



Additional comments
Wednesday 27th January 2021

After my previous report saw us through to Diwali on the 14th November, on the 16th I had great pride in joining Hart Plain Infant School's Black Lives Matter week. This week the school focused on key individuals from different ethnicities and backgrounds that have made a positive impact in society, I was honoured to be part of that group. I spoke to each school bubble about the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion and how they can achieve anything they set out to regardless of any characteristic. I spoke of the pride I have in being the first Mayor of Havant to come from an ethnic minority background and also being the UK's youngest diverse Mayor. I explained the importance of embracing differences and how we should all be treated with the same level of respect. I also gave the children an insight into my family background and my Indian heritage, something that I am incredibly proud of. All the children were so engaged with me today and I was asked some fabulous questions by them about my experiences, culture and views. I left feeling so very proud of what we had discussed, and it gives me enormous encouragement that children in our local schools are being educated in understanding the importance of equality, diversity and respect for everyone. From a local school assembly to an international F1 grid, it's something we can all play our part in. My thanks to the News for a brilliant write up on the occasion.

It was so lovely the following day to be able to join the children and teachers from Kingscourt School for their nursery opening! I had the chance to talk to the children about their brand-new nursery, which they are all so excited to start using! The children who all looked fabulous in their Diwali outfits, joined me in counting down from 5 before cutting the ribbon to open their brand-new space. Mrs Bembridge then took me on a virtual tour of the nursery and I was so impressed with not only the state of the art facilities, but with the wonderful views of the grounds the children will enjoy and experience every day from the environmentally friendly nursery. I visited the school prior to the lockdown when they also took part in my Think Pink week and raised an incredible £396.81 for my Mayoral Charity

Hannah's Holiday Home. I was able to also see the progress of the build at the time, which has now come to fruition. Thank you so much to the school for also sending me a lovely caterpillar cake so that I could join in with the school's celebrations from home! I am incredibly grateful to the school for inviting me to help open their nursery today in the most unique of ways and very much look forward to our continued relationship together.

On November 19th, whilst taking a walk on my lunch break at Staunton Country Park, I met community artist, Mandie from Artscape. The charity aims to bring people together in a covid secure way, helping to combat the isolation the pandemic has caused, using art as an outlet of support. Since being founded the charity has helped people to become part of a community, grow their artistic skills and in some cases has assisted people in returning to work. Artscape are at Staunton every Thursday from 11-1, pop along to the gazebo to find out more!

November 22nd - 4 months in as Mayor. All duties fulfilled. Initiatives created. Borough promoted. Restrictions overcome. Modernised an ancient role. Thousands raised for charity. A quarter of a million people reached on socials. Loving every moment.

On the 24th November, I was invited as guest speaker to the Rotary Club of Havant, where I not only had the opportunity to talk to members about my life and my role as the UK's youngest ethnic minority Mayor, but I also learnt more about the invaluable contribution Rotarians make to society both locally and internationally. Rotary International have a strong focus on the environment and are at the forefront of the fight against polio, where along with efforts from the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation, immunisation programmes have led to a 99% reduction in global cases of the disease. As well as contributing to worldwide efforts, the local club who I also met at last summer's Step by Step BBQ, focus on assisting our local charities and initiatives and have helped support our community since 1957. Thank you to Cllr Branson for your help and support this very successful evening.

On November 25th I joined the Cowplain School in their Christmas hamper efforts. As a former student, I am so proud of The Cowplain School where students, staff and the Cowplain community have come together to create food and Christmas hampers for the school's families that need that extra bit of support at this time of year. The school who have collected hundreds of donations, will give around 100 of their families a festive hamper with staff delivering each and every one to the doorstep. They have been inspired by Marcus Rashford's campaign for free school meals, that I also supported during the half term and will in their efforts ensure any family from the school that needs an extra bit of support this Christmas, has it.

A message from Cowplain School: "We very much hope you will be able to donate a little or a lot, whatever you can afford will be very gratefully received. Your donation will fund our mission to provide meals during the holiday season to many of our students and their families and give them all something special to celebrate! Thank you kindly and a Merry Christmas to all! From the Christmas Food Appeal Team at The Cowplain School". From leading with this school initiative, to taking part in my Think Pink week raising a staggering £704.90 for Hannah's Holiday Home, the school are at the forefront of the effort in helping to support our local community - thank you.

26th November - Staunton Country Park. We are so lucky to have somewhere like Staunton Country Park in the Borough. Today on my walk I discovered how the park are diversifying to attract more visitors. From rolling landscapes to brand new tea rooms, the Staunton team have ensured that the park is a place everyone can enjoy, helping to restore the area to its former glory as part of the Bicentenary of Sir George Staunton's purchase of the estate. I waded through 200 years of history and here are the best bits I picked up -

- Staunton is home to a 500-year-old tree planted during Henry VIII reign in the 1500's
- The restored 1820's follies have housed crocodiles and other exotic creatures
- The old icehouse also acted as a bunker during the Second World War
- The lake was used as a testing site for the Admiralty for their mines and submarines
- The mansion house blueprint is marked out exactly where the house once stood
- The new tea rooms run by Park Community School were once the estates stables
- The new Chinese bridge highlights Staunton's travels to China, where he brought back trends like Earl Grey tea.
- Staunton is home to 15 species of bat, more than the New Forest
- There's a Chinese fort on the island that was surrounded by 8 canons that fired every day and the Chinese Imperial flag.

There's so much history on our doorstep and it's brilliant to see the park being restored to its former glory, whilst balancing a modern approach with community groups like The Right to Work CIC making use of the old kitchen garden and Park Community School opening their amazing new Tearooms at The Coach House (Coffee is fab!). Staunton Farm is also a huge asset to the area and with a brand-new car park the site is now more accessible than ever, so get on your wellies and head down!

November 27th - #BestoftheBorough photography competition.

I have challenged the Mayor of Gosport to a photographic competition that showcases the best of what our Boroughs have to offer. I'm encouraging anyone and everyone that lives in the Borough to simply take a photo, capturing a shot that represents the best of our area. It can be anywhere and any theme - from coastline to churchyard, wildlife to scenic view, all showcasing the best bits of

what our Borough has to offer. The comp opens from Dec 1st and all you have to do is to send your best picture to my office via email before Friday 18th December. After doing that and if you upload your picture onto socials tag me into your post on insta @mayorofhavant and Facebook - Cllr Prad Bains and use the hashtag #bestoftheborough. On the closing date, the Mayor of Gosport and I, along with a panel of judges from the photography world will chose the best submission from each Borough who will then go head to head with each other, resulting in one becoming the overall winner from all the submissions across both of our areas. The winner will take the photographic crown back to their own Borough along with a winning prize from both Mayors as part of this inaugural competition. I would love the title to come back to Havant and I have complete faith in the artistic abilities of all of our residents to produce the defining submission. Let's do this, let's get snapping and let's bring this one home to Havant! A huge thank you to Sophie for designing the artwork for the competition!

November 28th - I'm right behind Havant & Waterlooville F.C. for their FA Cup second round tie against Marine Football Club live on BT Sport tomorrow. After dominating the preliminary rounds, the Hawks saw off Cray Valley in the first round proper, that was also streamed live on BBC Sport. I have watched the Hawks since I was a little boy, I was at Anfield in 08' to watch us go ahead against Liverpool and I had the privilege of opening Havant's new pitch in October as Mayor. Under the leadership of Chairman Derek Pope, the club has grown into being a community hub, helping to promote sport across the area. It has helped connect local businesses, inspire children into the game and has seen the first team go from strength to strength, turning pro this year. I'm incredibly proud of the club and what the lads have achieved on the pitch to get even this far is remarkable, let's get through this one and welcome City to the Community Stadium in round 3! Make sure you tune in tomorrow at 2.45pm to see the Hawks do one better in Merseyside this time round. Daring to dream.

November 30th - LIGHTS ON! - Havant in her Christmas finest. The Christmas lights have now officially been switched on across the Borough and we have some fabulous Christmas trees dotted around for you to enjoy. Locations include Havant, Leigh Park, Emsworth, Hayling and a magical display in Waterlooville. Thanks to every single person involved in the effort, you've done a brilliant job!

December 1st - Christmas card appeal: Thank you so much to Rachel Madocks School for designing my Mayor's Christmas card this year. The children have worked really hard in getting the card ready and I'm sure you'll agree, it looks fabulous! This year I'm asking that if you know of anyone that will appreciate a Christmas card during this festive period, please just drop me a message with their details and I'll ensure they receive one from me. Christmas can be a lonely time of year for many, heightened with the restrictions in place, if I can help in this smallest of ways then I endeavour to do just that. Sophie and I have already signed over 300 cards ready to be delivered to every corner of the Borough, please do just get in touch if you can think of any relative or friend that would appreciate a Christmas card from us. Thanks once again to Rachel Madocks school for their efforts in designing the card, I have always been a big supporter of the school and look forward to my next visit in January!

December 3rd - EAT LOCAL/SHOP LOCAL/BUY LOCAL – On my social media pages there's a list of businesses around Waterlooville we can support. Last night I met up with George Purnell who runs the fabulous Koop & Kraft that is now back open for business, along with many other restaurants, shops and services, locally. Over this festive period, I'm encouraging everyone where they can to book a table at their local independent, get their New Year's trim from the local barber up the road and to get their Christmas flowers from the florist at the end of the street. We can all support our local businesses by eating, shopping and buying local. I've got a list of businesses on my social media pages, please comment with any that I've missed off so I can add their details. Thanks to Cllr Narinder Bains and Cllr Gwen Robinson for helping me out with this as well – we had some brilliant response and thanks from local businesses for including them on this list, I've been a firm supporter of our local businesses from the outset and will continue to do so into the future.

December 5th - Happy anniversary to the best Mayoress in the world!

On the 8th December I gave an update via social on the memorial woodland project at Havant Thicket. I am so proud that my memorial woodland idea in partnership with Portsmouth Water has really grown to life. Over 3,000 trees have been planted, creating a brand-new woodland that will be accessible to all. Just before the lockdown I was joined by children from Warren Park Primary School to help plant the last few trees on the site, they did an amazing job! I've also asked the school to help me name the woodland that will be opened officially in the Spring. The memorial woodland will also commemorate our areas connection to the Armed Forces with info boards about local history being installed and will also offer people a peaceful place to go to, to reflect and remember loved ones. The project will help enhance local biodiversity & wildlife, creating a real spot of beauty in Havant. The link to education is going to be a strong focus, being a place that schools can come to visit to learn more about local history as well as the importance of protecting our environment and the natural world around us. Sustainability is key, the topic of the environment is at the forefront of our minds and our younger people are the ones that will drive this forward into the years ahead. 3,000 trees planted, a woodland created and a place of beauty in Havant for all to enjoy. Stay tuned for the official opening!

On the 9th December I joined a covid secure coffee afternoon at the Acorn Centre. I've always been so proud to represent Hart Plain ward as a Councillor, the Acorn Community Centre, Wecock Farm is the beating heart of the ward and I've always been in awe of the work they do and what they've achieved for our local residents. I worked very closely with Ann and her team throughout the lockdown with my Waterlooville's Helping Hands group to support local residents and I regularly pop in to say hi and to see how the centre and the organisations operating within it are getting on. By offering a home to key local organisations such as Hannah's Holiday Home, Squirrels Nursery, Wecock Farm Big Local that all operate from the centre, it has allowed me also to build brilliant relationships with these key local groups and the amazing people that make the place so special. Today I joined the covid secure outdoor coffee afternoon and got a look at the fabulous Christmas display up across the community centre. It really is a place where all can go and be made to feel welcome and is the epitome of what a community centre should be. It'll be open until Christmas Eve, so come check it out!

December 10th - It was brilliant to meet Ian Kingswell Photography today at the picturesque Langstone Harbour. The local photography business operates from the heart of Havant and have so kindly donated to my Mayoral Charity for the year Hannah's Holiday Home. They along with so many of our other local businesses, organisations, schools and individuals have selflessly donated what they can to my Mayoral Appeal, enabling Pam and her team to continue supporting local families and children suffering from cancer.

Every penny counts, if you can donate please consider doing so and drop me a message if you'd like to know more - Details are below:

- Mayor of Havant's Charity Appeal Fund
- Account number - 61706612
- Sort code - 60 10 20

December 11th - It was brilliant meeting local business Aura Gas -today, hearing about how they've adapted and diversified during the pandemic. I was really impressed with their covid strategy, with a huge emphasis on the protection of their staff and residents they serve. From completing online surveys, producing FaceTime quotes to utilising a sector leading online booking system, this local business has really adapted to continue to meet the needs of the local area. With cold nights ahead, please make sure you stay warm in these winter nights and if you need any info around heating or boilers, give them a shout! #shoplocal

December 12th - It was fantastic to be able to open St Faith's Church, Havant, Christmas Fair this morning. It was fabulous to see small local businesses setting up stalls in and around the Church, many of which have been formed during the pandemic and of course also gladdening to see many residents in person once again, in a covid secure way supporting the Church and our local businesses. I would personally like to thank Canon Tom Kennar and his wonderful team of volunteers for enabling the Fair to happen, it was an incredible success! I managed to pick up a lovely lemon drizzle cake, along with some Christmas decorations and a flower vase from our local stall holders, thank you! #ShopLocal

Please read the lovely write up from a parishioner after the event, so kind! – “You may be shocked beyond belief to hear that I am not a political animal, particularly when it is local politics and squabbling. However – credit where it's due – I am so impressed with the current Mayor of Havant Prad Bains. No idea which party he represents and it really doesn't matter – he represents the Borough in such a positive way. Whenever there is something happening, so matter how inconsequential, he turns up (and not just for a photo opportunity like another politician we all know and many of us dislike!) and gives every impression that there is nowhere he would rather be. Children at school, older folk in care homes, faith groups of any persuasion. This morning I saw him after he'd left the Church Fair – and he was chatting away to a group of boys on bikes (who had just been riding through the crowded market – bonkers) as if they were the only people that mattered. In return, they were talking back to him. No photographer, no guards, just a man talking to young people and I thought it was brilliant. Well done Prad!”

December 13th – As you can on social media, Sophie and I have each painted a mural for a project that will see the buildings of park parade covered in artistic expression. You can probably guess which one is mine and which one is the Mayoress', a clue is that only one of us has an A level in Art! The project is run by Artscape & Jon Miness and is free and open to everyone, all you have to do is collect a square and get painting! Portrait artist of the year, I'm coming for you!

December 14th - Connecting organisations to our food banks: I'm lucky enough to visit many of our Borough's brilliant organisations, businesses and charitable groups - utilising these visits and having the ability to connect organisations together that would benefit from joint efforts, is something I do my best to achieve. Having led Waterloo's Helping Hands throughout the lockdown, working alongside our food banks, I know first-hand the vital role they play in our community. I have assisted our local food banks in Waterloo and Havant through connecting them with local businesses offering assistance, the generous public, Friends of BAPS Havant, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and HSDC. After making the connection, the Hindu Temple have kindly given across donations from members of the Havant Hindu community to the Waterloo Food Bank. The Waterloo Fire Station also collected and gave a generous donation to the Foodbank, ensuring it was safely delivered and the local community supported from the efforts of station 19. The Sport department at HSDC, led by Ollie Jones helped to raise vital donations for the Foodbank PO9. Through the collection of non-perishable items, cash donations and a FIFA tournament being played, the department helped the local Havant community immensely. It's important to also recognise the efforts of individuals and other businesses that have helped our food banks after being introduced to their inspirational work. Thank you to everyone that has done their bit to help out those in need.

December 15th - My message to our 126,894 residents that has gone through 56,091 of our Borough's letterboxes this week. My Mayor's Message - “I would like to start in the only place that is appropriate, by extending the most heartfelt thanks to every single volunteer, business, charity and organisation that has stepped up during the lockdown to support others when they most needed it. Having created and led the voluntary group Waterloo Helping Hands, being joined by a team of over 100 amazing volunteers, I saw first-hand the goodwill and empathy of so many which was abundant across the Borough. As we all know our keyworkers have been an inspiration to us all, enabling us to continue our way of life in the toughest of times, you are all incredible. As a collective across Havant, we have adhered to government guidelines and done all we can to help protect

those we love and care for, we have to continue and persevere in this same way so that we can defeat this virus together. As we head into the Christmas period, I would urge you to stay safe, follow the guidance and to continue the fight against this virus together as one”.

December 16th - Great to be back at my local today having a bite to eat with a drink, the Rainbow Waterlooville is what every pub should be, a welcoming place that puts their customers first - pop along and check out their new menu and support your local pub #eatlocal

On the 17th December it was announced that Havant was moving into tier 3 from Saturday and I ensured that I informed residents on social media straight away.

December 18th – video with Hants Fire & Rescue: I’ve teamed up with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service at Havant Fire Station to get across 6 key points we all need to follow and be aware of this Christmas. Small actions on our part will help to keep our families and homes safe this Christmas period.

1) Christmas Trees 🌲

Make sure that your real trees are watered as if they become dry, they become prone to fire.

2) Christmas Decorations ❄️

Ensure you unplug your Christmas decorations if you leave the house and also when you go to sleep. Also make sure that you don’t overload your sockets.

3) Cooking 🍳

Never leave your cooking unattended. When you’ve finished cooking turn off all appliances and take any pots and pans off a heated surface. Never leave any kitchen equipment or towels near any heat sources. Make sure that you clean ovens & grills properly as fat build up created a fire risk.

4) Candles 🕯️

Don’t leave burning candles unattended, always keeping them away from children at all times. Don’t attach decorations to live candles and use LED alternatives where possible.

5) Working smoke detectors 🔔

Make sure that your smoke detectors are working and test them weekly. You should have one on every floor of your home.

6) Escape Plan 🚪

Ensure everyone in your home knows where keys are to doors and windows to allow for an easy escape in the event of a fire.

My thanks to Station Commander Dave Graham and Firefighter Marley Cameron from Havant Fire Station

for getting across this vital info. Let’s all follow these key tips, keeping our families, homes and our Fire Service safe! Merry Christmas.

December 19th – Havant moves into Tier 4 from midnight, I ensured again this was communicated to residents via social media.

December 20th - Very pleased to have attended the Rotary Club of Havant Community Carol Service at

St Faith's Church, Havant, this afternoon. Tom Kennar, his choir and volunteers all did a fabulous job to keep within our tier 4 restrictions. I felt like a kid at Christmas listening to Santa explaining how he’s overcoming the restrictions this year to ensure the children of the Borough have a very merry Christmas!

December 21st - Combatting loneliness - Mayor’s phone call. With Havant plunged into Tier 4 and many left facing Christmas alone, I’m asking you to do one simple thing over the next few days, pick up the phone to someone you know that will be alone this Christmas. Whether it be a Great Aunt or long-lost friend, it’s a moment from your day that will make someone else’s. My Christmas card

appeal this year targeted our isolated residents and ensured that many received a Christmas card from me this past week after being nominated by friends, families and neighbours. I'm pledging my support once again to those most in need - If you DM me with details of someone who you feel would appreciate a call at this time of year, I will personally pick up the phone and speak to them this Christmas, ensuring they have someone to chat to during this festive period. Christmas can be the loneliest time of year for many, let's all do our bit to help combat this. I'm pleased to say that I made some very worthwhile calls to isolated residents over the Christmas period.

December 22nd – I published information on social media about supermarkets open in different tiers locally as well as our Borough's boundaries. 21,000 residents accessed this information from my pages.

On December 23rd I published the latest covid data for our area to residents on social media. Hampshire is being moved into Tier 4 from Boxing Day. It's reassuring to know that other neighbouring areas in Hampshire are being moved to tier 4, with cases over the Borough border under Winchester City Council in excess of 800+ in every 100K, it was a step that was required to protect the residents of Havant.

Christmas Eve - Merry Christmas to you all from Sophie and I, we know that it's been so tough for everyone and many festive plans have had to change, however we do sincerely hope that each and every one of you has a very special day 🥰🎄🧊

Boxing Day - The traditional Boxing Day walk at Staunton 🍁🍁 Hope that you all had a lovely Christmas 🎄

December 27th – Havant update to residents on social media regarding covid data was seen by almost 28,000 residents. Data shows that cases in Havant have rapidly increased to 433 per 100K. In just a month, the rolling weekly average has risen from 93 to 124 to 219, now standing at 433. With nearly 3,000 cases across the Borough, rising daily across all age's groups, it's more important than ever we all do our bit to drive these numbers down.

December 31st - My highlight of 2020 - Waterlooville's Helping Hands. It's easy for us to focus on the negatives this year has had to offer, however I wanted to end 2020 with the same positivity I started it with, through sharing a stand out moment that showcased what our community is all about and can do. At the start of the first lockdown in March I became aware of the lack of first-hand support for shielding residents across Waterlooville. With no time to spare I created Waterlooville's Helping Hands that aimed to support any resident that needed it with shopping, medical collections and being call buddies to those in isolation. Through a social media push seeking volunteers to assist in the effort, in less than 48 hours I was joined by an incredible team of over 100 volunteers. From NHS nurses, teachers, young students, through to retired residents, people came from all walks of life in order to support those that needed it most in our Waterlooville community. Over the coming weeks and months thousands of tasks were accomplished, some still being undertaken to this day; essential supplies bought and dropped off, medical prescriptions collected and regular catch up calls made. Through our buddying up system, consistency was created, friendships were made and community spirit was reignited. Every single volunteer that joined in with the effort gave one of our neighbours the lifeline they needed, with no other outlet of support our volunteers ensured that no-one that contacted us was turned away and everyone that needed support received it. The group coped with referrals from the County helpline, HBC, family, friends, some even from abroad seeking to support loved ones in our area. We also worked very closely with local food banks and our volunteers ensured parcels were collected and dropped to the doorstep. I have got to know each and every one of the 100+ volunteers that stepped up to support 120 vulnerable residents across Waterlooville. I am truly humbled by their actions and will always remain in their debt for their unwavering support that enabled so many local people to access what they needed, when they needed it most. I am so proud to have be a part of the Waterlooville Helping Hands response and I would like to head into 2021 by thanking each and every volunteer that joined in to support our local

residents during this pandemic - Thank you 🍷 Wishing you all a joyful and prosperous New Year 🍷

January 3rd - The incredible talent within our Borough. I have long resigned myself to be the least talented member of my household, you'll be able to see why after watching this video. More than being just my younger bro, Deeps has taken his music to new levels consistently and without bias, has to be one of the brightest talents in the music industry. His latest tune 'Parachute' has all been shot within our Borough by the uber talented Huon Barlow and the music heard was also a product of the talented Callum Trimby. It showcases our Borough's relationship with the arts, from music through to incredible film creation. We as younger people often are critiqued for our lack of ambition and drive; however, this is a clear indication that not only is talent in our Borough abundant, but the future of the Arts locally is in safe hands. The link to the full YouTube video is on my social media, go check it out.

January 6th – Havant update on social media: Cases in Havant have escalated this past week to 666 per 100K, with an increase of 841 cases in the last week, taking our Borough up to over 4.2K cases. With cases rising, I have today pushed again for our Borough to have access to lateral flow/rapid tests to help drive down our figures and reverse this trend and we await a response from Public Health Hampshire regarding this. With the roll out of both vaccines we can now see light at the end of the tunnel. With a third national lockdown here, it's essential we all do our bit now more than ever.

January 7th - STOP DOMESTIC ABUSE #youarenotalone. I met with the brilliant Havant team at Stop Domestic Abuse virtually to talk about the rise in cases they are dealing with. The charity has seen a significant surge in demand for their services throughout this pandemic, I was however reassured that those that need access to this support are receiving it and that the Charity is doing everything in its power to support members of our community. Regardless of the lockdown rules, you CAN still leave your home to get help if you are affected by domestic abuse. If you are in immediate danger, please call 999 (if you cannot speak press 55 afterwards).

The message below is directly from the team 📌

“Our current primary message is:

If you are affected by domestic abuse, please call us on 0330 016 5112. Our advice line is open 9.30-8pm Monday to Fridays (excluding bank holidays). Our refuges remain open, please call us on the number above, you are able to access refuge 24 hours a day. Please remember regardless of the current measures in place, you CAN still leave to get help if you are affected by domestic abuse. If you are in any immediate danger, please dial 999. Please don't suffer alone, we are here to help you”.

January 8th - On my latest lockdown walk I stumbled across the prettiest of follies in our Borough, the Beacon built in 1830 situated in our magnificent Staunton Country Park. Wellies advised 😊

January 10th - Walk at Langstone harbour 🌊 As well as being a true spot of beauty in our Borough, during the Second World War the harbour contributed to the War effort by acting as a Starfish decoy site to misdirect night time enemy bombers that were aiming for Portsmouth. One of 237 decoy sites around the country, the harbour lit up at night and took some of the force from the City. Today marks 80 years since the biggest air raid on Portsmouth during the Second World War where 172 civilians so sadly lost their lives. A walk around the harbour not only offered a chance to see the wildlife and the views, but to reflect on the sacrifice of others and the role our area has played in protecting our way of life.

January 11th - It was really good to meet Luke, Nick and Neil (my old teacher!) from CM Sports virtually today to hear about the resilient work they've been doing during the pandemic. The organisation work with over 100 schools across Hampshire, including many in the Borough, delivering PE lessons, events and after school clubs for local children. Their efforts have continued during the lockdown where they are helping our schools in supporting vulnerable children and those

of Keyworkers. In normal times CM Sports engage with 25,000 pupils per week and deliver over 114 after school clubs every week! The organisation also helped to deliver the Connect4Summer programme that Sophie and I attended in August. Being a strong employer to some of our younger people, this educational provider has really impressed me with their approach to coaching, education and their contributions to our Borough's children - well done CM Sports!

January 14th - The #BestoftheBorough photography competition has now come to a close, we have received over 100 incredible submissions, showcasing every aspect of both our Boroughs. Thank you to every single person that sent in a photo! With the help of guest judge Huon Barlow who himself is one of the South Coasts' finest photographers, we have painstakingly narrowed the 100+ entries down to a top 10. Now we need your help to decide who takes home the 'most popular photo' crown, all you have to do is the following:

- 1 - Like your favourite photo from the top 10
- 2 - tag 3 friends below in the comments who can do the same

This will close on Sunday evening and the winner of this most popular photo, along with Mayor's favourites and the guest judges' favourite will be announced on Sunday too!

January 15th - Growing Places Nurseries - thank you 🍌 It was really nice to meet the team at Growing Places virtually today, who across their 6 settings have stood up during the pandemic to support local children and families. All 6 nurseries, including one in my ward, have stayed completely open, not turning away any child who needs their support. From constructing outdoor classrooms, installing temporary walls to create further rooms, deep cleans, altering working hours to coincide with NHS parent's shifts, to cooking key-worker parents' meals after a days' work, the staff at the nurseries have truly gone above and beyond. Since the first lockdown began Growing Places also opened their community larder, where for a fiver anyone could fill a bag full of shopping for the week and this has assisted so many local families. The nurseries are real community nurseries and the staff really do believe in what they do, helping to raise the aspirations of local children ensuring they feel valued at all times. Every setting always has its doors open to help anyone and in such difficult times has stepped up when they were needed most. I'm really excited to see plans for their vision moving forward materialise and am so very thankful that we have such a wonderful organisation in my ward and across our Borough. Thank you to every single Early Years educator and to every member of staff at Growing Places for your resilience, efforts and determination!

On January 16th I published the latest covid data for Havant on social media. Havant update: 🟢 2.7 million vaccines have already been administered nationally, at a local level we have seen thousands of residents in the Borough have their first dose of the vaccine already. Although still very high, for the first time in a long time we have seen a reduction in weekly cases down to 604 cases per 100K. 169 fewer cases overall than the previous week's data which is a positive sign. Local vaccination centres are also looking for volunteers to help in the effort, if you or anyone you know would like to assist, please email - prad.bains@havant.gov.uk

January 17th - WINNER OF THE #bestoftheborough PHOTOGRAPHY COMP - SARAH TALBOT



On Thursday I published the top 10 photos from our #bestoftheborough competition between Havant & Gosport that saw over 100 submissions showcasing every aspect of our area. We asked for your help to decide the 'most popular photo' by simply liking your favourite shot from our top 10. We had well over 200 votes since Thursday and with a staggering 60 of those, (28.6% of the overall vote) it gives me enormous pleasure to declare the winning photograph of the inaugural #bestoftheborough photography competition to 'Staunton Country Park' taken in Havant Borough by Sarah Talbot. I know it was the first competition Sarah's entered and I'm so pleased to be able to announce her success, I'm sure you'll all agree that her photo is just fabulous and showcases such a special place in our Borough! The Mayoress and I have each selected a photo that we were

particularly fond of from the initial submissions, Sophie's favourite featured in the top 10 and was taken by Beth Racklyeft, bringing to us the magnificent sunset at Hayling Island. Mine was 'tropics' by Huon Barlow - For obvious reasons we didn't consider the photo for the top 10 but I feel the drone view of an area between Hayling and Emsworth is something I've never seen before, capturing the contours and meanders of the harbour, giving another dimension to our area. Huon as guest judge helped us immensely throughout and has also given us his personal favourite, which was the Final Straw's amazing shot 'Oak Tree' in Hollybank Woods - the lighting is insane! I would like to finally say a massive thank you to each and every person that submitted an entry to the competition, the standard was incredible and really showed off the best of what our Boroughs have to offer. A big thank you to the Mayor of Gosport, Zoe Huggins who joined me for this inaugural competition and to Huon for guest judging it all! Congrats again Sarah and well done for bringing the trophy back to Havant! 📷

In the short-term diary moving forward, I look forward very much to attending Rachel Madocks School's LGBT initiative virtually, growing places' 20th birthday celebrations, Holocaust Memorial Day, the Armed Forces Covenant resigning and full council. I continue to engage with and support our local businesses, charities and organisations promoting our Borough at every step.

The vast majority of my ward work and invitations have continued to come in via social media, enabling Sophie and I to continue our civic duties across the Borough, engaging with and using to our advantage, the virtual world we are surrounded by. I am pleased to say the Instagram page is growing day by day, now over 615 followers, which is being used alongside my main social media tool, my Cllr Prad Bains Facebook page. Over half my ward work comes via my social media pages.

Since being elected as Mayor on July 22nd, I'm incredibly proud to say that my 90 organic posts on my Facebook page alone have reached 426,341 people. Nearly half a million times my initiatives and ventures across the Borough have appeared on people's screens since taking office, Havant is truly being put back on the map.

Thank you.

 <https://www.facebook.com/MayorofHavant>

 <https://www.havant.gov.uk/mayor>