

## **Mayor's Report July 2023**

It has been a very full first two months of my mayorship – I am so fortunate to have Claire on hand to deputise. There has been the usual bout of civic ceremonies to attend each different in style and ceremony but a nice way to meet leaders from across the borough and beyond.

I had great pleasure visiting two of our local care homes: Shottermill (opening their Summer fete) and Redcot (opening of their “Redcot Arms”) – Redcot has a most enthusiastic choir, a delight to listen to old favorites. Schools are coming to the end of their year: I attended the lunch prepared by the sixth-year leavers at St Ives - a delightful TexMex gourmet lunch; I also attended prize giving by Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne at the Royal School.

I attended the Armed Forces service at Guildford and subsequently raised the flag here on our memorial green. I joined fellow councilors at the Youth Hub open day – it was saddening to hear how so many children have been adversely affected by lockdown with a loss of socializing skills and inability to attend school. On a more cheerful note, the Hindhead Royal British Legion beer festival was a huge success.

On the administrative side, much of my attention over the past two months has been taken up with the crisis facing many of our sports clubs following Waverley Borough Council's withdrawal from operating The Edge. The Town Clerk and I met in June with Sports Haslemere to explore whether we could help fund a skeleton operation – sadly Surrey County Council (the building owners) would not support this. We subsequently met with WBC who assured us that it was working actively with SCC to ensure the facility would be in operation to support our local clubs by October.

Lastly, we are working with Lynchmere parish council to address the Shottermill sewage operation and sewage capacity around Sturt farm and road. I expect to provide an update at next council.