

Mayor's report to Full Council July 2021

1. I said a few words to conclude the Haslemere Festival. 25 talks, 10 concerts, contributions from Julia Donaldson of Gruffalo fame and a lot of work done by Hamish Donaldson (yes, related) as well as our own dear Melanie behind the scenes.

2. As a result of a Lion Green meeting, I asked Arran to look into erecting some public WC's there. Example of the sort of thing below, to include a manhole to discharge temporary toilets into during events.

I thought CIL money might find a genuinely useful home here, plus maybe a PWLB loan to avoid any big impact on the precept.

It would also do something for an area people still think of as neglected in the town.



3. Lion Green again - got pretty badly mashed in some places by the Fair and the local paper put a pic on the front page "Vandalised by Haslemere Town Council"

It has recovered well though - as it always does. Slightly cheesy pic of me spreading some grass seed post-Fair, but you get the idea.



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4. Car Boot Sale. At Jo's suggestion following on from a notion John was pursuing, I put out this as an idea on social media and got huge interest, so we'll try and make to happen on Lion Green. The date is pencilled in for 15th August (Sunday) after the original date was cancelled by the Town Hall. The idea is locals only, but there's clearly huge interest and funds raised will go to the Mayors charities, the Prison Phoenix Trust and the Haslemere Youth Hub.

5. It's traditional that the Mayor has a civic event of some sort on taking office, which sometimes takes the form of a church service. Mine will not, preferring a garden party, hopefully in the grounds of the Museum. The idea is a few hundred invitees, drinks and canapés, plus a classical music quartet from say 1-3pm on a sunny Sunday. Jo's working on this now post another of Boris' Freedom Days.....

6. The Farmer's market returned to the High Street and every first Saturday in the month from now on. It fizzled out into a pretty dismal thing pre-covid, but the first one in early June was well attended in good weather with the stalls paid for by the Council's Covid recovery fund.

7. Pocket Park - at the corner of Lower Street and Shepherds Hill - I pitched and got HTC funds for an improvement scheme here on land we maintain but which is owned by Surrey and Waverley. The officer from Surrey is being unhelpful and trying to stop us for reasons unknown. We continue the fight.

8. Melanie, David R (sort of!!), Jacque and John and I had a good go at the beds outside the public WCs in town at the end of May - all very agreeable and in a good spirit of community endeavour



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9. All the appeals at The Heights prep school on Hill Road were allowed. Most people thought something should happen there but that the density was unacceptable. The Inspector disagreed and said yes to the lot. Costs were refused.

10. Lloyds Bank on the High Street is shutting on 2/11 as you will know.

I've written to the chief exec asking him to reconsider and had a meeting with J Hunt MP and a Lloyds Group person. I hold out no great hope of a reversal or frankly even a deferral but Lisa and I have a meeting with the chief exec of Link, the cash point people, to ask if they'll install a machine at the back of the loos facing the Waitrose car park which I made provision for in the lease with Waverley when we did the deal.

I'm also in touch with the agents selling the old NatWest to see if the putative new owner might put a machine in that building - the infrastructure is there and it might pay some rent.

Link seem interested in principle and are making a site visit On 23/7.

11. I congratulated fireman Paul Bartlett on his retirement after 40 years service at Haslemere Fire Station, went to the Museum for a special cream tea event and said a few words at the start of Armed Forces Week.

12. Lastly, I spoke at Woolmer Hill careers day about being Mayor and my life in business.

One lad guessed the Mayor got paid £35,000 a year.....