

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

11 April 2019

COUNCILLOR MRS KATHY MELLISH - CABINET MEMBER FOR FACILITIES AND ICT

For the period 22 February 2019 to 11 April 2019

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

As this will be my last Cabinet report it gives me the chance to reflect on my time not only as a Cabinet member but past Panel Chairman, Deputy and Mayor of this Borough over the last 16 years.

Looking back I can honestly say I have been very proud to be a Member of this Council, it has been a 'real eye opener' to work with all my colleagues on many major projects. My real interest and sense of satisfaction however has been just to find out how the Borough actually 'ticks' along and to be part of that process, making decisions in sometimes difficult circumstances. How does it function on a day to day basis and what effort does there need to be to ensure this continues seamlessly so that the public can expect events to be available, car parks to be ready and open for use, CCTV to help support our safety around the Town, facilities to be there to be used, clean streets, parks and gardens tidy and well stocked to spend time in, the Crematorium, churchyards, business units, housing, bins to be emptied, rubbish to be cleared and in emergencies staff available to assist our partners be it flooding or Policing are just a few thoughts that immediately cross my mind. All this was something I had taken for granted until I found out exactly what made it happen. Perhaps those odd people who take to social media channels might like to spare a thought before they start their armchair warrior rants. Our Council officers work very hard to assist Members to ensure the Borough flows in a seamless way providing all the above and more. All Members are part of this process and accountable whatever political party they belong to. Members actually do not have lavish parties on the proceeds of Council tax paid, now that would be something to join up for! Every penny we receive from the public goes towards a function for the public who pay it and visitors, and remember it is also collected on behalf of the County Council, the Police, the Parish Councils and any special expense towards Parish Council requirements, it is not all for one authority. We have to account for every penny collected for our needs and our budget records are available to view.

It is not easy being a Member, we have Ward work, many meetings, the feeling of being on call 24/7 (some of us also work full time as well), difficult decisions and not all can be the result everyone would like. Yes, we make mistakes from time to time we are human, but those who want to complain about our actions I would suggest should themselves stand for public office.

It can be a thankless task, but it's a responsibility we take on and are

accountable for, those who want to complain should spare a thought, why not also be accountable and take responsibility rather than just complain?

The easy route is to do nothing, moan and take to social media.

I have to put on record my thanks for the support and guidance of my Portfolio officers over the last few years. They have the patience of a saint have put up with my moans, groans and demands for action and have provided the services that have kept my areas running smoothly. It's the calm swan image with feet peddling like mad under the water quite often, but it works!

Across the board I would also thank all the officers I have personally worked with over the years who I may not now have daily contact with. Again, I will state the Officers are a credit to the Council and without their help and guidance we would struggle. There is no I in team, a well-used saying and one I can categorically endorse.

Good luck for the future with financial constraints ever more increasing and good luck to all those seeking election in a few weeks, I wish you well. Look after our Borough it is a wonderful place to be and we should all be very proud of it.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Officer meetings
Cabinet meeting and Portfolio updates
Cabinet Sifting