

Mayor's Diary

Having been in post as Town Mayor now since May, and having undertaken the deputy role for two years I thought I had a fairly good perception of what the Mayor's duties were. However as I now get into the swing of things, below are listed some of the more specific duties that I undertook during the last month, not making specific mention of the many telephone calls also undertaken to try to get further meetings and discussions underway with other agencies and individuals, to review such subjects as heavy goods traffic flow through Upton, the refurbishment of the Hanley Road toilets to name but two issues. I have also had to decline to undertake some duties due to other commitments and the fact that like some other councillors here in Upton I also have a busy full time job and a young family. That said I am certainly still enjoying the role and look forward to the events ahead, and am most grateful to John Thompson, the deputy mayor, for handling some engagements for me this month.

19th July – Administration duties at The Memorial Hall.

20th July – Further administration duties at The Memorial Hall to prepare for the evening's Monthly Town Council Meeting, which was notably the last for our outgoing clerk Mrs Beattie. Cllr. Simon Wilkinson gave a speech, and presentation of a certificate and cut glass, in acknowledgement of Priscilla's 20 year service to Upton Council. Also in attendance at the presentation were many past chairmen whom Mrs Beattie has supported and guided during their respective terms of office.

21st July – Follow up administration duties at The Memorial Hall to attend to matters arising from the previous evening's Council meeting. During the evening I attended the Upton Community Care party at The Hill Centre where all present heard of the exploits of Eleanor Grigson and Cynthia Peck attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

22nd July – Meeting at The Memorial Hall with representatives of the Upton Jazz Festival Committee and Upton Trade & Tourism Association to tentatively discuss outline plans for next year's event. There followed another meeting in which members of the Council and clerks met with a contractor who by now should have been awarded a contract to act as Lengthsman for Upton, ensuring that certain ditches and gullies are kept clear, road signs cleaned, and various other such duties around the town. Later that morning our new clerk, Jill Jennings, and myself travelled to Malvern Police Station for a discussion with Sgt. Werner de Sondberg and Inspector Sheldrick to further discuss proposals for a skateboarding facility to be funded by the Rural Safety Initiative and to be placed in Upton for use by local youths.

27th July – Meeting in Malvern with Angela Lessimore and Anthony Collis of Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC), to discuss tourism issues and potential in Upton. Also attended the monthly Open Spaces Committee meeting in order to present a report on my meeting with the aforementioned police officers regarding skateboarding possibilities in Upton.

29th July – Town walkabout with Anthony Collis from MHDC to look at potential ideas to increase tourists' awareness of what exists for them to see and enjoy when visiting Upton. On this walkabout we were accompanied at first and then very much lead by Mary Fisher our Community Warden, as she escorted us around the byways of Upton, highlighting to us other areas of interest, or for potential improvement. Mary has proven a great asset to the people of Upton amassing a huge wealth of knowledge in the two years that she has patrolled the town, tackling many diverse issues from crime awareness and anti-social behaviour to community support and welfare. When Mary leaves the post at the end of August I sincerely hope that MHDC can find the means to replace her, and I take this opportunity to thank her for her support to Upton and wish her well in her new career.

31st July – Took pleasure in driving along the temporary relief road alongside the viaduct (which I am pleased to see has been completed on time as promised) as I headed for Gatwick Airport for a much needed two week holiday in Portugal!

Mark Kerrigan.