

Annual Town Meeting – 11th March 2020

Town Mayor's Annual Report by Cllr Gerry Crisp

I now have the honour and privilege to inform you all what your council has been up to since our previous meeting last Year.

For starters, it's been a very busy year for your Council with a real buzz of activity in a variety of areas:

A brand new community events programme is being launched for Yateley and our 2 lovely Villages of Frogmore and Darby Green, for all our residents to enjoy fun days out and close to home.

The Major Event, Will be our very own "FEEL GOOD FESTIVAL" which was launched to Go for it last Friday. The event itself will take place on Sunday 20th September, flyers are available to collect today – it will be a festival of fun, health, wellbeing, sport and much much more including a Half Marathon. An occasion to remember for all members of the community for this year and the years to follow.

The coming year will bring more activity including:

- The commencement of a Climate Change Community Group, to be managed by the Council's Community & Environment Committee. We will also be supported by Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council on climate change initiatives.
- Further development of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is being managed on behalf of the Council by a community-led steering group. We hope you get a chance to complete the Neighbourhood Plan survey, details available online or you can pick up a form today.
- Our second of 2 Presentations will be held this Saturday from 11am to 3pm at the Darby Green Centre, which will be well worth a visit, which includes a Wonderful Display Gallery of over 100 out of a 1000 very moving Climate Change Artwork by our amazing school children.
- VE Day celebrations in conjunction with the Lions and Royal British Legion on 8th May
- Plans to revamp our community picnic in June are underway, where we hope to showcase talents from many within our local community.
- The very popular silent cinema will be returning, with you being given the choice to vote for what top ranking film will be showing.
- We are look into the idea of installing an electronic timer lock for our village green toilet facility, in order to be open over weekends.

A number of projects have been completed or currently in progress and will continue to be worked on in the coming year:

- Introducing Councillor Surgeries, where members of the public can make an appointment to talk to Councillors about local public service matters.
- The launch of the weekly market has enabled residents to buy a range of quality products locally. Over the spring and summer we hope to expand the market offering and would welcome any local market traders to join us.
- Adding a permanent inscription to the war memorial in honour of Royal Marine Adam Brown.
- Improved security fencing around the allotments, vital to protect all that hard work nurturing produce.
- Major Maintenance uplift at Monteagle Community Centre £50,000.
- Resurfacing work at both the Darby Green Car park and Heathlands Cemetery.
- We have started a new grounds maintenance contract, where we aim to deliver even greater value for money for the vast ground maintenance responsibilities that we have.
- A new lighting scheme along Pipson's Lane to improve visibility along this dark and very well used alleyway
- Outline plans to renovate Chandler's Pond and the surrounding area
- Planning work to expand burial space at Heathlands cemetery
- A community litter pick on Sunday 5th April, around Yateley Green and the Darby Green Centre and encouraging volunteers to join us to help clear up our town.

Our Partnerships

Yateley really is a thriving community, evident in the wide range of excellent local activities, such as Gig on The Green, May Fayre, Our Fireworks Fiesta plus the wonderful Christmas Market and the popular Open Air Nativity.

Your Council has continued to support a number of community groups and initiatives through active participation, collaboration, and financial support for:

- Yelabus
- Vision 4 Youth
- The Lions
- Daisy Chain Dementia Café
- The Remembrance Day Parade
- Blackbushe Airport
- Yateley Society

- Yateley Common Management
- Highways authority and
- The Police

Plus many other grants.

Your Council created a new Officer post last year to manage events and communications and we welcome Lydia, who is doing an amazing job in the role. If you have any ideas for our community events programme, please get in touch with our Town Council office on email, phone or pop in where our officers would love to meet you.

Hart District Council & Hampshire Partnerships

This year we will also be linking up and working with Hampshire County Council to reduce flytipping along the track between Yateley Common and the cemetery.

We have also very recently joined forces with Hart District Council to set up a litter picking hub, where local groups can borrow equipment whilst they are out and about to help keep our town litter free.

Our stunning wildflower meadow on Yateley Green, installed by Hart District Council, was a resounding success last year and we received so many comments on how great this project made people feel. We are very much looking forward to this year's display, plus considering other areas that would be included in the future.

I would like to place on record our thanks to the South Central Ambulance Charity and our Yateley Lions for their donations which enabled us to install a new defibrillator at the Frogmore and Darby Green Social Hall.

Vision4Youth now open 5 nights a week.

Plus as Mayor's Charity, tickets still available for Cabaret & Cocktails event at Village Hall this Saturday.

Finally, in conclusion

The Council has also been working on our operational plan to cover the next three years and an overwhelming thread is to continue in our role to serve you well. I do hope that over the next year we can build on our already strong partnerships, grow our community spirit and keep delivering to you a range of quality services that make you feel happy to live and to work in our fabulous YATELEY Villa-town.