

EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, 19th November 2020

MAYOR'S REPORT

Councillors, as you are only too aware we are in COVID-19 lockdown again, which tentatively is ending on the 2nd December. Regrettably, we shall need to be patient on this one and hope we can have a "normal" Christmas with our families and loved ones.

On your behalf, I thank the staff, collectively, in deciding it was best to remain working from the Town Hall, during this latest lockdown. We have a very busy office and many items coming up for the Council approval. Covid precautions have been put in place at the Town Hall and staff are optimistic that this provides them with a safe working environment. Unfortunately, our hirer's and the Library service have had to be cancelled too which is such a shame as they had only just started back. Just on the note of the staff – can you please make sure that if you have any queries or issues, that are associated with the Town Council, that you go through the Clerk. This will ensure that we have a lawful and coordinated process of dealing with matters through Council resolutions, rather than on an individual basis. This, of course, does not include IW Council business, which our 2 ward councillors are very proficient at dealing with.

The East Cowes shops really need our support now. I am sure none of us want to see any local business having to close permanently. However, this second lockdown may be the final straw for some of them. On-line shopping and food take-aways are being delivered to us by some outlets so my message is please try to shop and eat locally. As the old saying goes Use it or lose it!

It was wonderful to see the film crew here in East Cowes, filming 'The Beast Must Die' for Britbox. The Esplanade was full of vans and lorries, with so many people standing and sitting around. I was able to watch a few scenes from my upstairs window as the film company were using the roof of The Barracks. Such bright lights, so exciting....

I was approached by a resident concerned with vandalism and a few other problems within East Cowes. This was passed over to our PCSO, Steve Hull, via the Clerk.

I placed two remembrance wreaths at the War Memorial early on Sunday morning, 8th November 2020. The weather was very dank and dreary, certainly giving me time to think in depth of those who lost their lives in war, the ultimate sacrifice. On Wednesday, 11th November, Cllr Karl Love, Deputy Mayor, and I placed wreaths on the World War I Commemorative Seat outside of the Town Hall, followed by two minutes silence. Some of the Councillors were unable to attend, but did commemorate the silence by standing outside their front doors.

A BIG thank you to the Crafters for the poppy display on the chained arch, F_a_b_u_l_o_u_s, and in other areas of the town. So very kind of so many, to give their time, in making such beautiful poppies. I know that their efforts are very much appreciated by our residents.

I personally wish to thank all Town Councillors in supporting me working for our wonderful town. It is so important for us to work as a team and I really value this. We shall have a lot to discuss over the next few months or so, with so many changes beginning to come to fruition, including the development of the Community Hub.

Jane