



ANNUAL REPORT
2021/2022
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Message from the Mayor

I was incredibly proud and honoured when elected as the 476th Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, and I was extremely grateful to all my fellow Councillors for bestowing that great privilege and responsibility upon me.

Stratford-upon-Avon has changed my life – something I am eternally grateful for. Therefore, the Mayoralty provides me the opportunity to give something back to the town by representing, supporting, and promoting Stratford-upon-Avon throughout my Mayoral year wherever and however I can. It is a challenge that I was very much looking forward to fulfilling.

I have a very keen interest in what goes on in the town, and I am determined, post COVID, that Stratford-upon-Avon bounces back to its glory days when it was one of the most visited and famous market towns in the world. I'm passionate about our town - its past, its present, and more importantly, its future!

The Neighbourhood Development Plan provides the template for the future, and it has my full support. As Mayor, I have been proactively encouraging our key stakeholders to work together to implement the designated projects which I am sure will benefit the town.

I am proud that the Town Council instigated and facilitates the Stratford Town Centre Strategic Partnership. The Partnership is a group made up of various representatives from decision-making bodies in the town, such as councils and business groups, and aims to help make the town as attractive as possible for residents, businesses, and tourists. We have ensured that the Strategic Partnership has had senior representatives from each of these key organisations so all of them could communicate their thoughts with each other easily, and that no-one is kept out of the loop when it comes to improving the town.

I am hoping to build on the Council's success in making the Town Council more accessible to everyone. All ward members are really active in the community so please get in touch with them or me if you feel that we can support or help in any way, throughout the rest of my Mayoral year, and beyond.

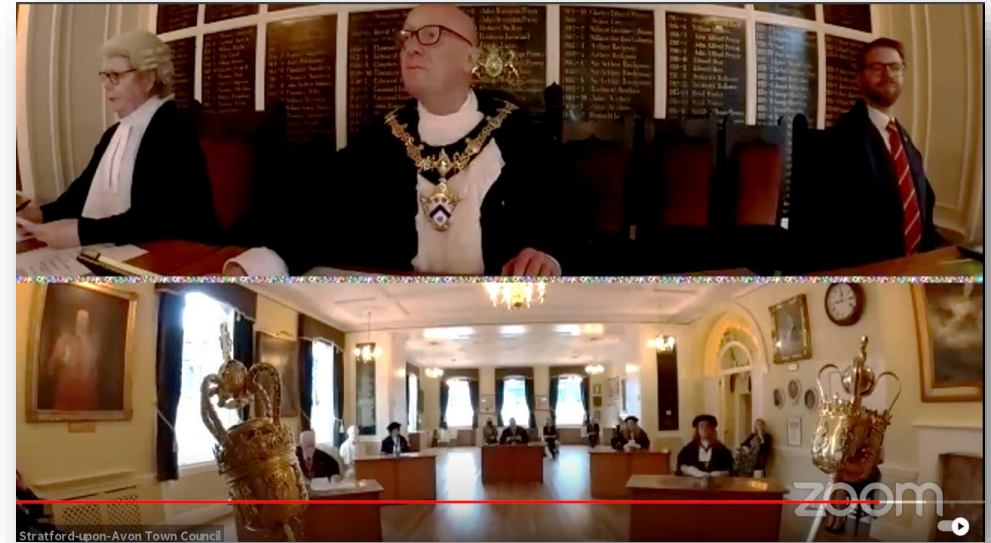


*Councillor Kevin Taylor - Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon
2021 - 2022*

YEAR IN REVIEW

MAY 2021

- It was proposed, seconded, and resolved that I be elected as 476th Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon at a smaller Mayor Making Ceremony (due to Coronavirus restrictions) at the Town Hall. This meeting was streamed live via YouTube for the general public to watch.
- A pared down Civic Sunday service was held on 23 May.
- At an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting, having regard to the circumstances related to Covid 19, the Town Council comprised a policy for a Temporary Scheme of Delegation in order to allow the continuation of virtual Committee and Task & Finish Group meetings. Full Council meetings would continue to be held face-to-face at the Town Hall.
- Council appointed Members to Standing Committees.



Annual Meeting & Mayor Making - 21 May, 2021



*Official Opening of Lavender Meadows Residential Development -
25 May, 2021*

- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Official opening of the Coach House;
 - Official opening of the Fourteas Cocktail & Jazz Evenings;
 - Official opening of Lavender Meadow Residential development;
 - Presentation of the Mayors Cadet Badge Foundation House;
 - Warwick Mayor Making.

- Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 4 May.
- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 5 May.
- Civic, Heritage and Events Meeting held on 11 May.
- Annual Meeting and Mayor Making held on 21 May.
- Stratford Support Meeting held on 11 May.
- Website, Social Media & Newsletter Meeting held on 11 May.



Entrance Troughs – June 2021

JUNE 2021

- The Town Council approved the Annual Accounts for Year ending 31 March, 2021.
- The Town Council approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21.
- The Town Council's Environmental Strategy Panel took on the project of replanting and revitalising the planters and troughs situated at the entrance points of the town. Troughs were planted with perennials such as daffodils, snowdrops, crocus, hyacinth, lavender, sage, rosemary, thyme, and a variety of pinks. The Town Council thanks their Outside Spaces Team for all their hard work in sourcing and planting this colourful welcome to Stratford-upon-Avon.
- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Official opening of Design 44 retail unit in Bell Court;
 - Meeting at Town Hall with Colin Voice, Town Centre Chaplains;
 - Invitation to Dorothy's Wood Warwickshire Search and Rescue Activity Day;
 - Visit from Table Tennis England to film a promotional video for the 'Return to Table' programme.



Official opening of Design 44 – 1 June, 2021



- Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 1 and 22 June.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on 8 June.
- Youth Town Council Meeting held on 10 June.
- Town Council Meeting on 15 June.
- Personnel Committee Meeting on 29 June.
- Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 2 June.
- Website, Social Media and Newsletter Panel held on 8 June.

JULY 2021

- July started with gratitude as both Thank You Day and NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day took place on 4 and 5 July respectively.

A special service was held at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 4 July, during which the NHS Frontline Workers Day flag was blessed. The Mayoress and I were present, and the service included some informal video interviews with a selection of Frontline workers.

Following the service, I planted a commemorative rose in the Garden of Remembrance and the flag was raised, to mark the inaugural NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day. The special flag was unfurled on the Town Hall on Monday 5 July and remained in place for a period of one week.

A commemorative plaque, made from Welsh slate, was unveiled, and dedicated on Sunday 4 July in the Tranquility Garden. It bore the inscription 'To the Memory of the People of Stratford-upon-Avon who lost their lives during the Covid-19 Pandemic'. It was unveiled by former mayor, Tony Jackson, during whose mayoralty the decision to erect the plaque was approved. Rev Patrick Taylor dedicated the memorial and both Dr Rev Roy Lodge MBE (Council Chaplain) and the Town Clerk participated. I planted a Captain Sir Tom Moore rose to mark the occasion.



*Planting a Captain Sir Tom Moore
Rose in the Tranquility Garden – 4
July, 2021*

- Presentation by the new Police Inspector for Stratford-upon-Avon, Inspector Ben Hembry.
- The Town and District Councils resolved to extend the Market Agreement with LSD Promotions until September 2027.
- The Town Council are enrolled into Health Assured Employee Assistance Programme.
- A Task & Finish Group was established in order to discuss and plan events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.
- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Meeting at the Town Hall with Derek Parkin after successfully completing the Avon Ring canoeing challenge for charity;
 - Garden Party – Guild Cottages Municipal Charities;
 - NHS Social care & Frontline workers day special service Holy Trinity Church;
 - Concert at the Holy Trinity Church;
 - Shottery Village Fete;
 - Leamington Spa Civic Event – Leam Valley Nature Reserve;
 - Meeting at Town Hall with Safeline Charity;
 - Press performance of the Comedy of Errors at the new outdoor theatre;
 - Parish Picnic – Holy Trinity Church.
- Community Services Committee Meeting on 6 July.
- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting on 13 July.
- Civic, Heritage and Events Committee Meeting held on 20 July.
- Youth Town Council End of School Year Social held on 22 July.



Leam Valley Nature Reserve – 11 July, 2021



Parish Picnic at Holy Trinity Church – 25 July, 2021

- Town Council Meeting held on 27 July.
- Stratford Support Meeting held on 13 July.

August 2021



External Works on the Town Hall Start – August, 2021

- External works on the Town Hall start. This work included:
 - Cleaning and maintenance of all stonework;
 - Chimney refurbishment;
 - Pointing of brickwork;
 - Restoration cleaning of the 'God Save the King' lettering on the side of the Town Hall;
 - Works to the roof;
 - Joinery and decorating to window frames and sills.

The Shakespeare Statue was also taken away for restoration at this time. I will go into more detail about this restoration project and our fundraising efforts later in this report.

- The National Young Traders Market was held on 27 and 28 August on Waterside for its third year. I had the pleasure of awarding a prize to a local winner from Shipston.
- Newsletter 'Bridging the Gap' published featuring New Mayor 'Pings' into Action, White Ribbon UK, Friends of Shakespeare's Church etc.



The Shakespeare Statue is taken away for restoration – August, 2021



Mayor's Bowling Match –9 August, 2021

- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Launch of the Guild Chapel Hugh Clopton trail – New Place Garden and the Playhouse;
 - Mayors Bowling Match – Avon Bowling Club;
 - Meeting at Town Hall with RoSA – The Survivors Trust;
 - Official opening of the Young Traders Market and presentation of awards to winners;
 - Official tour of the Fred Winter Centre.



Official Opening of the Young Trader's Market –27 August, 2021

- Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 3 August and 31 August.
- Website, Social Media and Newsletter Panel held on 3 August.

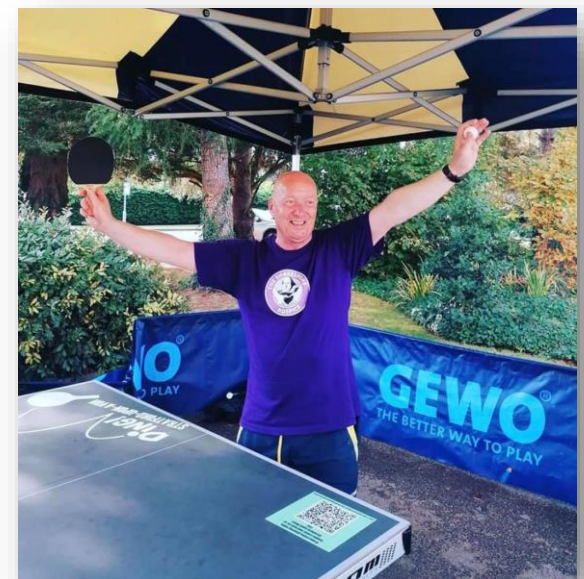
September 2021

- Budget process commenced which was challenging given the ongoing budget deficit and the impact of lost income from Town Hall events due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.
- It was recommended that a tree is planted on the Corn Market opposite the Town Hall in order to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Official Opening of the New Meaning training centre on Masons Road;

- 24 Hour Sponsored table tennis event raising funds for The Shakespeare Hospice;
 - Invitation to Stratford-upon-Avon Rotary Club Lunch;
 - Presentation of the winners awards Stratford in Bloom;
 - Kenilworth Civic Reception – Kenilworth Castle;
 - Stratford Regatta – Stratford Rowing Club;
 - Dragon Boat Racing for The Shakespeare Hospice – Stratford Rowing Club;
 - Avon Bowling club Finals and Presentation;
 - Alcester Civic Service.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on 7 September.
 - Civic, Heritage and Events Committee Meeting held on 14 September.
 - Youth Town Council Meeting Held on 23 September.
 - Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 28 September.
 - Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 1 September.
 - Stratford Support Meeting held on 7 September.
 - Market Forum Meeting held on 27 September.
 - Website, Social Media and Newsletter Panel held on 21 September.

October 2021

- A Youth Town Council open evening took place at the Town. Five prospective members attended to learn more about the Youth Town Council and what they have planned, with current members leading and making them feel welcome.



24 Hour Sponsored Table Tennis Event – 10 September, 2021



Youth Town Council Open Event – 21 October, 2021

- The annual Mop Fair returned after being cancelled in 2020. The Mop is one of the biggest and brightest street fairs in the country, held in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon. The Mop has a practice of introducing up-to-date and exciting attractions, as well as traditional family favourites such as the 127-year-old Golden Carousel, which was positioned again in Rother Street.

Many of the attractions were located on Bridge Street, where Space was a new ride for 2021. Swinging high towards the town's historic rooftops, the attraction was definitely one for the thrill seekers! This year the Mop Fair went back to its roots by holding a Job and Apprentice Fair. This was held at the Stratford Playhouse and more than 20 companies signed up to advertise positions at the fair including the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Arden Hotel, Orbit Housing, Everyone Active and even Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council itself!

- Presentation by Daryl Bailey and Jill Smith on the Avon and Arrow Greenway Project.
- The Mayor, Councillor Kevin Taylor is appointed as a Trustee to the Municipal Charities.
- Councillor Victoria Alcock is appointed as the Town Council's representative to the Community Builder Project Board.



The Mop Opening – 11 October, 2021



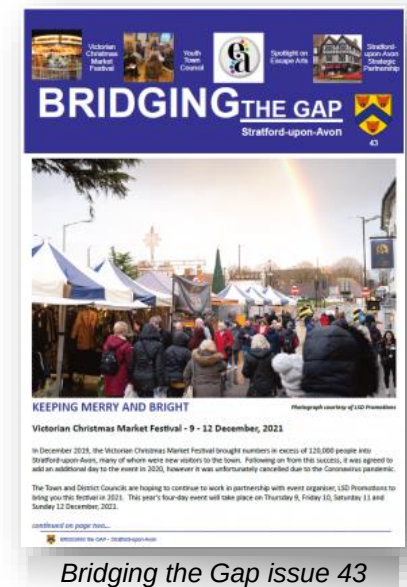
The Wedding of the Mayor and Mayoress – 2 October, 2021

- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 19 October.
- Community Services Meeting held on 26 October.
- Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 19 October.
- Website, Social Media and Newsletter Panel held on 19 October.

November 2021

- Newsletter 'Bridging the Gap' published featuring Victorian Christmas Market Festival, Spotlight on Escape Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership etc.

- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Wedding of the Mayor & Mayoress Holy Trinity Church;
 - Invitation to Stratford-upon-Avon Rotary Children of Courage Awards;
 - Official opening of the MOP;
 - Warwickshire High Sheriffs Legal Service;
 - Guest Night at the RSC – The Magician's Elephant;
 - Safeline Charity Event – Warwick Market;
- Personnel Committee Meeting held on 5 October.
- Town Council Meeting held on 12 October.



- The Town Council adopted the Policy for the Conferring of the Title of Honorary Freeman and Freewomen.
- It was hoped that the Annual Meeting of the Youth Town Council would be held in person at the Town Hall, however due to Covid-19, this was unable to happen. The Youth Council still met, via Zoom, on Thursday 11 November. At this meeting, four new members were warmly welcomed: Gabriel, Lara, Francesca and Yasmine. It is tradition that at the annual meeting, elections for specific Council roles take place - the following were appointed at this meeting: Chair - Kerry, Deputy Chair - Lara, Treasurer - Alfie, Deputy Treasurer - Oli, Clerk - Gabriel. Whether appointed to a specific role or not, each member of the Youth Town Council is vital in the operation to make Stratford-upon-Avon better for young people.



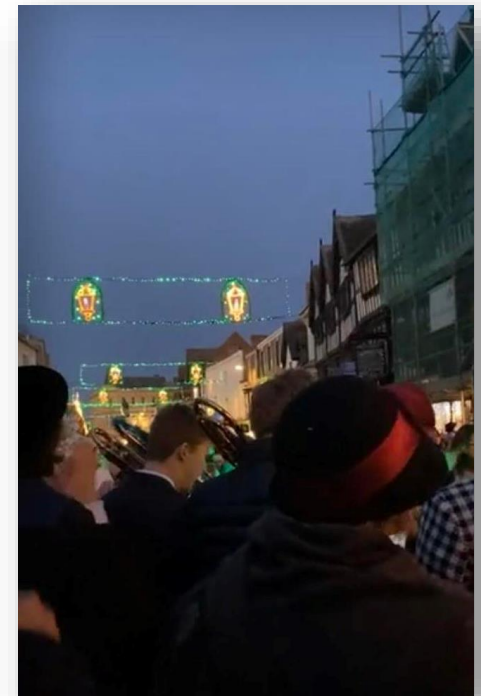
Remembrance Sunday – 14 November, 2021

- Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those that have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

Since my arrival to the town in 2005 I have always congregated outside Town Hall on Remembrance Sunday and respectfully followed the procession and

the service in the Remembrance Garden, never thinking I would one day have the honour of participating in this incredibly important event as the Mayor of our illustrious Town. It has been a truly great privilege to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

- Due to the ongoing work to restore the Town Hall, the Christmas Lights Switch-On was moved to a stage in High Street, which drew a modest crowd to celebrate the illumination of our spectacular and revered Christmas lights. The switch-on was complemented by community carols/songs performed by a choir from St Gregory's RC Primary School who were accompanied by the Kings Brass, King Edward VI School.



Christmas Lights Switch-On – 25 November, 2021



The Stratford Herald Covid Awards – 25 November, 2021

- I and other Stratford Support representatives attended the Herald Covid Awards (of which the Town Council were Headline Sponsor). We were delighted that the Stratford Support initiative won the Community Response Award.
- A 'Celebration of the Mayoralty Event' was held to honour the Mayoralty of not only myself but Councillors Kate Rolfe and Tony Jackson who both served during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We welcomed Lynette Almond as Clerical Assistant.
- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Official opening of Brook Taverner – Bridge Street;
 - FA Cup Stratford Town FC v Shrewsbury Town;
 - Stratford Rugby Club Bonfire official opening;
 - Interfaith Remembrance Service - Garden of Remembrance;
 - Boat Naming Ceremony – Stratford Rowing Club;
 - Remembrance Sunday – Garden of Remembrance;
 - Citizens Advice AGM;
 - Stratford Choral Society – Holy Trinity Church;
 - Christmas Lights Switch-on;
 - Community Café for Safeline – Foundation House
 - Christmas Lights Switch on Shrieves Walk;
 - Celebration of the Mayoralty – Town Hall.



Celebration of the Mayoralty Event– 26 November, 2021

- Civic, Heritage and Events Committee Meeting held on 2 November.

- Planning Consultative Committee Meetings held on 9 November and 30 November.
- Youth Town Council Annual Meeting held on 11 November.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on 16 November.
- Town Council Meeting held on 23 November.
- Stratford Support Meeting held on 2 November.

December 2021

- External work on the Town Hall finished in early December, and the scaffolding was dismantled.



A newly restored Town Hall – December, 2021

However, an empty niche remains waiting for Shakespeare to come home...

- After unfortunately having to cancel the event in 2020, I officially opened the Victorian Christmas Market Festival on 9 December. This is the first time the event would be held over four days, instead of three.

A family of polar bears were unveiled at the entrance of Debenhams by myself, accompanied by the three children that named them. The winning names were chosen by members of the Civic, Heritage and Events Committee and the winners and their families were invited to the opening ceremony of the festival. The polar bears were ultimately called Grandma Nell, Grumpy Grandpa and Honey Tot.



Prize winners with the Town Council's new Polar Bear attraction - Grandma Nell, Grumpy Grandpa and Honey Tot – 9 December, 2021

- The Strategic Partnership holds a public meeting on Zoom with a number of residents in attendance.
- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Stratford Primary School Christmas Fair;
 - Stratford Town Centre Chaplaincy Commissioning Service – Holy Trinity;
 - Shakespeare Hospice memorial service – Holy Trinity;
 - Avon Bowling Club AGM – Sports Club;
 - Official opening of the Christmas Victorian Festival;
 - King Edwards VI School Carol Service – Holy Trinity Church;
 - Christmas Carol concert – Holy Trinity Church;
 - Christmas Day Stratford Town Walk;
- Community Services Committee Meeting held on 7 December.
- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 14 December.
- Youth Town Council Meeting held on 16 December.
- Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 20 December.
- Market Forum Meeting held on 1 December.

January 2022

- Adoption of BT Kiosk on the corner of Justins Avenue/Birmingham Road.
- Welcomed new Events Operations Assistant Nick Dobson.
- Presentation by Paul Spooner on the progress of the Fred Winter Centre.



The Opening of the Victorian Christmas Market Festival – 9 December, 2021



Christmas Day Stratford Town Walk – 25 December, 2021

- Members agreed to proceed with the purchase of the land adjacent to the Cemetery, owned by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, in order to extend burial space.
- The 2022/2023 Draft Budget and Precept requirement were agreed.
- The Calendar of Meetings for 2022/2023 was agreed and adopted.
- Shakespeare's Coming Home! A community fundraising project to restore the statue of Shakespeare was instigated and

is overseen by Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council. The format is the reading of Shakespeare's complete works which was planned to take place consecutively over 12 days in Stratford-upon-Avon's recently re-furbished Town Hall. This fundraising event was devised by the project's mentor, Dr Paul Edmondson, Head of Research for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, an Honorary Fellow of The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, and a Visiting Professor in Human Rights, Birmingham City University.

The iconic statue is modelled on the Shakespeare statue in Westminster Abbey and is an icon of our local economy, based on Shakespeare. We all love the statue, but it's falling to pieces. The Town Council needed to raise £45k for its restoration. In order to raise funds, readings of Shakespeare's complete works (38 plays, 2 narrative poems, and the Sonnets and other poems) were planned to take place from Tuesday 1 to Saturday 12 March, mainly from 'the prick of noon' (12.00pm) until 'the chimes at midnight' (12.00am) each day.

Members of the public were encouraged to sign up to read in any of the works by purchasing a general reader's ticket (a minimum donation of £25.00), or a named-part ticket (£50.00). If not wanting to read, members of the public were also invited to attend as an audience member for a minimum donation of £5.00.

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council
invites you to

Shakespeare's Coming Home!

A reading of Shakespeare's Complete Works in the
ballroom of the Town Hall.
1 - 12 March 2022, from noon to midnight.

Special guest-stars include: Andrew French, Scott Handy, Robert Lister, Dame Janet Suzman, David
Troughton and his family, and Dame Harriet Walter.

David Garrick gave the Shakespeare statue to the people of Stratford in 1769. It has become an icon of our local economy

Please come and take your part in this reading of the
Complete Works, or join the audience, or make a donation.

Sign-up to read or to attend the works of your choice via
www.ticketsource.co.uk/shakespeares-coming-home.

Our internationally famous and local jeweller, George Pragnell Ltd, has
made the Pragnell Pledge to the People of Stratford and will match-
fund what we raise up to half of our target of £45,000.

Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EF
Tickets can be purchased from:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/shakespeares-coming-home

Cheques payable to Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council

Shakespeare's Coming Home!

- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Official unveiling of the Defibrillator on Henley Street in honour of the late former Mayor Tessa Bates.
- Civic, Heritage and Events Committee Meeting held on 4 January.
- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 11 January.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 January.
- Town Council Meeting held on 25 January.
- Stratford Support Meeting held on 11 January.
- Youth Town Council Meeting held on 27 January.



Official unveiling of the Defibrillator on Henley Street in honour of the late former Mayor Tessa Bates. – 13 January, 2021

February 2022

- Officers and Councillors attended the National Association of British Markets Authorities (NABMA) Conference in Birmingham on 3 February. We were delighted that Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas Market won 'Best Large Speciality Market' at the Great British Market Awards 2022, which formed part of the conference.
- Environmental Strategy Panel decide to contribute £1,000 towards the Feasibility Study for the Avon and Arrow Greenway Project.
- At a Special Town Council Meeting it was conferred that Freedom of the Town of Stratford-upon-Avon be bestowed upon Judith Olivia Dench, CH, DBE, FRSA and Kenneth Branagh, KB and that the Freedom ceremony be arranged for Friday 22 April at 12 noon.



Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas Market wins 'Best Large Speciality Market' at the Great British Market Awards. – 3 February, 2022

- Community Services Committee Meeting held on 1 February.
- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 8 February.
- Personnel Committee Meeting held on 15 February.
- Special Town Council Meeting held on 22 February.
- Environmental Strategy Panel Meeting held on 7 February.

- Mayoral Engagements:

- NABMA Conference;
- Official Book Launch – Nicholas Fogg at Tudor World;
- Sporting Memories Club – Stratford Sports Club;
- Press night invitation – Much Ado About Nothing;
- Sonnets and Songs – High Sheriffs Fund at the Music Café;
- Beetle Drive – Methodist Church;
- Stratford Youth Theatre Production at the Bearpit Theatre;
- Table Tennis World Record Attempt for Safeline;



Table Tennis World Record Attempt for Safeline. – 24 February, 2022

March 2022



Shakespeare's Coming Home! – 1 – 12 March, 2022

- Shakespeare's Coming Home! took place, with Councillors and Officers pulling together to man the Town Hall during the biggest event the building had seen for two years. The event proved to be a huge success with at least £21,000 being raised from the readings overall. However, thanks to the local and internationally famous jeweller, George Pragnell Ltd. who made the Pragnell Pledge to the People of Stratford to double our total, our grand total came in at approximately £43,000. The Town Council wish to thank Paul Edmonson, Pragnells and everyone who was involved in the fundraiser for making it such a huge success.

• The Chairman of the Civic, Heritage and Events Committee and I planted a tree opposite the Town Hall on the Corn Market to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- Mayoral Engagements:

- Shakespeare's Coming Home!
- Annual Town Meeting;
- Safeline's 28th Birthday Coffee Morning;
- Official Re-Opening of the Grosvenor Hotel;
- Charity Walk for Safeline;
- Mayor's Charity Dinner;
- Escape Arts VIP Brunch Club;
- Warwickshire County Council's Service of Reflection & Remembrance;
- Stratford Sports Club's Sporting Memories Foundation Group;
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Chairman Charity Ball;
- Presentation by NABMA President to Stratford-upon-Avon's Victorian Market for the UK's Best Large Speciality Market;
- Net Zero Pop-Up Climate Hub;
- Shakespeare Trail at Stratford Primary School.



Jubilee Tree Planting. 11 March, 2022

- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 1 and 22 March.
- Annual Town Meeting held on 3 March.
- Youth Town Council 10 March.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on 8 March.
- Civic, Heritage & Events Committee Meeting held on 15 March.
- Town Council Meeting held on 29 March.

April 2022

- At the start of April, people who live, visit or work in Stratford-upon-Avon were asked for their views on proposed changes to the town centre. Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council and Warwickshire County Council have been working with the Town Centre Strategic Partnership on ideas for what Bridge Street and High Street in Stratford-upon-Avon could look like in the future, building on ideas originally set out in the Stratford's Neighbourhood Plan.

Now, local residents, business owners and visitors are being invited to share their views on the proposed changes via an online consultation open from 24 March to 5 June: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>. The aim is to improve the look and feel of the town centre and make it easier and safer for people to move around on foot or bicycle, as well as benefiting bus users.

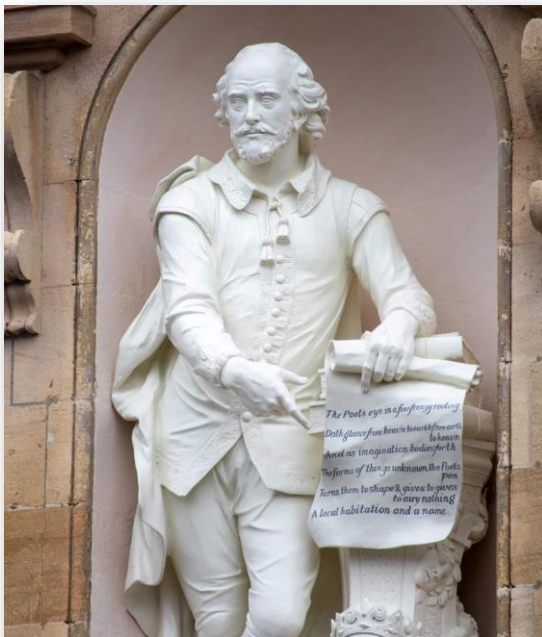
The proposed changes to the town centre are:

- Closing High Street to traffic daily between 11am and 4pm and widening the pavements on both sides of the street;



Artist Impression of Bridge Street

- Creating a wide central walkway on Bridge Street to provide more space for pedestrians and a better connection between Henley Street and Waterside, using space created by narrowing the road, removing parking and relocating the taxi ranks to Union Street;
 - Changing the shape of the Bridge Street / High Street roundabout to improve movement between Henley Street and High Street and a new pedestrian crossing through the centre of the roundabout will be provided to connect Henley Street to the central walkway;
 - Creating more opportunities for pedestrians to safely cross the road. New courtesy crossings will be provided where drivers are expected to give way to pedestrians, and narrower roads, reduced kerb heights, lower vehicle speeds and less traffic will make it easier for pedestrians to cross in other locations;
 - Retaining the temporary 20mph speed limit introduced in 2020 to support social distancing as part of the response to Covid-19;
 - Providing more attractive surfaces and some planting.
- Councillor Chris Wall resigned as Town Councillor and therefore a Casual Vacancy was declared in Bishopton Ward. Any ten local government electors for the above ward may require an election to be held to fill the said vacancy. To do this, they must send a written request to the Returning Officer at Stratford-on-Avon District Council no later than 27th day of April 2022.



The Shakespeare Statue returns home.

- Judith Olivia Dench, CH, BE, FRSA MBE, and Kenneth Branagh Kt. were conferred to be an Honorary Freewoman and Freeman of our Town of Stratford-upon-Avon at a Ceremony held on 22 April, 2022. After the ceremony, the actors headed to the Town Hall balcony in order to unveil the restored Garrick statue of Shakespeare. Dame Judi and Ken then exercised their freedom by herding sheep in Sheep Street! A reception was then held in the Town Hall Ballroom where speeches of thanks were given to all those involved with bringing the Shakespeare statue home.



Judith Olivia Dench, CH, BE, FRSA MBE, and Kenneth Branagh Kt. herding sheep!

- The traditional Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations took place on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 April. After having to cancel the event in 2020 and 2021, the

Town Council were thrilled to once again celebrate the Bard's birthday in style.

- We wished farewell to Admin Officer and PA to the Town Clerk, Lisa Cowley at the end of April. We are very much looking forward to welcoming new recruit Lisa Campion in May.
- Mayoral Engagements:
 - Interview with Welcombe Radio;
 - Isabella Azima Concert at the Town Hall in aid of the Mayor's Charities;
 - TTKidz Course Certificate Presentation;
 - Official Opening of the new Fudge and Sweet Shop on Sheep Street;
 - Stratford-upon-Avon Boat Club event in Henley-on-Thames;
 - Presentation of Ken Morgan's drawing of the Town Hall;
 - Good Friday Walk of Witness;
 - The High Sheriff of Warwickshire's Charity Reception;
 - Ukraine Prayer Vigil;
 - Local Author Val Horton's Book Signing at WHSmith;
 - Official Opening of Barberia;
 - War of the Roses at the RSC;
 - Visit to the new RSC Costume Workshop;
 - Warwickshire WI Lite Meeting;
 - Conferment of Dame Judi Dench and Kenneth Branagh as Freeman and Freewoman of the Town;
 - Unveiling of the newly restored Shakespeare Statue;
 - Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations Weekend.
- Community Services Committee Meeting held on 5 April.
- Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on 12 April.
- Town Council Meeting held on 26 April.
- Youth Town Council Meeting held on 28 April.

Conclusion

It was an immense honour to be selected as the 476th Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon and it has been a year I will always remember with great fondness.

I met so many wonderful people, organisations, societies, and businesses and every single one was unfailingly courteous, kind, and supportive of me. I am full of gratitude to every single resident of Stratford who made this possible.

Many of you have supported my Charity events (The Shakespeare Hospice, Safeline and RoSA are my chosen charities) events either by being there, donating prizes for raffles at my events or helping me host them – and we have had a great time together, and by doing so you have enabled me to help the cause of my charities more than I ever could have ever expected. Together we have already raised over £5,000 towards my very worthy charities with several other events still to take place.

Thank you to all Council staff, Councillor colleagues, and my Chaplain who have all been a great source of comfort and support to me throughout the year. And a big thank you to my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Gill Cleeve.

It is one of the privileges of the Mayor to be able to meet and thank the many charities and wonderful volunteers in our delightful town who give their time so freely to enrich the lives of others without any expectations of reward or recognition.

I am grateful to our schools (it was touching to note the many young children's enthusiasm and respect for the Mayoralty), places of worship and the Police for the invaluable and positive contribution they make to all our lives.

My journey as Mayor has brought me closer to the town and its residents than I ever was before and certainly closer than I ever thought possible.

I am truly grateful and fortunate to have had the opportunity of coming into contact with so many wonderful individuals, groups and organisations and in-fact it has been something of a revelation to me as to how positively and constructively people choose to live and manage their lives and their leisure time in our town. It is with this wonderful mix of people that our town is the wonderful place that it is to live and work in.

I shall treasure the memories of my time spent as Mayor and hope to stay in touch with the many new relationships and bonds that have been created.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Stratford-upon-Avon 2021 – 2022

I would like to feel that as a result of my journey as Mayor I am a much more informed, improved and refined Stratfordian(adopted!)

I feel my sense of belonging to this town is now immensely enhanced and my sense of homeliness here is now complete and I withdraw having gained so much more than I could ever give.

Appendix 'A'

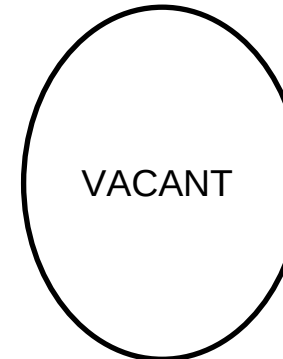
Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council Members



Avenue Ward
Cohl Warren-Howles
Richard Vos



Bishopton Ward
Victoria Alcock
Chris Wall



Bridgetown
Ian Fradgley
Roy Dyer





Clopton Ward
Cllr Jason Fojtik
Cllr Phil How



Guildhall
Cllr Jenny Fradgley
Cllr Tony Jackson



Hathaway
Gill Cleeve (Mayor Elect)
Toby Lee





Shottery
Cllr David Curtis
Cllr Bill Dowling



Tiddington
Kate Rolfe (Deputy Mayor Elect)
Eva Mackenzie



Welcombe
Cllr Elizabeth Coles
Cllr Kevin Taylor (Mayor)



Appendix 'B'

CALENDAR OF MEETING 2022/23 AT THE TOWN HALL

Youth Town Council Thursday (5:30pm) 8	Community Services Committee Tuesday (6:30 pm or 6:00pm if virtual) 5	Planning Consultative Committee Tuesday (6:30 pm or 6:00pm if virtual) 16	Finance & Audit Committee Tuesday (6:30 pm or 6:00pm if virtual) 5	Civic, Heritage & Events Committee Tuesday (6:30 pm or 6:00pm if virtual) 6	Personnel Committee Tuesday (6:30 pm or 6:00pm if virtual) 3	Town Council Tuesday (6:30 pm or 6:00pm if virtual) 8
9 June 22		3 May 22 31 May 22	7 June 22	10 May 22		Annual Meeting & Mayor Making (Friday) 20 May 22 (noon) 14 June 22 (To approve Annual Accounts)
21 July 22	5 July 22	21 June 22 12 July 22		19 July 22	28 June 22	26 July 22
15 September 22		2 August 22 30 August 22	13 September 22	6 September 22		20 September 22 (Annual Photograph)
10 November 22	25 October 22	27 September 22 18 October 22 8 November 22	15 November 22	1 November 22	4 October 22	22 November 22
15 December 22 26 January 23	6 December 22	29 November 22 13 December 22 10 January 23	17 January 23	24 January 23		31 January 23
9 March 23	14 February 23	7 February 23 21 February 23 21 March 23	7 March 23	14 March 23	28 February 23	Town Meeting (Thursday) 2 March 2023 (7:30pm) 28 March 23
6 April 23	4 April 23	11 April 23				25 April 23

Annual Meeting and Mayor Making (unless General Election decrees otherwise) Friday 19 May 2023 at noon at the Town Hall. Civic Sunday – Sunday 21 May 2023.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agreed		Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable, in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

15/06/2021

and recorded as minute reference:

MIN 20a) REFERENCE

ENTER PUBLICLY: www.stratford-tc.gov.uk IMAGE ADDRESS

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

Clerk

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	115,580	166,780	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	505,452	514,351	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	541,086	237,645	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	361,219	355,833	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	634,119	474,015	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	166,780	88,928	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	174,120	101,951	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	11,484,041	11,443,001	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
		✓	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date

15/06/2021

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

15/06/2021

as recorded in minute reference:

MIN 20b) REFERENCE

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Appendix 'E'

