

Mayoral Report 2021-22.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FELLOW COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS.

SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT I HAVE BEEN MAYOR OF DROITWICH SPA FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS. I WAS MADE MAYOR IN MAY 2019 EXPECTING TO SERVE MY TOWN FOR 12 MONTHS, AS IS THE NORM, BUT NOT FOR ME.

ALONG WITH MY WIFE AS MAYORESS, I BEGAN MY DUTIES IN THE USUAL WAY. ENGAGEMENTS CAME THICK AND FAST AND WE ATTENDED MANY ENJOYABLE CHARITABLE FUNCTIONS. I CARRIED OUT MY CIVIC DUTIES AS MAYOR OF THIS GREAT TOWN OF OURS THEN SADLY, AROUND TWO THIRDS THROUGH MY TENURE, COVID STRUCK. PEOPLE BECAME VERY ILL AND SADLY MANY LOST THEIR LIVES TO THIS DREADFUL VIRUS. AS A RESULT, OUR TOWN, LIKE MANY OTHERS, BEGAN TO ALMOST SHUT DOWN AND SO MY MAYORAL DUTIES WERE CURTAILED TO A LARGE EXTENT. THIS SITUATION CONTINUED AND WORSEND INTO FULL LOCKDOWN.

OUR OFFICERS WERE ADVISED TO CONTINUE WORK FROM HOME AS BEST THEY COULD AND COUNCIL CONTINUED IT'S WORK VIRTUALLY IN ORDER TO KEEP COUNCIL BUSINESS UP TO SPEED.

BY THE FOLLOWING MAY, THE SITUATION HAD NOT IMPROVED SO I WAS ASKED BY OUR COUNCIL LEADER, IF I WOULD STAY IN OFFICE FOR A SECOND TERM IN THE HOPE THAT MY DEPUTY MIGHT ENJOY A COVID FREE TERM IN DUE COURSE. I AGREED AND FOUND THE DECISION TO BE CORRECT.

THEN CAME THE COVID VACCINE, EXPERTLY FORMULATED BY OUR VERY OWN, BRITISH SCIENTISTS. WE WERE BEGINNING TO BE RELEASED FROM THE GRIP OF COVID, ALBEIT IN A MEASURED WAY. WE MANAGED TO CELEBRATE REMEMBERANCE DAY AND CHRISTMAS VIRTUALY BUT STILL A BLESSING TO US ALL.

BY THIS TIME, I WAS REACHING THE END OF MY SECOND TERM IN OFFICE WHEN ANOTHER BLOW FELL UPON US. MY DEPUTY MAYOR BECAME ILL AND WAS FORCED TO STEP DOWN FROM HIS POSITION. AS PROTOCOL DEMANDS COUNCIL MUST APPOINT MAYOR AND DEPUTY AT AGM AND PUBLIC MEETINGS. THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS, AS A RESULT, I CONTINUED INTO MY THIRD AND FINAL YEAR.

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THIS TERM DID EVENTUALLY RETURN TO SOME SORT OF NORMALITY AND MY ENGAGEMENTS AND CIVIC DUTIES HAVE BEEN PLEASURABLE AND CERTAINLY UPLIFTING. I HAVE MANAGED TO HOLD SOME EVENTS FOR MY CHOSEN CHARITIES BUT, OF COURSE CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS THE RESULT OF ONE TERM IN OFFICE.

THE HIGHLIGHT FOR ANY MAYOR OF THIS TOWN IS REMEMBRANCE DAY WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT AS NEAR NORMAL AS POSSIBLE.

VICTORIA SQUARE WAS PACKED WITH HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO OUR TOWN. THE BANDS PLAYED, THE CADETS DRUMMED AND MARCHED AND SO MANY WREATHS WERE LAID.

WE WERE ABLE TO PAY OUR RESPECTS BOTH AT THE MEMORIAL STONE AND IN CHURCH.

I FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY, HAVING LOST SO MANY SOULS IN WORLD WARS IN THE PAST THAT SOME WORLD LEADERS STILL BELIEVE IT'S O.K. TO REPEAT HISTORY AS I SPEAK.

I HAVE MIXED EMOTIONS THIS EVENING. MY MAYORSHIP HAS BEEN HARD WORK OVER THREE YEARS BUT ALSO A PLEASURE AND HONOUR TO SERVE MY TOWN IN THIS WAY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY WIFE FOR STANDING BY ME AND THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

THANK YOU.