

Chairman's Report January 2021

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a very prosperous, happy and healthy new year. I hope this year brings us good fortune and that this terrible virus will be eradicated as soon as possible so that we can return to a normal life as we know it.

I would like to thank everyone for all their Christmas messages, we have received messages from 14 different councils in Hampshire and others from the many agencies and partners who we deal with in our work. I have sent a lovely card which was designed by children from our virtual school, the winning and the runner up designs was used this year. This was sent on behalf of our Council to our usual partners and friends all over the island, Hampshire, London, Germany and Virginia in the United States. A lot of cards was hand delivered to local businesses and organisations.

I would like to thank our Medina Marching Band for going out on a cold Saturday (the 19th) in December to perform for a colleague of theirs outside his house, this was much appreciated and it was very moving to watch, they then moved on and performed at Mountbatten Hospice to cheer up the staff and patients who was delighted with this impromptu appearance.

With the current lockdown and restrictions, like everything else all civic events has been cancelled but I am confident that we will return to normal towards the summer and I have already started to make plans for this year's Armed Forces Day which was a great success in the past, especially when it was held at Newport Quay in 2019. Other events will be announced as the plans materialise.

I was pleased to see that the council provided grants to local community projects, also Island Roads who donated a total of £73,00 in 2020 for community grants as well. Many other grants were gifted and allocated to families who are affected by the pandemic. This funding is much needed and has come at the right time for some people, for that I thank them.

I would also like to thank everyone who has gone the extra mile to support and help our services so that they can deliver the service they do best, our NHS in particular who is doing a tremendous job which cannot be easy in the current climate. There are others, too many to mention who went out of their way to help others and I would like to say on behalf of our council, thank you very much.

To end my report, may I please ask that we adhere to the guidelines and stay safe.