

Mayor's Report to Wells City Council's Annual Parish Meeting 8th March 2023 Local government has a reputation for being dull. That has not been the case for Wells City Parish Council (WCPC) in the last 12 months.

As Mayor this has been a tumultuous year with over 200 engagements to date, including the following:

Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Death of Queen Elizabeth II

Reign of Charles II commences

Transfer of recreation ground and Bishops Barn to WCPC

Opening of Portway Annexe for use by the community

Retirement of the HM Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Annie Maw

Appointment of a new HM Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Mr Mohamed Saddiq

Appointment of Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Retirement of the Dean of Wells Cathedral The Very Revd Dr John Davies

End of Mendip District Council – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Start of the new unitary council new Somerset Council – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Coronation of King Charles III – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023

#### Key Events for WCPC

1. In a few weeks a major consolidation of local government will see Mendip District Council disappear. With the assets of the existing County Council and the four district councils being transferred to the new unitary authority on 1st April 2023. It is expected that in due course some assets and services will be devolved to WCPC.
2. The Wells City Parish Council owned Portway Annexe is a thriving centre for multiple community activities since opening in May 2022. The annexe has excelled at providing a Welcome Hub for the Ukrainian families living in the area.
3. The Neighbourhood Plan, which will give Wells some control over developers is almost complete. The Neighbourhood Plan has been approved by Full Council 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. It is currently being prepared to be sent to Mendip District Council (MDC) with the Basic Conditions statement and will then be sent out for a consultation by MDC.

More detailed information will follow in the reports from our three committee chairs and two management groups. discussions.

May I thank my fellow councillors, the Town Clerk, and the council staff for all their hard work in extremely challenging times.

Councillor Stewart Cursley Mayor of Wells 8th March 2023