

With permission, Mr. Mayor, I would like to highlight three points that I haven't covered in my written report.

Firstly, I'd like to bring to members attention the award that the Harbour Master of Langstone Harbour has recently received. Captain Nigel Jardine has been awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service - one of only 19 recipients this year across the United Kingdom. Captain Jardine is completing his 20th year as Langstone Harbour Master, and I know that the Langstone Harbour Board much appreciate his extensive experience in guiding their deliberations and decision making. The Leader has written to Captain Jardine offering this Council's congratulations, which I'm sure members will be happy to endorse.

Secondly, I would like thank the Leader for allowing me the opportunity (if you can describe it as such) to be a member of the Portchester Crematorium Committee - the committee of the four Local Authorities that run the crematorium, and to Cllr Turner for nominating me as Vice-Chairman. However, it does give me the chance to highlight the significant contribution that Mr James Clark has made to the area and to this Borough. Mr. Clark is Registrar and Manager of the Portchester Crematorium, and is just reaching 30 years in that role. It is perhaps natural that members don't wish to visit Mr. Clark's operation any more than necessary, but I can report to Council that during his 30 years of service there have been more than 130,000 services at the crematorium - a remarkable figure. The staff take a great deal of care with relatives who are often very emotional and distressed, and Mr. Clark's oversight mean that whilst Portchester is the 3rd busiest crematorium in the country, it is very thoughtfully run with families in mind. (It was the busiest in the country until the Oaks opened.) Once again, The Leader has written to Mr. Clark congratulating on completing 30 years in post, thanking him for this contribution. And I'm grateful that you, Mr. Mayor, have offered your hospitality to Mr. Clark, as you do with all our staff who complete such long service with our Council.

And finally, Mr. Mayor, I wanted to remark about the progress with the bus links for the Hayling Ferry. I was very grateful that members supported my motion at our last meeting to allocate £20k of Community Infrastructure Levy towards this important link. And I'm pleased to report that this week the links opened for business, with the former Emsworth and District bus company, now called Portsmouth City Coaches providing the link on the Hayling side, and the number 15 First Bus service once again serving the Eastney terminus. Your worship kindly accompanied me on the first day of service on Monday to meet with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth at Ferry Point and to official open the link.

I think it is unusual that a decision at a Council meeting can be acted upon so quickly, but hopefully I can challenge members to beat this with their own projects. I particularly wanted to thank the working group members, under the chairmanship of the Leader, who have worked hard to achieve the completed link. As with most places I'm sure, we have an army of armchair critics on Hayling

Island, who seem to have hours to spare to use Facebook to criticise the Council or the members and prophesise doom and gloom. However, some people have stepped out from behind their computers to turn this project into reality, and I wanted to put on record my thanks to them, in particular Mark Coates. I know Cllr Satchwell, who has also played an important role, has thanked Mark directly for his contribution.

Thank you Mr. Mayor, for allowing me to highlight these three achievements.