

AGM Report for May 14th 2013

Fellow councillors

We have again seen a busy year on the council and welcomed a new Councillor to our numbers.

June saw a very busy month with our celebrations to mark the Queens diamond jubilee.

A fun day and tea was held in the Square and an excellent evening on the moor in conjunction with the Moor Management, who also celebrated their Diamond Anniversary. This was an end to a fantastic day which everyone enjoyed.

The Council provided new gates for the Jubilee foot path and we had a sculptured bell donated to the Town by artist Marcus Vergette which, with the help of the Moor Management, now has a permanent position on the moor.

Other completed projects this year include a new waiting area put in at the Coop bus stop. This area still needs a little more work with a safety barrier being put in place

The proposed market development has been on going throughout the year with discussion continuing with the consultant's and owners and the Community Plan (Plan-it project) being agreed by the community and Council, it is now waiting for the final document to be checked and agreed By West Devon. It will then be ready for all to read.

This will become a consultation document for future planning applications. I thank all those who have given freely their commitment and time to this valued project.

It is now hoped to turn this document into a neighbourhood plan which will carry more weight with planners and be recognised by law.

Parking again has been on the agenda and consultations with Devon Highways and the local community policing team on ways to address this problem. The Council will again be looking into making the car park free and will be in discussions with West Devon on the best way of taking this forward.

Parking is a continuing problem in bottleneck areas in the Town; we need to work with the community to solve this problem.

The Council have given various grant money to several local organisations to help them to continue with the good work they do. In this current climate we are seeing and expecting greater demand on council funds. We will always listen to those locally who need help.

The Council are now focusing on new projects, one of which is the new Skate Park in Island Park, This is being run with some very enthusiastic and passionate members of both community and councillors, all again giving their time freely to raise the funding required to make a great area for the Towns' young people to enjoy.

Money has already been pledged from several organisations such as Sports England and Moor management, and possible match funding from West Devon Borough Council. Many events are going on to push this project forward. We have had many debates on this project over the past months.

We are looking to place plaques on the Jubilee gates and the Moor bell and to get a new engraved plaque placed on the Morris monument as the commemorative wording is not currently visible.

The Council are also in discussions with Ruby Country to place some seats/benches on the Ruby way between Hatherleigh and Highampton.

We also saw another very successful Community Awards evening where the Council can say thank you to all those who work for the community but often remain nameless.

I have now been Mayor for three years and I am pleased to say this cannot be done without the support of all councillors and our Clerk, and some sterling work by my Deputy Andy Gilbert who has had to step into the breach on a few occasions, for this I thank him.

All Councillors are fully committed to seeing Hatherleigh remain a good community for all to live in and all councillors have worked tirelessly to make this happen. I receive good positive feed back from local people on how pleased they are with our current council and the work it has done or is doing, I am pleased to be part of this fantastic team and I thank you all for your time and hard work and dedication this year.