

YTC Annual Town Meeting – Mayor’s Report 27th May 2021

Welcome everybody, not only those who are here in person but also many more who will be joining us on Facebook with Live Streaming tonight.

My Thanks also Tim our Vicar of Yateley for allowing us to use this Great Historic Church building, in order to ensure Covid safe spaces, and for his warm welcome and prayers for our meeting !

Sadly tonight however, we are unable due to restrictions to provide as we did last year for drinks and buffet hospitality.

I tonight have the privilege as Town Mayor to update you on the ongoing work of your Town Council since our last meeting, and for our future plans over the Year to come.

Our last Annual Meeting took place on 11th March 2020, just days before the first lockdown, which would have been impossible to predict all that we would go on to experience over this past year.

Despite the many challenges that the pandemic has brought to everyone, your Council has adapted and remained very busy, and continued always to fully support our wonderful community.

Whilst all our community halls have been closed to the public, Monteagle Community Centre was successfully fully refurbished during this time. It’s now ready to be used by all groups and users, as it is also with all of our halls.

Maintenance plans have also been planned for all of our Council buildings, with refurbishments taking place over the coming year.

Your Council will also be undertaking tarmacking projects including the path across Frogmore Green, plus also extending the path in Heathlands Cemetery, and the work which has already begun with Chandler’s Lane Pond.

An Audit has also been conducted to review all our footpaths and pavements to assess their accessibility for all our residents, with the aim of making our town a place that is fully useable by all.

In the audit, we found significant areas of concern for many of our residents, particularly those who may struggle with mobility issues. We’re now working hard to ensure all relevant authorities will be working with the Council to ensure those issues will be addressed over the coming months.

Council have also tendered for a new tree condition survey which is taking place in June, along with tendering for a new Christmas lights contract for this year which will now include Frogmore village too.

We as a Community, have also been very fortunate to have such wonderful green spaces around our town and not to forget Yateley Lakes, discovered this year by many folks, all which have proved to have been invaluable to many of our residents during lockdown.

Those who make use of our very popular Yateley Green on weekends, will be pleased to learn that thanks to the installation of new technology, we are at long last, now able to have the public toilets open over the weekends.

I am also pleased to report that Gill McCallum has recently joined Yateley Town Council as an Administrative Officer, and brings with her a wealth of administrative experience that is already proving very valuable.

To further our commitment to bringing the community together, we have created a new operational Community Committee, Chaired by the Mayor, which aims to strengthen our partnerships with community groups and other local organisations, and to develop more community events including Mayor's Charity events, which will continue to foster strong relationships within our Town & Villages.

We want to thank everyone who was involved in making the vaccine programme possible, NHS locally and volunteers, plus all the neighbours who have helped friends who were shielding and everyone who has followed the guidance to keep others safe.

In recognition of this, we plan to host a celebration event to recognise our 'Local Heroes' who have gone over and above and beyond to help others during the pandemic, with a specially inscribed medal, which will be presented to them at our Autumn Fair on August Bank Holiday Monday.

We're also very excited that we can now get out and about with our families, friends and neighbours, at all our events that are planned for the 2021/22 year.

It has also been a joy to see our Shops, Pubs, Cafes and Businesses recently opening again, of which we very much look forward to the full uplift of Covid Lockdown in just over 3 weeks time, when we go on to fully enjoy with our families, friends and neighbours, the many Community events that will be happening over the days to come.

Finally, during the coming months we will be planning to build on the work that our Council has been doing, as we seek to continue to support the growth of our amazing community spirit, that makes our Yateley such a wonderful place to live !

Cllr. Gerry Crisp, Town Mayor