On the way back I called in on the Lion’s stall in the Market Place. The Lions are to be too congratulated for all they do in Newbury.

On the 1st June I joined a zoom meeting with the Royal County of Berkshire and Surrey Armed Forces Briefing.

Billy Drummond

Mayor of Newbury

14th June 2021