

## **Mayor's Annual report 2024**

As ever this has been a busy year for the Town Council. Rather than set out events in a chronological order I have set out my report under headings.

### **Events**

The following events were organised by, or in conjunction with the Town Council;

Watton in Bloom (organised by the Watton Society and judged by the Mayor)

Yard Sale and Open Gardens

Antiques Fair on the High Street and at the Queens Hall

Bike Event on the High Street

Firework Display

Remembrance Day Parade

Festive Market

Christmas lights and new Artificial Tree

The Council is delighted to have appointed an Events and Marketing Officer to oversee and enhance these activities for residents

### **Improvements to the Town**

New Bins and Planters throughout the High Street in a black "heritage" colour

A cascading Planter on the Christmas tree plinth

Refurbishment of the Public Toilets for both men and women and disabled.

Unfortunately, the men's toilet was later badly damaged by an arson attack.

The repairs are now taking place.

Heritage Boards, designed by an Artist with local connections have been placed

around the town showing the significant buildings and their history (with thanks to the Watton Society) for the benefit of local residents and visitors

The children's play area at Lovell Gardens has been refurbished. New

equipment has been installed with a swing for disabled children. A new path

has been laid to enable wheelchair access to the facilities (the first of its kind in Breckland)

Discussions are taking place with NCC to replace the bus stops with new ones which will also include an electronic message board about arrivals

We are currently in conversation with Breckland about improving the lighting at Church Walk and also adding cctv for the area

## **Charlotte Harvey Community Hub**

Facilities in the centre have been upgraded including new toilets for both sexes and for the disabled.

Roof repairs have been undertaken and completed

There are more clubs and organisations using the centre

We have appointed a caretaker who has greatly helped with the cleanliness and enhancement of the facilities

The Council continues to support the Food Hub at the centre

## **Watton Sports Centre**

We have had discussions with the new trustees at the centre and have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with regards to the children's play area and are supporting the centre by including their grass cutting into the Town's Gardening Contract

We were pleased to support the Football Team with their transport for their semi-final match.

Peter Bishop

April 2023