CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR THE TOWN MEETING.

Welcome to your town meeting. This is a chance for you all to hear what has been going on in your town and for you to give us some feedback and questions.

So, what has your Town Council been up to all year? Quite a lot actually and I will give you a rough guide as to how much has been achieved this year.

The cemetery has been extensively upgraded, giving us more space and approx. 10-15 more years. It certainly looks a lot nicer. We will continue to look into any available land should it become available.

We have been working with Breckland Council to ascertain funding through the market towns initiative. This is an ongoing project.

We have bought flags for the town to celebrate different events, but we are now having to look at better brackets for the old buildings.

We have many more events in the pipe line to add to the successful firework display and the festive market which I hasten to add was a huge success, particularly with the new Santa fun run. We also increased the Christmas lights further down the town, which I have to say look lovely. We have never seen so many people turn out for the market, it really was a great day, and many thanks to Lings for letting me ride pillion on one of their bikes.

We have also started the Open Gardens and Yard Sales, which was a huge success and promises to be even bigger this year.

Our Remembrance Day was incredibly well attended. We worked closely with the Royal British Legion and the Church to bring together a slightly different format which was hugely successful.

We have initiated a joint events officer that is working between us and Swaffham. This is working well and is a culmination of our joint working together group with Swaffham, which is very successful as we share ideas.

We are continuing to look after the heritage buildings which the Council has responsibility for, a new roof was put on to Wayland Hall and the clock has been serviced. I hasten to add the clock is still working!

The Council was pleased to see the post office re-opened in the High. This is a valuable service to the town; many thanks go to Deven and his family for working tirelessly on this.

There was an Action Day with the police over the summer where we worked hard on updating the Jubilee Garden, it looks so much tidier now. From this, we are now investigating reopening the fountain on the garden.

Memorial Garden is also looking better with a kind donation of bulbs from a member of the public, working parties are helping to keep on top of it, therefore providing a nice place to sit.

We have upgraded the fence with 106 money at LovelI Gardens Play Park to keep the children safe.

We have developed a good working relationship with the Police and together identified a need for wigwag signs for the school, the Council applied to the Parish Partnership Scheme, which was successful and we await the signs being put up soon.

We strongly objected to the closure of the sure start centre in Watton.

It is hoped that working closely with the Youth Advisory Board we will be able to bring to Watton a skate park and more youth provision, there is a youth forum meeting coming up again soon and I urge you to come along and help us address the need to provide our youth with more facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan is coming along nicely and will soon be brought to fruition. This will help shape the future of our town. The Drainage Group working within the plan has done amazing work and it must be congratulated, as we are now seeing more work and engagement with Anglian Water and Highways.

The Town Council has had a presence in the market over the last year, this has been an invaluable source of engagement with the public and a great way to hear the gripes, groans moans and good bits. It has also helped us with our efforts of improving the market, this is something that we will continue to do. We have new market stalls coming soon which will extend the market into Middle Street, this has been a direct result of working together with Swaffham.

Collaborative and partnership working as described with Swaffham is something that definatly works and it is something that the Town Council is striving to continue in our own town. Watton Working Together gets results.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the town for coming here tonight and to say how much I have enjoyed being your Mayor for the last year. So, Thank you, to you all.

Kind Regards

Tina Kiddell

Chairman Watton Town Council.