

Frinton & Walton Town Council

Annual Report of the Town Mayor

Councillor Terry Allen

2022-2023



I have had the pleasure of serving the towns and parishes of Frinton & Walton Town Council as Mayor for the past year, with the support of my Deputy Mayor Councillor P Clifton, Officers and Members of the Town Council. I thank my fellow colleagues for their support during that time.

The now not-so-new Clerk and Deputy Clerk who joined us mid-way through the last municipal year are now very settled in their roles and we have worked well together throughout the year.

Following on from the previous restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic which prevented so many of us being able to engage with each other face to face, I am pleased to report that Mayoral engagements have picked up considerably since the pandemic and I have had the pleasure of engaging with lots of residents face to face at various events including visiting lots of the primary schools in the area to hand each child a special commemorative coin that the Town Council had commissioned to mark the very special Platinum Jubilee of our late Majesty the Queen. I was proudly supported various local events celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, including the opening of the Connaught Avenue Street Party organised by Frinton Chamber of Commerce. The Naze saw the lighting of the beacon ceremony of which I was asked to light, which was another very well attended event in the local area to mark the Platinum Jubilee occasion.

Other engagements have included attending a community skate event for younger people at our skatepark in Walton whereby the Town Council supported the event through free use of its facilities along with other sponsors including Activate Essex, to ensure younger people have exciting opportunities for exploring new hobbies in a safe environment. I've been pleased to support local schools with opening their fetes at Christmas, judging a sandcastle building competition at the beach in Frinton, and opening the Walton Town Show back in the summer.



Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Coins commissioned by the Town Council for all local primary school children



Walton Primary School pupils receiving their Jubilee Coins



Tree planting in 'The Spinney' with children from Frinton Primary School to mark the Platinum Jubilee





Pupils from Frinton Primary School hand their letters about steps we can take towards climate change to Mayor, Cllr ET Allen.



The silver lining to the roadworks at Kirby Cross was a renovated town sign now looking all shiny and new again!



Judging sandcastles on Frinton Beach on a summer evening.





Judging best dressed shop window displays.....with 'Fleurette' of Frinton



Recognising the importance of the future of the Naze, attending an event hosted by the Naze Protection Society

I attended an event held at the Columbine Centre, about the Naze and the concerns around its crumbling cliff face, which included giving a talk on why the Naze is important to local people, the beginnings of the Naze Protection Society, and the Crag Walk. The Naze

Management Board answered questions from the floor, and David Eagle, The Naze Protection Society's acting chairman, talked on the works needed to protect the Naze, and the consequences if nothing is done.

Guest of honour Professor Jules Pretty, president of Essex Climate Action Committee, spoke about the effects of climate change and the dangers faced if no action is taken.



Remembering those who have fallen, standing proud with local people who serve in our armed forces at the march past in Walton Memorial Gardens for Remembrance Sunday in November.

September marked the loss of our Majesty the Queen, of which the Town Council supported residents by providing a Book of Condolence at the Council House to enable residents to pay their respects to the Royal Family. The Condolence Book will be archived to local history for the area. Having received the Proclamation of King Charles III at our district council, I was proud to deliver the Proclamation to our councillors and residents, during which I was supported by the presence of guards from the Royal British Legion of Clacton.



Town Council 'Book of Condolence' at the Council House



The reading of the Proclamation for King Charles III

It has been a privilege to support Frinton Community Association on identifying grant funding streams to enable the organisation to continue. A vital service to some 800 of our local residents, I am pleased to report the organisation is now going from strength to strength.

The Town Council works closely with the local PCSO's not only through funding their presence in the area, but also in liaison on community issues and supporting in ways to identify and reduce crime in the area. The Town Council hosted an event with the then Chief Inspector for the area, Insp Martin Richards, where residents came to have their voices heard about the crimes and issues affecting them. Some fellow councillors and I took part in the local Police Chief Inspector tours of Frinton and Walton, highlighting areas needing additional focus and talking to residents and business owners to strengthen relationships further.

This year has been a difficult year in terms of finance, not just in this country but all over the world. Businesses and individuals have felt the vast impact of the unpredictable and soaring cost of living increases that don't appear to be easing at all soon. I don't think anyone could have predicted the issues we are all facing now. The Town Council has certainly not avoided such increases and as a result we have had to work hard on efficiencies and looked at the ways in which we use and manage energy. With these difficult challenges in mind, the Town Council collectively took steps to try and mitigate the soaring costs it faces over the next year to ensure that the price you pay for the Town Council through your Council Tax, wasn't unnecessarily increased. We've worked hard to deliver a reduction in cost to enable us to keep the precept the same as last year, so there will be no rise in Council Tax for the element that funds the Town Council.

As we end on the current municipal year, the elections in May will see the public exercise their democratic right to choose who represents them in their area. The Town Council would welcome applicants for the role of Town Councillor, of whom can come from any walk of life to represent the community, providing they either live or work in the parish area.

I will close by once again thanking all of you who have supported me in my role as Mayor for the last year.

Cllr ET Allen

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