

Mayoral Report to Full Council – 11 December 2023

In the two weeks since my last report I've been lucky enough to have some very interesting (and fun) engagements.

- **8 December** – it was my pleasure to attend the St. Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival with Cllr Joanne Bright, where I was asked to award prizes for best tree.
 - There were some lovely entries, and it was so tough that I got flashbacks to judging sandcastles at this summer's Water Gala.
 - I took the opportunity to speak with Revd Matt Hodder, who is settling-in well to his new role at the church.
- **10 December** – I attended the Thanet Male Voice Choir's Charity Christmas concert on behalf of Kent Prostate Cancer charity.
 - This was a sold-out event and with the respective Mayors and Chairs of Ramsgate, Margate and Birchington, alongside Sir Roger Gale, and actress Brenda Blethyn in attendance.
 - The Thanet Male Voice Choir were joined by the excellent Proteus Brass Ensemble and the Upton Primary School Choir – who were unbelievably polished given that they were between 7-11 years old.

Together with Cllr Joanne Bright, we've continued to improve our connections with local schools.

- **26 November** – we officially opened the new Dane Court Grammar School 6th Form Centre. This fantastic new space, with its own canteen is part of the school's efforts to attract more pupils to take up its 6th form offering.
 - For those who don't know – they run an International Baccalaureate course instead of A-Levels, which can be quite academically daunting.
 - I was pleased to unveil my first ever plaque too. I'm unsure how delighted my children – who both attend the school – were about having Dad's name on permanent display!
- **6-7 December** – Cllr Joanne Bright and I attended the Charles Dickens High School Culture & Community days.
 - We met with all 240 Year 8 pupils, spending an hour with each form group.
 - During eight, hour-long sessions, we gave them an overview of what local government is, what councillors do, and how they can get involved.
 - We also told them about the Town Council's plans to build a Cleaner, Safer, Kinder Broadstairs and spent a lot of time listening to their ideas and answering questions.
 - We were delighted with how engaged they were and the subsequent feedback from teachers is that the days were a resounding success.

Finally – according to my diary, I only decided to stand for election on 18 February this year and until May's Annual Meeting, I had never attended a meeting of the Town Council. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank every one of the councillors and officers for their encouragement, engagement and support over the last few months. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together so far and look forward to continuing to work with you all in the new year.

I wish you all a merry Christmas – and a well-earned rest!

