

Report FromThe Town Mayor, Cllr R Maskell
Annual Town Meeting 27th April 2010

It has been a privilege to have been selected firstly by the residents of the Town to represent them as a Town and District Councillor, and by my fellow Councillors to take office as the Mayor.

As in previous years, the primary objective of the present administration is to run the town's financial affairs in a manner to optimise value for money without reducing the quality of services. This has been illustrated in the reports given by Mrs Stella Newman, Acting Town Clerk, and Cllr James Page, Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee. The Council has also been busy planning further cost reduction schemes for the following year, including installation of solar panels which will not only reduce the carbon footprint, but the investment will pay back over a 9 to 10 year period. In May the current central heating boilers are to be replaced with energy efficient condensing boilers. Following negotiations, one boiler has been supplied free of charge direct from the manufacturer, and the other supplied at cost price. A local heating engineer has offered his services free of charge to assist with the installation, and other costs have been covered due to a number of Councillors not taking their allowance.

The Council is also intending to make alterations to the existing kitchen to enlarge the area and install more appropriate cooking facilities which will hopefully make the Centre more viable for public use. This of course will be complemented by the folding Council Chamber wall which will increase the usable function area. It is hoped that this will further increase the revenue stream for the Centre.

All of these achievements have been possible due to a team effort of all the Councillors and staff.

Cllr R Maskell, Mayor