

Mayor's Diary Boroughbridge Monday 2nd April

With local elections looming it comes ever closer to the end of my second mayoral year. Because of electioneering rules this will be my last article as Mayor. It has been an honour to represent our community across the district at local, regional and national events, making sure Boroughbridge has had a voice. My last function as Mayor, although after the elections, will be to present the freedom of Boroughbridge to 6 Regiment Royal Logistics Corp based at Dishforth on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May. The event will start at 10.30 with a parade of their heavy vehicles through the town, which you will have opportunity to explore later in the day. This will be followed by the parade where 6 Regiment will be presented with the freedom of the town. Once the ceremonial part is complete there will be many cultural displays in the car park on Back Lane including the Khukuri Dance, Fiji, Meke and Cibi Dance. Also present will be the Royal British Legion Brass Band and an inflatable assault course and bouncy castle. So please come and join us for it promises to be a great day. One final word on the freedom parade, unfortunately it will cause some disruption a day or two before the event as parking will be restricted on the proposed route as well as the Back Lane car park so watch out for the notices. I apologise in advance for the inconvenience but I am sure it will be well worth it for such a great day.

Great progress has been made in tidying our cemeteries over the past couple of years. Fences painted, bushes cut back, dangerous trees felled and hedges planted. However some head stones have had to be laid down following a recent safety check. If this has happened to one of your family members can you please contact our council office where options can be discussed.

I received many calls last week from upset residents about the appalling graffiti on the youth shelter in the recreation ground. The shelter actually belongs to Harrogate Borough Council, who desperately tried to remove it from the panels. After some negotiation with HBC they have decided to remove the panels, leaving very little to deface. Just such a shame that we have to resort to such measures.



Next week I have a meeting with directors from Yorkshire Water at the Civic Centre in Harrogate where I hope they are going to outline their plans on tackling the waste water situation as well as how they intend to future proof their system. A meeting well overdue with district and county councillors in attendance also.

Also moving on at a pace is the question of our CCTV system in the town. First impressions of the recent survey are that it is an overwhelming "yes" to installing our own system. I and some other councillors have been meeting with various CCTV providers as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner's consultant team to ensure we choose the best system for our needs. I have asked HBC to leave the cameras in situ until we are ready to install new ones, but it looks as though they are insistent on taking them down as soon as possible.

The HGV restriction signs are slowly being erected and some residents have been asking about the finer details of these restrictions. The council will respond to those individuals in due course once we have all the answers.

All that remains for me to say is a big thank you for your support over the past two years. I have tried to do my best and get Boroughbridge's voice heard. Also a big thank you to Pauline who has been at my side supporting me always.