

Appendix – Civic Events and Mayoralty Update Report

Mayor – Cllr Caroline Stock, May 2019 – May 2020

Annual Council 2019

The Mayoral year began in May with the inauguration at Annual Council of Cllr Caroline Stock as Mayor and Cllr Lachhya Gurung as Deputy Mayor.

Armed Forces Day

29th June 2019 was the first major Civic event in the Mayoral calendar. Negotiations began earlier in the year with the RAF Museum. We are very lucky to have the RAF Museum as a partner in our borough and so, raising a flag at the Town Hall at the beginning of the week followed by a public flag raising and parade on the Saturday at the RAF Museum was a huge success. This raised better awareness of the Armed Forces in the borough as so many people attend the RAF Museum for daily visits. We even had a Lancaster Bomber flypast along with entertainment and both LBB and the RAF museum promoted this through press releases and social media channels. This enabled the families of our Armed Forces, veterans and cadets to join in making for a celebratory event all round and enjoyed by all attending.

Twin Town – Le Raincy Photographic Competition 2019

This is an initiative set up by our twin town of Le Raincy and includes their twin towns of Clusone in Italy, Caldas Da Rainha in Portugal and of course, LB Barnet. Residents of Barnet are invited to send in photographs that meet the theme and criteria of the competition for the year. Prizes of 150 euros, 100 euros and 75 euros for first, second and third places respectively were financed by Le Raincy.

For 2019 the theme was 'Shapes and Colours of our Cities'. The judges for the photographs submitted by Le Raincy, Clusone and Caldas da Rainha were: the Mayor, Cllr Stock; Cllr Anne Hutton; Mayoral Services & Civic Events Manager, Angela Richardson; Head of Governance, Andrew Charlwood; and Simon O'Connor, the freelance council photographer. Barnet are not allowed to judge submissions from our borough.

After the competition an exhibition is made from the top 3 entries from each town and sent to the towns on a rolling basis for display for 6 weeks.

When the exhibition came to Barnet it was displayed at Colindale in the new offices. This was not ideal as the only space available was on the 1st floor so the exhibition was not seen by the general public. The exhibition was too big for Hendon Town Hall and Middlesex University already had an exhibition in their Quadrangle so at that time Colindale was the only option.

Tommy Sculpture Unveiling

In September 2019 the Mayor's Office arranged for the installation of a 'Tommy Sculpture' in Lodge Lane Finchley near to the site of the birthplace of Private John Parr, the first British soldier to be killed in WW1 on active service in 1914. The sculpture had been donated by John Seigal for the Barnet War Memorials Association. Funding was sought for the installation by the Mayor from the

Hobson Charity. The local school was included in the commemoration and read a poem and a relative of John Parr unveiled the sculpture along with the Mayor.

Snowdrop Planting Nov 2019

Snowdrop bulbs are planted in the borough to represent a child that perished in the holocaust. The bulbs are planted in a non-Jewish school in the borough or community area by the Mayor. So far over 57,000 bulbs have been planted since the project began. This year the Mayor planted the bulbs with school children in the grounds of Woodridge Primary School, the school she and her husband attended as children.

Snowdrop bulbs are also handed out at the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration event by school children. Having heard about our project a few years ago, the GLA also thought this was a good idea and this office assisted them with doing the same at their event also in 2019.

Remembrance Sunday Nov 2019

The normal parade and service was held at Hendon War Memorial with a large attendance as expected. Mayoral representatives also laid wreaths at 14 other parades and services around the borough. Tea, Coffee and biscuits refreshments were laid on in the foyer of the Town Hall.

Christmas Card Competition Dec 2019

The Mayor chose St Andrews School in Totteridge to design her Christmas card. The school held a competition and the top five were chosen by the headteacher then the Mayor chose the winning design.



021455 Barnet Mayor
Xmas Card 2019 HG1.

London New Year's Day Parade

The Mayor entered the 2020 televised London New Years Day Parade competition. The Barnet float won £6,000 coming 5th out of all the London boroughs with the theme 'Live Your Best Life' focussing on the importance of mental health and living in the moment to make life more enjoyable.

Please see link to read about our entry:

[Back Barnet in London New Year's Day Parade - YouTube](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2020

This event, and every year since 2007 has been organised and directed by the Mayoral Services & Civic Events Manager. The event is held at Middlesex University as they have a substantial venue. This also keeps costs to a minimum. The support from the service team at the University is immense. This includes IT and audio support, security services, cleaning services and setting up and clearing away from a great facilities team. This is an excellent example of partnership working. HMD 2020 in

Barnet saw nearly 500 people in attendance and the hour-long programme, as always, was engaging and inclusive ensuring this not only was a commemoration, but also taking the opportunity to educate and include the young people of our community.



2020 recognised the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 25th Anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia. We had a full civic procession followed by speakers, survivors stories, singers, students giving their account of their visit to Auschwitz, young people placing 75 candles as an act of remembrance and music from the Youth Music centre quartet played, the London Cantorial Singers and Alyth youth choir sang specially chosen pieces and the Barnet Band played Adom Olam and the National Anthem. The Youth Music centre al We also had a signer throughout the service. As people left the venue they were handed snowdrop bulbs to plant themselves.

See link - <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/news/hundreds-pay-their-respects-holocaust-memorial-day>

Town Twinning continued –

Morphou, Cyprus

In January 2020 a resolution was passed at the Council meeting to recognise the 25th Anniversary of the twinning with Morphou in Cyprus. On 7th March 2020, before lockdown, the Mayor's Office organised for a delegation from Morphou, which included the Mayor of Morphou (in exile) to sign a reaffirmation recognising the anniversary. We also arranged a programme of events for their five-day visit including transport and accommodation arrangements.



The delegation was taken to places of interest in the borough, given guided tours and had a civic dinner. They were also present for the raising of the Commonwealth flag on 9th March at the Town Hall at which the High Commissioner for Cyprus also attended. The delegation also attended a special exhibition which had been sent by the Municipality of Morphou, Cyprus to raise awareness of those who have been exiled from their homes in Cyprus since the atrocities of 1974. Middlesex University very kindly hosted the exhibition which again is testament to our partnership working.

Ramat Gan, Israel

A delegation from Barnet was due to go to Ramat Gan on 11th March 2020. All arrangements had been made and a very busy itinerary had been confirmed, but as the fear of the coronavirus grew and evidence that it was not safe to travel, Israel went into lockdown before the UK and so the visit was cancelled.

LOCKDOWN

For us all 2020 has been exceptional having to operate in extreme circumstances that we have never known before. Mayoral engagements, civic events and town twinning contact and exchanges have required a very different approach to how we continue to provide a valuable service to the Mayoralty, to the Council and most importantly to the community.

The Mayor's Office had to create innovative ideas to involve the community and our partner organisations during the pandemic. Our 2020 Civic Awards ceremony had to be cancelled and managed differently due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Also due to Covid-19, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Sunday and 2021 Holocaust Memorial, (Barnet's largest event and one of the largest HMD events in the country) together with several other projects, needed a complete revision from our normal gatherings.

The Town Twinning elements also required engagement on a different level.

Civic Service

The Civic Service in April 2020 had to be cancelled. The service had already been organised would have been held in the quadrangle at Middlesex University. Organisations the Mayor had visited, multi-faith, voluntary and partner services were also going to be included in a thank you service showcasing the diversity of the borough and how unity and partnerships achieve by working together.

Redeployment or Other Assistance

All the team were partly redeployed or assisting in other areas since March lockdown 2020 whilst still delivering a full mayoral service.

The Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager, although continuing to support the Mayor and arrange civic events on a different platform (i.e. virtually), was also assigned to contacting shielding and vulnerable residents including outside of normal working hours. Ensuring their needs were met, arranging food hub deliveries, medication deliveries and prescription collections, etc. but also a chat to those alone which proved very rewarding. During these conversations it became evident that some individuals were finding the lockdown extremely difficult and had become suicidal so there was a need to arrange immediate help.

The Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager is voluntarily on call for the Emergency Planning team for one week a month as a Resilience Advisor and Silver and has been for the last four years. She had previously assisted with the cross-council support in the Emergency Control Centre for Grenfell. Being on call can be quite stressful as it is important to be able to take calls 24/7 and be ready to open a Borough Emergency Control Centre at short notice. However, when an emergency does come in, for instance a house fire, flood or power failure that has affected a whole street, where people need emergency accommodation (and their pets) and other services need to be deployed, it is very rewarding to have been able to provide the necessary assistance. Because of the pandemic this has also added to the duties for a Resilience Advisor as Covid-19 enforcement has since been instigated. This requires the Resilience Advisor to make the necessary referrals to the Police, Council enforcement teams, Environmental Health and Public Health. During the pandemic the Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager has dealt with several incidents and breaches.

The Mayor's Admin Assistant (Valerie Davis) continued with arranging the weekly schedules and mayoral diary which was still surprisingly engaging with zoom meetings with different organisations. Valerie was also part redeployed in the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Identification validation. This was for council staff and volunteers being safety checked who had been redeployed into the care sector to support those services where regular care workers were unable to do so due to having to self-isolate themselves.

The Mayor's Support Officer/Chauffeur (Tim Kellman) was redeployed to support the GP surgeries across the borough. His role was to collect Oxygen Saturation Tests from GP surgeries and deliver them to patients. Tim, wearing PPE, would then wait for the patients to do the test on the doorstep explaining how it should be done to ensure a correct recording rather than having to return again, and then he returns the test to the GP surgery. This has kept him extremely busy. Amazingly the Covid Support team in this clinical service area has been nominated for a Parliamentary award and we are very proud of Tim being a part of this team. In addition, since December Tim has also been a Car Park Marshall at one of the new vaccination sites in Barnet as well as continuing with the Oxygen Saturation Test deliveries.

Annual Council May 2020

Annual Council in May 2020 was postponed due to Covid and it was decided the Mayor would continue in post until September 2020 to keep the continuity of the Mayoralty in these exceptional circumstances.

Mayoral Engagement Statistics May 2019 – May 2020

Invitation received: 625
Invitations accepted: 415
Invitations declined: 150
Invitations cancelled: 60
Invitations attended by Mayor: 308
Invitations attended by Deputy Mayor: 83
Invitations attended by Past Mayor's: 24

May 2020 – May 2021

Mayor – Cllr Caroline Stock

Mayoral Engagement and Civic Events

The council underwent huge transitions with IT, particularly with new working from home arrangements. The office managed to work very well to still deliver an exceptional service even though face to face contact was greatly restricted due to the pandemic.

By taking into consideration the needs of the organiser and the organisation to which the Mayor had been invited to, ensured that everyone involved had an enjoyable, memorable and personal experience.

Zoom and Teams technology platforms played a huge part in the way we engaged with the community. During the pandemic it was ever more important to engage with the community to show support, give encouragement and recognition. Also, where possible the Mayoralty provided a platform for getting important messages to the community and for also raising moral by sharing good news stories.

The Mayor recorded videos and some of these include:

The importance of following the Covid-19 guidelines [Combat COVID-19: “We can have a kosher, healthy Pesach while preserving lives at the same time” - YouTube](#)

The Loyal Toast for VE Day, [VID 20200503 WA0000 - YouTube](#)

Remembering Srebrenica, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agjJPTSoHlw&feature=youtu.be>

Promoting Barnet open spaces for daily exercise, [Stay healthy during the Lockdown, with some Mayoral guidance! - YouTube](#)

The Mayor’s Golden Kilometre<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xgd4JulTAQ&feature=youtu.be>

A supportive and inspirational message for the London Youth Virtual Games

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWmaviUpvYI&feature=youtu.be>

And many more personalised messages.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQs7PtM8eh8&feature=youtu.be>

By also working with Council partners, we were able to share best practices, innovative ideas and even embark on some joint ventures. The message was spread wider using our social media platforms, but also the media platforms of our partners.

Smaller local voluntary organisations have also benefitted from having the Mayor provide a video message, roll up her sleeves and get involved with food packing at the community food hub and even delivering food parcels. The Mayor supported a joint venture with Age UK and other local organisations called ‘Bringing Smiles to your Door’. See here - [bringing smiles to your door campaign \(ageuk.org.uk\)](#) The Mayor made the deliveries to some of the elderly and alone in the borough. This has raised awareness of the Mayoralty and the office have suggested further involvement and engagement using these examples which are testament to the value brought to the council, community and the Mayoralty in a plethora of ways.

These types of engagement haven’t been simple to arrange and the office have had to work closely with PHE, Covid guidance and Public Health Barnet to write individual risk assessments for each event, which included travelling to and from the engagement as well as how to safely engage at the event, and submit for approval before the event could actually take place.

Armed Forces Day – June 2020

2020 event had to be very different. We could not have our usual parade and gathering because of Covid-19 and the RAF Museum was being used as an essential Barnet Food Hub. A video was created along with the Mayor’s message. The RAF Museum also created their messages and the office ensured there was still communication with all our Armed Forces contacts in the borough. One of the videos submitted to us by 4 Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment raised interest and was subsequently used at the National Army Museum.

See links below for Barnet’s contribution to AFD:

[Armed Forces Day 2020 | Barnet Council](#)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=RAF+Museum+armed+forces+day&docid=607990936716577817&mid=43EF7E25666993FF728943EF7E25666993FF7289&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>
[Armed Forces day 2020: Message from Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Caroline Stock. - YouTube](#)

Civic Awards Presentations

This was a highlight in a year of uncertainty of the future. The ceremony was due to take place in March at the Town Hall and all preparations had already been made. In January 2020 Valerie provided all the nominations for the judging panel. The nominations were checked through our Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) team for authenticity. The usual annual celebratory event had been organised at the Town Hall in March to recognise the worthy recipients. However, just a week before, the event had to be cancelled as the country went into lockdown.

To ensure the recipients were still recognised for their valuable contributions to the community Angela created a virtual interactive publication. This involved a visual brochure which included videos of the recipients nominations being read. Doorstep deliveries by the Mayor in her robe were then arranged when the restrictions were slightly relaxed, for the winners to receive their framed vellums and medals and these were presented in August 2020.

See <https://barnetcivicevents.co.uk/civicawards2020/mobile/index.html> for the virtual brochure and [Civic awards | Barnet Council](#) for the doorstep delivery pictures. The recipients loved this as they could show off to the neighbours!

Annual Council September 2020

Due to the pandemic, it was decided that the Annual Council meeting and change of Mayoralty would be postponed until September.

Options were delivered regarding how the event in September would actually take place safely by either a virtual or hybrid event. It was decided to hold a full virtual meeting which could also be viewed live by the public. This included extensive IT support for all 63 Councillors plus officers.

Documents were signed, sealed and witnessed all within safe guidelines and presentations arranged. Invitations to guests on our civic list were sent with instructions on how to join the meeting.

The Mayoral Support Officer, Tim, had all the Chains, robes and regalia cleaned and duly delivered the items and certificates to the home addresses of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Mayor Designate and Deputy Mayor Designate.

The day before the Annual Council Meeting we were to hold a dress rehearsal so the formalities of the Mayoral inauguration would be practiced with a script and go without hitch.

This had to be cancelled last minute as the Mayor Designate was not contactable which then led to the Annual Council Meeting also being postponed.

It was with great sadness that we learned the Mayor Designate had suddenly passed away the day after.

The Annual Council meeting took place in October instead and the current serving Mayor, Cllr

Caroline Stock continued in office until May 2021 therefore completing a 2-year term in office.

Remembrance Sunday November 2020

This was a tricky event to manage this year. In Barnet Mayoral representation is usually made at 15 services and parades around the borough. The current guidelines in London at this time directed the Rule of Six. The main events in Barnet Borough meant that very strict rules needed to be applied for congregating at the war memorials and places of worship. Risk assessments were written for each remembrance activity and in a lot of cases the memorial events were cancelled. Barnet's main event organised by the Mayor's Office took place at Hendon war memorial. Usually with parade participants and spectators of over 400, this was now significantly reduced. A very short service led by the Mayor included the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, an Armed Forces Representative, Salvation Army bugler and a veteran.

Fortunately, we managed to get good communications out to residents advising them to pay their respects at home. On the pavements opposite the memorial we had no more than a dozen onlookers. It is incredible to think that the least number of attendees was what we were aiming for whilst still paying respects.

See link: [Remembrance Sunday in Barnet | Barnet Council](#)

After the very short commemoration at 11am the Mayor went onto to eight other war memorials in the borough to lay a wreath on behalf of the Council, respectfully and without ceremony.

Snowdrop Planting November 2020

Under Covid guidelines the Mayor planted snowdrops with school children from St Andrews School in Totteridge on Totteridge Green with special permission from the Residents Association.

Christmas Card Competition 2020

Valerie once again co-ordinated this competition for the winning design to be used as the Mayor's Christmas card. Woodridge Primary School was chosen. The Headteacher said it had provided some light relief for the teachers in November whilst learning practices needed to be somewhat different and this also included students that were having to remain at home. The school were delighted to take part.

There were many great submissions but the picture of Santa under a rainbow and the text on the design won us all over particularly in such a distressing year. "Always hope something great will happen." See pdf for winning design.



Holocaust Memorial Commemoration 2021

For 2021 Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations were very different. The Mayor and Angela organised and directed a film made up of individual video clips which included the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the Bishop of Edmonton The Rt Reverend Robert Wickham, Robert Rinder, (Judge

Rinder) survivors, music contributions, a poem read by young children, multi-faith messages and special candle lightings. Valerie provided the transcripts for each video so subtitles could be added. The film was released on Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January 2021. Working with Middlesex University and their IT department, who kindly edited the final film production proved partnership working at its best!

The film had over 1.8K views which was one of the highest in the country for HMD.

The film is 45 minutes long and can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/BYQk6i4TNn4>



The façade of the Town Hall was also illuminated in purple to commemorate the day.

Town Twinning

Although 2020 has caused disruption we have still managed to maintain communications and engage in certain projects with our twin towns.

Le Raincy, France – Photographic Competition

2020 was the year of 'Unusual Sights of your City.' A judging panel is set up in each twin town and they are not allowed to judge their own town entries. Here is the link to see the winning photos submitted by residents for Barnet. [Town Twinning | Barnet Council](#). Financed by the town of Le Raincy the winners in each twin town receive 150 euros, second place 100 euros and third place 75 euros. Certificates are presented by the Mayor and then all the winning photographs of each town are then sent as a whole exhibition to be displayed for three months in the civic office of each twin town.

In February 2021 – a Teams meeting was arranged with the Mayor of Le Raincy to discuss the impact of the pandemic and the vaccination processes.

Chaville, France

We usually have a Petanque tournament every year, alternating between host towns. The tournament could not take place this year but zoom gatherings and quizzes set up by the 'Friends of Chaville' have ensured contact was maintained.

We also sent a Poppy Wreath to Chaville to lay at their Remembrance service on 11th November, as we do every year.

Tempelhof-Schöneberg, Berlin

Activity with this twin town is also on an annual basis. This year the planned projects for LOGO Europe, a 6-week annual work placement from Berlin co-ordinated by Angela for Barnet and the schools film festival where a group of Barnet students travel to Berlin to submit their themed film for a competition, all had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. However, communications have remained lively and ensured our offices remained in excellent contact by sharing ideas and news during this restrictive time.

In April 2021 a Teams meeting was arranged with the Mayor of Tempelhof-Schöneberg to discuss the impact of the pandemic and comparing how the vaccination roll out was doing.

Pokhara, Nepal

At an extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 26th April 2021 a resolution was passed for the London Borough of Barnet to be twinned with Pokhara in Nepal.

In May a special ceremony was held in the Council Chamber with social distancing in place. Non travelling representatives for Nepal including the Nepal Ambassador in UK were present to record the occasion.



56103 Barnet
Certificate Pokhara_p

Civic Awards

Nominations opened in October 2020 for the 2021 awards. The judging panel met via Teams to recognise the exceptional individuals in the borough who had been nominated to receive an award. We added an additional category to the awards called Covid 19 Community Heroes to recognise the support of individuals and groups during the pandemic.

We had over 50 nominations with eight vellum winners in the respective categories of Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Service to the Community and Covid-19 Community Heroes.

The Mayor, Cllr Stock, once again made door-step deliveries to the worthy recipients this time in April 2020.

Charity Fundraising

The Mayor's chosen charities for her Mayoral year 2019 – 2020 were Cherry Lodge Cancer Care and HomeStart Barnet. Both are local charities. Private tours of St Paul's Cathedral, The Old Bailey, Speakers House, Westminster, The RAF Museum, Lancaster House and Marlborough House, a Valentine Jazz evening, a Bridge evening, a Diwali Afternoon Tea and a Supper Quiz were organised and even a Virtual Gala Dinner with an auction. Through these fundraising events supported by the Mayor's Office £60,000.

The Mayor decided that as she would now be continuing as Mayor for an additional term that she would take on the charity chosen by the late Mayor Designate, the Royal Free Charity, making a

valuable difference to patients and staff at three hospitals in the borough by providing services, research and equipment not covered by NHS funding.

Operation Bridge

With the passing of HRH Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh on 9th April, this put our Covid plan for **Operation Forth Bridge** into action which worked well.

At the request of HRH there was to be no fuss so this eliminated the requirement of additional services.

The flag was flown at half-mast from the Town Hall, the Mayor wrote a letter of condolence and made a borough statement, the comms team made appropriate releases on social media and the website. The website was 'black banded' as a sign of mourning and a picture of HRH displayed and a list of his links and visits to the borough. The Royal e-book of condolence was advertised and visitors directed to the Royal.uk website.

Angela is the lead in the borough for the Operation London Bridge taskings and has produced a full instructional document which informs each department of the requirement in the area of their responsibility. The document is constantly reviewed with dynamic assessments and updated with further guidance as it becomes available.

If it is necessary for the Royal Train plan to be activated this would mean the train would pass through three stations in the Barnet borough. Under the Covid-19 guidance Angela risk assessed, socially distanced of course, with the Highways and Street Scene departments, British Transport Police, Metropolitan Police and the City of London and has walked the whole 8 mile route to provide an extensive assessment of health and safety, potential hazards and best viewing points. Angela has also engaged with neighbouring boroughs to ensure that boundaries are identified and correctly allocated for the individual local authority responsibility.

Mayoral Engagement Statistics 2020-2021

Invitation received: 202

Invitations accepted: 187

Invitations declined: 5

Invitations cancelled: 10

Invitations attended by Mayor: 179

Invitations attended by Deputy Mayor: 8

Invitations attended by Past Mayor's: 0

For 2020 The London Borough of Barnet won the National Civic Office of the Year Award

The Mayor's Office have embraced the new ways of working within the changing guidelines. Going forward, by using the same principles that have kept the office in high regard this past year, we can ensure we can continue to be a dependable and trusted office.

The Mayoral staff are open and honest, act with integrity and all of the team are contactable by telephone as well as email and this provides a personal and reassuring approach. Following up and

providing answers and solutions to queries in a timely manner is reassurance that the office can be relied upon, despite and beyond the difficulties and challenges Covid -19 has caused.

We care about Barnet, it's people, businesses and those we work with.

The office continues to work with other departments to ensure residents and businesses have a good experience when engaging with the Mayor.

The Mayor has been extremely flexible to accommodate the ever-changing guidelines and became an expert herself at online engagement.

Throughout the Council and the community, the Mayor's office have been proactively promoting the benefit of the Mayoralty which continues to be relevant for the community and more so now as the efforts of some outstanding residents, volunteers and community groups are recognised. It is important to acknowledge the community generosity of time and goodwill as their contribution is of huge value as it supports council services. It can also alleviate pressures where delivery of certain services has been difficult for various reasons.

We are an approachable team, offering sound advice to organisers when required.

It is important to maintain good relations with individuals, businesses, organisations, stakeholders partners and the Lieutenancy. This not only keeps the reputation of the Mayoralty and Council in high regard but benefits areas of good practice, sharing information and good news stories through our communications department, council publications and website and also council partners platforms.

We actively listen and respond, collaborate and share ideas with different departments and our partners to achieve the best outcomes with residents, businesses and colleagues. This is a proven template and will be continued in the future.

Partnership working in the community is very important and we are very fortunate to have an excellent relationship with our partners. This relationship is continually nurtured in many areas and this has helped the Mayor's office deliver some very large civic events in the community every year with enormous cost savings.

It cannot be underestimated the value of the mayoralty to the community and council in general as it provides a visual reminder of how important it is to have a figurehead who appreciates the community efforts in all aspects.

Barnet is a very diverse borough and the Mayor's office works very closely with different faith groups and community forums. At all our civic events we ensure inclusion from different aspects of the community and celebrate this diversity. This will continue to keep the Mayoralty in the public eye in the future and for the right reasons.

Whilst the office has been delivering mayoral engagement and civic events in an unaccustomed fashion this past year it has highlighted the opportunities for going forward with changing guidelines.

For example; whilst arranging for the Town Hall to be illuminated in purple for Holocaust Memorial Day this year by having the lighting permanently installed this would enable the council to visually recognise other days by changing the light bulbs. For instance, red for Remembrance Sunday, rainbow colours for LGBTQ+, red white and blue for Armed Forces Day and any other colour we

choose to promote a specific significant event. This one-off installation charge will provide a visual statement in the future at the cost of a few light bulbs.

It is apparent with the wider use of IT and social media and video conferencing that the service delivery is still of an exceptional high standard by continuing to engage with the community whilst there has been significant cost savings.

Considering a return to face-to-face activity, a review of the Mayoral car is a frequent topic, often brought up by Freedom of Information. In the Barnet borough, with 875 miles of road and very much reduced parking amenities, it would be very difficult for the Mayor to attend engagements and on time without a car and driver. The office have been reviewed nearly every year for the last 15 years to see if cost savings can be made. The decision to keep the Mayoralty has been based on the value it brings to the council and the community and by ensuring that the office deliver the crucial elements that a figurehead should bring, we have been able to retain the services of the chauffeur. In addition, we have reviewed several vehicles to ensure the singular Mayoral car is cost effective and better for the environment. The current car is a Volvo S90 Hybrid which has proven to be hugely cost effective and green. It is not classified as a prestige car, however it looks like one and the black polished paint and chrome is expertly looked after by hand by the chauffeur, Tim. The vehicle is also compliant with the extension of the Ultra Low Emissions Zone which will extend into the Barnet borough. It is envisaged that we can retain the car for at least 6 years so future transport costs will also be significantly reduced.

Summary

The small Mayor's Office team who are all committed, dedicated and willing, continually strive to ensure all those engaging with the Mayoralty have a memorable and good experience. Whilst delivering new and innovative ways of working we have ensured the office delivers an exceptional service embracing the changes necessary. This includes the promotion and value of the Mayoralty in the borough with very limited resources, celebrating the diversity, collaborating with our partners and sharing best practices.

The Mayor has been particularly keen to ensure continued engagement with borough residents and organisations and this has been helped by the Mayor's prompt responses to office communication, her own innovation and ideas for uniting outside groups to work together (e.g. Bringing Smiles to your door) and her own flexibility in uncertain times.

The Mayor's Office need to get it right first time, every time as the mayoralty carries a huge reputational risk to the council. Going forward, everything we have done this year has created a vision on how we can operate and develop this service in the future, under restricted circumstances if necessary.