

Cabinet Lead Reports

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL
27 JULY 2016

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next 27 JULY 2016 meeting of the Council, the following reports from the Mayor, Leader and Cabinet Leads that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

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Mayor's Report to Havant Borough Council - 27th July 2016

As I write, I am just coming up to the end of my first 10 weeks in office as Mayor – and have loved every moment. There have been many highlights, too many to mention each one, but standing out have been the three Civic Services, and Armed Forces Day each different in their own way, and taking considerable planning to ensure that each was special, and suitably marked the occasion. Many thanks to all the Councillors who supported these occasions, in particular Cllrs Mike Cheshire and David Smith. We have had a number of compliments on the arrangements for these, and I am so grateful for all the help we have had from my Chaplain, the ministers and congregations at the churches and from the Royal British Legion.

I am a bit of a statistical nerd, and during these first 10 weeks, I have had 80 formal engagements, and additionally 8 informal (like the monthly walks) and 8 meetings planning future events. Of the 70 days, I have only had 13 free of engagements – and those are quickly taken up with ward and council duties and seminars. I have been out of the house for almost 250 hours on Mayoral duties – sometimes for as much as 8 hours without a break. I would like to thank the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Elaine Shimbart, for stepping in to take over when there has been a clash of engagements, and when I have also had significant family events to attend to. Michael, my consort, has been able to come with me on at least 50 of the engagements to which a consort was invited; where he was unable to, I have often been able to include my grandson or other Borough residents, which has brought them great pleasure. Michael has certainly been a hit at many of the events we have attended, notoriously the Leigh Park Queen's birthday street party, where we joined in with a Fit 'n Funky fitness session – the Youtube video of this (which can be seen on the Havant Borough Council facebook page) has been viewed across the world, with over 5000 hits!

It has been good to be at the beginning of enterprises which will bring people into the Borough, as well as jobs. Obviously opening the new Marks and Spencers in Solent Road, was a key moment, but it was good to welcome in a new industry and new estate agents in Waterlooville, as well as the changed ownership (and expansion) of a day nursery in my own ward. It has also been good to encourage the events taking place, which again bring visitors into the Borough. Standing out amongst these was the Virgin Kitesurfing Armada, which I visited each day, with the successful achievement of the record for the highest number of kitesurfers completing a mile course offshore. They have just sent me a video of the event, in which they are really complimentary about the support from the Borough and there is to be another one out soon, which will be going worldwide, putting **our** Borough on the map. I popped back last Saturday to see the training day they had for young kitesurfers on the beach, and even had a go myself!!

One of the great pleasures has been to enjoy plays and concerts in all parts of the Borough. I am ashamed to say that although we have lived for over 37 years in the Borough, we had never been to the Hayling Island Station Theatre to see the HIADS performances, and both thoroughly enjoyed the two we have attended so far. The Hampshire Police Male Voice choir were outstanding as part of the Waterlooville Music Festival and it was good to see our own Cllr Paul Buckley starring in Havant Light Opera's production of the Savoy Opera, 'Yeomen of the Guard'. Not only have

all these given us great enjoyment, but it is good to encourage the talented young and old residents of the Borough. Special mention must be made of the recent Dynamo Youth Theatre's production of 'The Roses of Eyam' in St. Faith's Church, which was memorable for the way they used the church, both inside and outside for some of the scenes... the 'ghosts' of those who had died in the plague-hit Derbyshire village, moved the audience around eerily.

I said on May 11th that I hoped to visit as many schools and places of worship in the Borough as I could, and am really impressed by the work that goes on steadily and quietly through the year. We have some amazing young people growing up, and our teachers can be really proud of the hard work they put in to encourage them.

Among our faith congregations again, much excellent work goes on in providing fun and support for the community... like the Empower Centre from Leigh Park, who put on the Fun Day in Havant Park completely free, and the New Life Church in Emsworth who have flourishing Boys' and Girls' Brigades. As a former Group Scout Leader, it has been good to be reminded by Hayling and Bedhampton Scouts of the fun and laughter they share, leaders and young people alike. It is also important to value the work done in putting on fun events like the school fairs, Waterlooville Classic Car and Bike Display, the Bedhampton Show, and the Leigh Park Carnival... I know only too well the effort it takes in providing events like these for the pleasure of the communities. Without our volunteers, the backbone of our communities, our Borough would not be the vibrant place it is.

It is also a caring community... as witnessed by the donations that came flooding in to the fund started by bus driver, Craig Cockram, to make a permanent memorial to Missy, the Bus stop Cat, in Dunsbury Way. It has not only been a privilege to be there to unveil the wooden bench, with the carved replica of Missy, but also to visit two of our care homes, and the Emsworth Stroke Club, to see the quiet love and support given there to our more vulnerable residents, as well as to hear of the work done by volunteers in our local Samaritans and the CAB in helping our residents.

It has been an eye-opener to see some of the opportunities available for residents... for instance, I was not aware that the Avenue Lawn Tennis Club in Warblington, also had a small gym and has fitness classes and a bridge club meeting there, and to see again the wonderful work produced at Making Space and our artists and artisans showing their work at the 'May Days'.

I am delighted that two of my initiatives got off to a good start, which I hope will be continued next year, the School Ambassadors and the 'Fun for the Young' event. We are now looking forward to the 'Celebration of Age' on August 25th, and I am also delighted that the Havant Athletic Club will be organising the inaugural Havant 10k run on September 25th, starting in Staunton Country Park. I hope many councillors and staff will take part in this, and possibly get sponsorship for my charities.

I am most grateful to Cllr Mike Fairhurst and his organising group for arranging the Mayor's Charity Golf Day, which has raised over £800, and other monies are steadily coming in from a garden party organised by former Cllr Ann Buckley, a talk I gave to Emsworth Baptist Church, and, wonderfully, a donation of over £1000 from Tesco in Solent Road. I hope councillors will support the Charity Hallowe'en Quiz Night, and have the date for the Charity Christmas Ball firmly in their diaries.

I could not achieve nearly as much as I have been able to in this first 10 weeks without the steady and constant support of Anne Thurlow, Neill Payne and the team

of drivers, who quietly enable all the engagements and other events to take place and support me in all that I am trying to achieve. I hope to have the blog up and running fully by the time you read this, and I have also just opened up a Facebook page, which is entitled Mayor of Havant, or found by going to www.facebook.com/HavantMayor1

Faith Ponsonby/180716

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Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 27 July 2016

Councillor Mike Cheshire: Leader's Report

Finance

In the past few months the finance team have been working on the final accounts for the 2015/16 financial year. This has culminated in a draft set of statutory accounts and supporting notes being produced which are now due to be audited in August. The audit process involves Havant Borough Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young, examining the accounts for the financial year to give their view as to whether the final accounts produced give a true and fair view of Havant BC's financial activities.

Also currently being worked on is the Quarter 1 budget forecast for the 2016/17 monitoring report. This report includes the **forecast** financial position for the current year.

The finance team are supporting each Head of Service with their Budget to arrive at a financial **forecast** as to where each team/service is, and thus the council as a whole.

My aim is for senior managers and councillors to have enough information, and the time to enable amended financial strategies to be formed before the financial year end.

I already anticipate a mid year review resulting in a 're-basing' of budgets, as a result of the £0.500M cost reduction and/or increase in income challenge I have set the officers in 2016/17.

Understanding the authority's current financial position is essential to inform the budget setting process for the 2017/18 financial year. The Scrutiny panel who are taking on the Financial issue of the Council, have already started their work with heads of service and I welcome their input as and when it is appropriate.

I am also pleased to report that this Council's finances are in good shape. This is despite the pressure from reductions in Government Grants. This is due to our increased income stream revenues, and our prudent and fast actions if we see our forecast budget going off track. Any surplus of income over expenditure will be used as a buffer and reduce the impact of known pressures in future years when the Revenue Support Grant ceases completely.

The formal report will be received shortly by Cabinet and then published in accordance with normal practice.

Devolution.

A seminar has been arranged for 27th July 2017 to discuss the current devolution issues.

PUSH

The PUSH Spatial Position Statement contained housing need figures for all the PUSH Planning Authorities and the data for Havant has been carried forward into the Council's Housing Statement and Local Plan Review which will start its consultation process on the 25 July.

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 27 July 2016

Councillor Narinder Bains - Cabinet Lead for Marketing, Business Development and 5 Councils

5 Councils

Cllr Cheshire, Sandy Hopkins, Gill Kneller and I met with all of the Cabinet members and Chief executive of the 5 Councils as the final project meeting to agree the way ahead with the future of our Partnership as we move into the formal Governance Committee arrangements. The group agreed the procurement has progressed well and that we have many more opportunities to work together to ensure that this contract works well for all of us and that we explore other opportunities offered to us by our suppliers to help us meet our strategic goals.

We have looked at the commencement dates for the services in LOT 1 (Capita) and are investigating early commencement to bring forward the transformation of these services.

Communications

Serving You: The council's magazine has been written, designed, printed and distributed.

More than 47,000 copies have been delivered to homes and businesses across the area.

Stories include the £1.25m funding secured for sports facilities in Leigh Park, alongside other valuable community and council-related news and updates.

Annual report: the final touches are being made to Havant's annual report which showcases the tremendous success of the council. A social media campaign will be run to communicate some of the highlights.

Havant Communications Strategy: This is being developed and will guide the communications to help achieve the council's strategic objectives.

Havant communications protocol: This is being developed to ensure that media queries and social media interactions are dealt with in the most effective and efficient way

Press conference: A press conference was held for local media about the changes to the Local Plan

Havant councillors e-newsletter: This has been reinstated and aims to keep councillors up-to-date with the latest news and information.

Website update: The new Havant Borough Council was launched on May 17th and is going from strength to strength with positive feedback from users.

One resident on Facebook said:

“Using the site was nice and easy, I tried navigating through the pages and found info that I'd had problems finding in the past. This site took me to the right destination very quickly.”

Recent updates include a new Prosperity Havant section to highlight this important project and a homepage refresh to more actively promote businesses.

There was a total of 78 page updates in June. Other updates included:

- EU referendum
- Electoral services
- Havant Borough Local plan
- Land charges and search fees
- Accounts/finances

In June the website had 23,163 active users accessing 109,376 service pages.

The peak time for the website was 09:00am and the busiest day was on a Wednesday as opposed to generally a Monday. This was because residents were frequently checking the website the day before and after the EU Referendum (Thursday 23rd June 2016).

The most visited pages in June were:

Page Title

1 Home page

16,720 (15.29%)

2 Planning services

4,028 (3.68%)

3 Contact us

3,907 (3.57%)

4 View planning applications

3,155 (2.88%)

5 Council tax information

2,289 (2.09%)

6 Bin collection

1,910 (1.75%)

7 Pay for it

1,643 (1.50%)

8 Your councillors
1,608 (1.47%)

9 Electoral registration
1,550 (1.42%)

10 Pay for it
1,433 (1.31%)

Social media update:

Facebook: The HBC Facebook page has seen an increase in likes from 1,277 to 1,344 – 67 in one month. Our best performing post in terms of reach (number of users who saw the post) was a post about the Missy the Cat memorial.

A remarkable 12,081 people have been reached (as of 20th July).

Twitter: Our tweet announcing that polling stations for the EU referendum across the borough had closed brought the biggest impressions of the month (this is how many times the tweet has been seen).

- “All Polling stations in the borough are now closed”

This tweet generated 1,475 impressions (how many times the tweet has been seen) and two retweets.

We started June with 2,180 followers and accrued an extra 61 over the course of the month, leaving our final count for the month at 2,241.
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Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 27 July 2016

Councillor David Guest: Cabinet Lead for Economy, Planning, Development and Prosperity Havant

Planning & Housing Development

The Housing and Planning Act received Royal Assent on 12 May. Regulations are awaited to provide the detail on the key aspects of the Act which include starter homes in the definition of affordable housing, permissions in principle, registers of brownfield land and the piloting of the privatisation of planning application processing. Permissions in principle were the first aspect to come into effect on 12 July and will mean that local plan allocations are similar to outline consents.

In the spirit of the Housing and Planning Act the planning service is exploring an opportunity to provide planning officer resource to a nearby council through a private company, HBC Commercial Limited. Generating income and an understanding of commercial reality will benefit the council in the short and longer term.

Developer investment interest in the borough remains high with regeneration opportunities in Waterlooville and Havant town centres and Leigh Park centre all being progressed as part of the Prosperity Havant agenda. Alongside developer/investor discussion opportunities to lever in Solent LEP and Homes and Communities Agency funds are also progressing.

Major Developments – Progress Update

At Dunsbury Hill Business Gateway work is progressing on the erection of the Fat Face building, the access road is complete and the Asda roundabout works are nearing completion.

On the 14 July the new M&S store opened together with the Mothercare opening in the original Next store. The quality of these occupiers shows strength in the offer of Havant in the wider market and can only be positive for the future.

Housebuilding

The Market Parade resolution for 130 apartments and the 175 dwellings at Bartons Road Havant are both moving through Section 106 negotiations prior to decision being issued in August. Permission issued for 41 apartments at former Wessex site in Havant. A new application submitted by McCarthy & Stone for 33 retirement apartments at Hayling Billy PH on Hayling Island. The Portsmouth CC applications in Leigh Park are progressing at Kingsclere Avenue (38 dwellings – delegated approval in August) Blendworth Crescent

(51 dwellings) and Holybourne Road (11 dwellings) are both scheduled to be considered by Development Management Committee on 18 August.

A Development Consultation Forum (DCF) was held on the 9 June to hear about the initial ideas of Barratt David Wilson Homes for the site adjacent Selangor Avenue, Emsworth. This is one of the sites identified in the Local Plan Housing Statement for early release and therefore a planning application can be expected shortly.

There are other pre-application discussions taking place proposals for further house building and the publication of the draft Housing Statement is likely to accelerate this. This continues to show the strength of the local economy and the demand for new homes.

Planning Policy and Urban Design

The PUSH Spatial Position Statement was published at the Joint Committee on 7 June. This sets out the housing need for all the councils in the PUSH area. The figure of 11,250 homes needed in Havant Borough up to 2036 now forms the basis for what the government will expect the Council to plan for. This is a significant increase over the housing levels planned for in the existing local plan therefore Havant requires a review of the Local Plan.

In a potential period of developers speculating on any site in the borough swift action is being taken to manage the situation and Cabinet agreed to publish the Local Plan Housing Statement on the 20 July. The Housing Statement is subject to a period of consultation from 25 July until 9 September and identifies greenfield housing sites that could be released early to maintain a five year housing land supply. Alongside the early release sites two strategic sites are proposed which must be planned comprehensively as part of the evolving local plan to maximise infrastructure benefits for the future prosperity of the whole borough.

A supplementary Planning Document on car parking standards is also before Councillors tonight. This proposed to change car parking standards from a maximum to a minimum. This is to take on board the NPPF but most importantly get more parking on new housing developments.

Development Management Committee

The rotating chair approach on Development Management Committee has so far been working well and will continue to be monitored.

Economic Development and Business Support,

The Virgin Kitesurfing Armada was held over the weekend of 17-19 June. This national event supported by HBC attracted thousands of visitors from the UK and beyond and included a successful kitesurfing world record attempt - 423 kitesurfers completed the course beating the old record by 8. This event is well received locally and provides the public (including 250 local school

children) with unique opportunities to engage in kitesurfing in one of the best locations in Europe. The media exposure of Hayling Island through Sir Richard Branson's video blogs, Virgin's media partners and social media is extremely valuable to our local economy. Havant Borough Council secures the event in the borough by supporting the organisers including allowing use of council land.

Following this year's event, the organiser held a further event - the 'Kids Armada' on 16th July to promote the sport, including taster sessions for local children.

Town centre update - HBC continues to support events that attract footfall and trade into our town centres. This includes a very successful Waterlooville Classic Motor Show held on 2nd July. Looking ahead Emsworth British Food Fortnight takes place from 16th to 25th Sept including engagement with schools and colleges, two markets and a beer and cider festival.

Support for new businesses - Applications are now being received from new businesses for HBC's start up support programme. The scheme incorporates £1000 grant funding along with valuable business planning and advice that is critical to early stage businesses.

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Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 27 July 2016

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing

Housing

During Quarter 1, 12 households were placed in B&B whilst enquiries were made and alternative accommodation looked for. At the end of the quarter there were still 6 households in B&B. There is a shortage of temporary accommodation in the Borough. This was discussed at the first Scrutiny Panel meeting I attended, I am hoping the Panel will look at this problem with their Policy Development hat on.

The team carried out 232 Prevention interviews, these are households who approached the Council as potentially homeless and the team worked with them to find a solution to their housing problem. These trying to avoid the need for B&B, such as mediation between families, court attendance, deposit loans etc. There were 1511 visitors to The Plaza with housing queries during Quarter 1.

As part of my induction into my new role, I spent time with the frontline Officers at The Plaza, interviewing applicants and advising them. I was impressed with the professionalism and care shown by our Officers in sometimes difficult situations.

Housing Development

Our annual target is 200

In Quarter 1 there were:-

Affordable rent units.	17
Shared ownership.	15
Help to buy.	25
Total	57

The second part of my induction was to visit some of the affordable homes throughout our Borough.

We visited:-

Halyards, Hayling Island
Station Road, Hayling Island
Redlands Grange, Emsworth
Manor Farm, Denvilles
Copseys Nurserys, Denvilles
Wellington Park, Waterlooville

Berewood, Waterlooville
1 and 2 St Michaels, Waterlooville
Ranelagh Road, Havant
Cooper Grange, Havant

I was very impressed with the quality of the housing on offer to our residents, with more "in the pipeline" developments. My calculations told me that 1 in 12 of our residents live in affordable housing of one type or another. A higher figure than I had realised.

Events

So far in this financial year, we have received 27 applications for events to be held on HBC land. These include the Bedhampton Summer Show, The Lions Club of Hayling Donkey Derby, the Hayling 999 day and various street parties for the Queen's 90th birthday. I believe these events are important to the "feel good" factor for our residents and the involvement of our Officers helps to smooth the way through the red tape and the paperwork.

An Events report is currently being prepared to look at all the Events delivered by the Community, Economic Development and Mayoral teams.

Sport and Leisure

The Communities Team are providing the necessary paperwork in hope of securing £100k for the Bidbury Mead Pavilion project, working with the Friends of Bidbury Mead.

After the fantastic success of the funding secured for Front Lawn Recreation Ground, this will hopefully continue to improve the Sports and Community facilities throughout the Borough. The Team were able to secure £265k from Sport England at the end of April and £923,407 at the end of May from the Football Foundation. The total project cost is £1,438.407 and all external funding has been achieved. No mean feat in these times when so many people are chasing the same pots of money. It is expected that the project completion will be by August 2017.

The National Watersports Festival on Hayling Island is 10 years old this year. It attracts thousands to our Borough and raises our profile nationally. The Community Team generally support this with marketing, flyers, banners etc. By the time this is read, a report will have gone to Cabinet regarding a pilot project on Hayling Island hoping to change the way we manage our Tennis Court provision.

Community Engagement and Development

The third Havant Borough Youth Conference is booked for Friday 10/3/17. Pupils aged 14/15 from all 10 senior schools across the Borough will be invited to attend. It will take a similar pattern as before. Having attended both of the previous Conferences, I think they are such a good way of involving our young people in local democracy.

Nominations to list Assets of Community Value have been received for The old Hayling Billy Public House and Stoke Common on Hayling Island. These are now under consideration by the panel.

Our Social Media accounts and residents E Mailing lists now reach over 50,000 residents across the Borough each week. A popular and cost effective way of reaching them.

Work continues by our MDA Officer in the Waterlooville Major Development Area. To improve communication and helping the Community to make decisions and get involved. There are several applications for funding live at this time, Youth Development being just one of them.

The Hayling Island Community Centre extension plans are well under way. The extension, part funded by The Lottery will increase the facilities on offer to Hayling residents.

The Wecock Youth Partnership is working on campaigns regarding reporting drug related information and the harmful effects and consequences of drug use. It is also holding an Internet safety event, both in August at The Acorn Community Centre.

The Havant Borough Armed Forces Action Plan will shortly be updated, showing how we as a Council can better support and communicate with the Armed Forces Community. This is a joint initiative between The Community Team and Cllr Gary Hughes, at the request of The Leader. Extensive engagement with local organisations and bodies has taken place.

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