

COUNCILLOR ARMAND TOMS  
MAYORS REPORT 2016 - 2017  
8TH MAY 2017

The Council has come a long way over the last year and I see and feel that this is due to the hard work of the staff and Councillors working together for the benefit of the town. To that end I wish to thank the three Committee chairman Councillors Rose, Hendy and Gregory for their stewardship and hard work in keeping the Council on track.

With planning now in a format that gives me confidence that matters are considered carefully and special thanks should go to Annette Keen for her work in the admin of this Committee. Councillor Rose as Chairman has kept a close eye on this committee producing a high standard of decisions, he should also be thanked for his work in auditing the councils books in a self assessment.

Our finances are stable even though we have had the unexpected issue of the Mariners Garden Wall to deal with, but Councillor Hendy keeps a careful eye on our spending and budget.

Councillor Gregory I thank for his support as deputy Mayor and for his work with the Tourism and Amenities Committee, there have been tough decisions especially over the TRO for the town and the Tourism Information Centre.

We thank Laura Kellaway for being admin on this Committee and hope this experience aids her in her future clerk training.

The overall Council has been kept on track by our Town Clerk Anne Frith and we thank her for her support.

This year saw the Council move in the right direction with further refurbishment of the Public Conveniences being completed. We saw the allotment site taken over by the Allotment Association and you will see that the site is now being used and they have been successful in gaining a grant for further works. We wish them luck and I would like to thank Councillor Stacey for his work on this site and the assistance also of Councillor Crane.

Our thanks should also go to Councillor Hendy for our new policies and Councillor Welch for our Emergency Plan as all of these are important.

I could continue thanking all the Councillors for their work in Committee and around the town but we need to look to the future. My thoughts are that each Councillor should take one part of the councils work and see how it can be developed so those Councillors who do not always feel involved or who can not attend can do their bit towards making a difference for the town.

I thank you all for the support I have been shown throughout the year as we have developed as a council. The town's residents have, and do, appreciate the work you do around the town and the comments they make are complimentary.

Finally I wish to thank our staff, who are often the workhorse of our ideas, they continue to support us and guide us in what are difficult and uncertain times for small councils.