



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES AND REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF BOGNOR REGIS HELD ON MONDAY 18th MARCH 2019

PRESENT (BRTC)

Cllr. S. Reynolds - Town Mayor (in the chair)
Cllr. J. Brooks
Cllr. J. Cosgrove
Cllr. P. Dillon
Cllr. S. Goodheart (during Min. 3)
Cllr. M. Stanley
Cllr. Mrs. J. Warr
Cllr. P. Woodall
(Note: Cllrs. Brooks, Dillon, Reynolds, and Stanley are also Arun District Councillors)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
Mrs. S. Norman (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs. J. Davis (Civic & Office Manager)
Ms. L. Goldsmith (Leader of West Sussex County Council)
2 representatives of the press
Approximately 17 members of the public

COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC

Notice and Agenda for the Meeting
Minutes of the Town Meeting of Electors held on 21st November 2018
Audited Accounts to 31st March 2018
Proposed Expenditure for the year 2019-2020
Bognor Pier Company Ltd Accounts to 31st December 2018
Copy of Resolutions received for which written notice was given
Regeneration Questionnaire results
Schedule of Councillors' Attendance at Meetings

The Meeting opened at 7.32pm

1. **WELCOME BY THE TOWN MAYOR AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and attention was drawn to the evacuation procedure in the event of fire. The Town Mayor introduced Councillors to those present. Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs. Cunard, Mrs. Daniells and Gardiner.

2. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2018 AND ANY MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the Town Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 21st November 2018 were considered and agreed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor as presiding Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. **TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Mayor gave his report (appended to Minutes as **Appendix 1**).

The Mayor then reminded those Town and District Councillors, present at the meeting, that the period of Purdah had begun in the Arun District that day and, therefore, they must be mindful of this.

4. **TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2018 AND BUDGET FOR 2019-2020**

The Town Council's Accounts to year ending 31st March 2018 were duly noted and accepted. The Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Cllr. Stanley gave the Chairman's report on the budget (appended to Minutes as **Appendix 2**).

5. **TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE BOGNOR PIER COMPANY LTD YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2018 (IF AVAILABLE)**

The Accounts were duly noted and accepted.

6. **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2019**

The following **Resolutions** had been received:

6.1

This Annual Meeting of Electors

Thanks, the Town Council for conducting the survey of views concerning the proposed Linear Park and the Sunken Gardens;

Confirms the need for residents in the wider Bognor Regis Urban Area (6 parishes) to have a final say on which Regeneration Scheme goes forward and demands that Arun District Council facilitate this choice, laying out the viable schemes that are extant, with relevant status details;

Failing this, requests the Town Council to further consider this matter to enable residents to make their views known;

Reminds Arun District Council as landowner of the Regis Centre and Hothampton sites that it acts for the public interest, not as a private landowner.

Proposed Cllr. Cosgrove **Seconded** Cllr. Stanley

Cllr. Cosgrove spoke for the Motion. His personal interpretation of the results from the regeneration survey carried out by the Town Council, and of the views expressed at the Town Meeting of Electors held in November 2018, led him to be of the opinion that there is clear opposition to Arun District Council's proposed Linear Park with preference that the Sunken Gardens be retained. Cllr. Cosgrove spoke of alternative regeneration schemes for the Hothampton Site and the importance that these be fully considered with proper public consultation and exhibition of proposals, including the viability of each scheme, thereby allowing residents to vote for their preferred scheme.

As seconder, Cllr. Stanley spoke for the Motion.

Discussion followed with comments made regarding the importance of the Health Centre, with concern expressed as to how any proposed schemes might affect this provision, and the view that Arun District Council should consider themselves as caretakers for the community and must, therefore, listen to the community's opinion on regeneration proposals.

A vote of electors of the six Wards was taken and the result was 9 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions. Accordingly, the Resolution was **CARRIED**.

A courtesy non-electors vote was taken, 6 in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

6.2

This Annual Meeting of Electors

Supports the call for an Independent Inquiry into the neglect of properties owned by Arun District Council and urges the Town Council to do its utmost to secure this. Requests the Town Clerk write to the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire MP, to convey this meeting's position on this matter.

Proposed Cllr. Cosgrove **Seconded** Cllr. Goodheart

Cllr. Cosgrove spoke for the Motion and informed those present that the Resolution was in particular reference to 2-4 Waterloo Square, 6-8 Waterloo Square and the site on the corner of The Esplanade and Waterloo Square where the Beach Restaurant once stood before it burnt down.

Cllr. Cosgrove explained the investigations that he had personally undertaken in an attempt to ascertain the ownership of the buildings/land at these locations, which had included Freedom of Information requests to Arun District Council eliciting disappointing responses to his enquiries.

In respect of the three properties referred to, Cllr. Cosgrove questioned the state of deterioration and disrepair that had been allowed to happen. In contrast to the condition of these properties, Cllr. Cosgrove gave details of another Arun owned building in Waterloo Square whereby alleged dilapidation was found and the leaseholder subsequently taken to court by Arun, only for the case to be later dismissed. By comparison, questions were asked as to why such attention into the condition of 2-4 Waterloo Square was not given. He went on to share his belief that Arun District Council hold a position of stewardship in the Town, with which comes a level of accountability.

In closing, Cllr. Cosgrove declared the case of 2-4 Waterloo Square as an extraordinary situation where the planning application for demolition was superseded by Environmental Health condemning the building. Cllr. Cosgrove would like to call for an internal inquiry into the case, with the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire MP, being made aware.

As seconder, Cllr. Goodheart spoke to the Motion and asked that, in addition to requesting an independent inquiry, a list of properties owned by Arun District Council could also be established. Whilst Cllr. Cosgrove acknowledged the relevance of listing all other Arun owned properties, as proposer he felt it was important that the Resolution focus on the properties mentioned in Waterloo Square.

Those present commented/discussed:

Future plans for the Town Hall.

Freedom of Information request details available on whatdotheyknow.com, made to Arun District Council.

Evidence of professional reports stating that 2-4 Waterloo Square must be demolished.

Importance of prioritising and preserving the Town's heritage.

As proposer of the original Motion, Cllr. Cosgrove suggested an addition to the Motion, of: 'in Waterloo Square'. This was accepted by the seconder of the original Motion. With the agreement of Cllrs. Cosgrove and Goodheart, the Motion was amended as follows;

This Annual Meeting of Electors

Supports the call for an Independent Inquiry into the neglect of properties in Waterloo Square, owned by Arun District Council, and urges the Town Council to do its utmost to secure this. Requests the Town Clerk write to the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire MP, to convey this meeting's position on this matter.

Proposed Cllr. Cosgrove **Seconded** Cllr. Goodheart

A vote was taken, and the result was 9 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention. Accordingly, the Resolution was **RESOLVED**.

A courtesy Non-electors vote was taken, 7 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

7. Members **RESOLVED** to vary the order of business and take Agenda item 8 next, after which the final Resolution submitted under Agenda item 6 would be considered.

8. **TO WELCOME MS LOUISE GOLDSMITH, LEADER OF WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Town Mayor welcomed the Leader of West Sussex County Council (WSCC), Ms Louise Goldsmith, to the meeting.

Ms Goldsmith thanked those present for the invitation to attend the meeting and spoke of her fondness for the Town, and the County Council's commitment to working with Bognor Regis. Reference was made by the Leader to: - WSCC's support with the development of the University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus; the Growth Deal signed with Arun District Council to partner aspirations to improve the area and its economy; the near completion of the Creative Hub at Bognor Regis Railway Station. Ms Goldsmith had been impressed, during a visit to the Town, with the events organised over Christmas and spoke of the good things happening in Bognor Regis, including at Butlin's.

The Town Mayor invited members of the public and Councillors to ask the Leader of West Sussex County Council questions.

A summary of the questions/statements to Ms Goldsmith includes:

Q: Whilst the County Council have recently carried out a good deal of work on highways, grass cutting etc, the small things are also important.

A: Ms Goldsmith explained that the County Council had received Government funding of £6m, in October 2018, to be spent on highways by 1st April 2019. With the West Sussex County Council budget being cut by 45%, spending must focus on safety matters first and foremost.

Q: Bognor Regis was excluded from the A29 Realignment Scheme exhibition literature and consultation. Why was this? The A29 Realignment Scheme will meet with the Arundel Bypass at the Fontwell roundabout, with only traffic lights proposed in the scheme. Why were no obvious, alternative, proposals first considered?

A: Ms Goldsmith did not agree that Bognor Regis had been excluded from the consultation process and stated that the exhibitions had primarily been held in those housing areas that would be directly affected by the A29 Realignment Scheme but were open to anyone that was able to attend. The Scheme is still open for Public Consultation and comments can be submitted [online](#) until 26th April 2019.

Q: Having exchanged emails about the Pavilion Park proposals, and lack of public consultation from Arun District Council, it is disappointing that the Pavilion Park went through in relation to the Growth Deal agreed between the District and County Council.

A: Ms Goldsmith responded by stating that all correspondence received was considered during Growth Deal discussions. In light of Purdah, Ms Goldsmith was not prepared to make any further comment on this subject.

Q: When contacting Officers about funding opportunities at West Sussex County Council they are exemplary. However, contact with County Councillors is incredibly difficult, and they seem uninterested and out of touch. How can we get West Sussex County Councillors more involved in Bognor Regis and in touch with their commitments, and will the Leader take these comments back to Council?

A: Ms Goldsmith thanked the member of the public for the complimentary comments about Officers at the County Council, and agreed that these, along with comments regarding County Councillors, would be reported back.

Q: Will the Leader give an indication as to whether a change of road systems in Bognor Regis would be supported, and can this item be added to dialogue with JWAAC Highways & Transport, or various departments?

A: Ms Goldsmith suggested that the matter be raised through the Town Councils JWACC Highways & Transport Representative, as this was the appropriate channel.

Q: After successful regeneration in the area, population will grow enormously with demand for some form of entertainment facility. How can we look into some sort of stadium, in 20 years' time?

A: Ms Goldsmith spoke of a vision for the whole coastal area being really dynamic. She spoke of regeneration in Brighton being brilliant and of how she expected this to "spin-off" to Worthing and Bognor Regis, with green shoots growing and getting stronger. Ms Goldsmith declared Bognor Regis to be an amazing place and that West Sussex County Council are always happy to help.

Q: With Government funding reductions being an absolute travesty, what is the Leaders' view on whether three levels of local government is sustainable, and whether the existing three levels is best for the people of the County?

A: In answer to the question, Ms Goldsmith explained that there is presently a system of effective, collaborative working across Councils with the willingness of everybody, sharing the same vision, and working to focus on one person - the resident.

There being no other questions for the Leader of West Sussex County Council, the Town Mayor thanked Ms Goldsmith for attending. Ms Goldsmith declared that she would like to stay until the end of the Meeting

9. TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2019

The following Resolution had been received:

9.1

This Annual Meeting of Electors

Reminds Arun District Council that regeneration without leisure is simply re-development for profit and insists that regeneration plans for Bognor Regis MUST include the installation of a beach ramp over the stones to access the sands for families and the disabled, AND an indoor space suitable for large visitor attractions, exhibitions and entertainment events, to be funded by contributions from Arun District Council and developers.

Proposed Cllr. Brooks **Seconded** Cllr. Goodheart

Prior to speaking for the Motion, Cllr. Brooks pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the Schedule of Councillors' Attendance at Meetings that had been published with the Agenda and requested that this be looked into. It was agreed that this would be investigated

Cllr. Brooks spoke for the Motion and reminded those present of the days when Bognor Regis was famous for its 'golden sands'. Whilst he understood that Arun District Council has a responsibility to protect from flooding, the addition of stones has resulted in six ramps onto the beach being buried. Cllr. Brooks believes it is wrong that buggies and wheelchair users cannot access the beach. There are areas at which access can be provided and Cllr. Brooks stated that this topic has to be linked to regeneration in Bognor Regis.

As seconder, Cllr. Goodheart spoke for the Motion and suggested that the Resolution be supported, given that Bognor Regis is a tourist destination. Cllr. Goodheart suggested adding "a form of tidal/rock pool on the seafront, that would create a tidal swimming pool" to the Resolution

subject to Cllr. Brooks agreement as proposer.

Whilst Cllr. Brooks was grateful to Cllr. Goodheart for seconding the Motion, he felt that the Resolution was really about beach access, on the back of regeneration, which should be morally included. Although Cllr. Brooks supports the idea of a tidal pool he asked that the matter be looked into separately and that the Resolution remain as stated.

A vote was taken, and the result was 7 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention. Accordingly, the Resolution was **CARRIED**.

A courtesy Non-electors vote was taken, 7 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

10. TOWN COUNCIL'S REGENERATION SURVEY

The Town Mayor invited members of the public and Councillors to put any questions to the Council.

Discussions included an acknowledgement that, although the number of respondents to the survey was relatively small, it was a larger sample of the local population than the number that had taken part in Arun's 2015 consultation on the Linear Park, and the 'Name the Park' exercise (resulting in Pavilion Park being chosen) that they had carried out. Regardless of the sample size, it was felt that the responses clearly stated that the people of Bognor Regis do not want the Linear Park and would like to preserve the Sunken Gardens.

It was revealed that a recent Budget Meeting, at Arun District Council, had shown that Arun have £3.5m of reserves in excess of the Auditor recommended amount of reserves. Were this true, then it was considered that Arun District Council could fully fund the proposals for the Linear Park, without the need to build flats and pull down the Health Centre. If Arun believe the Linear Park to be such a good idea then, the question was asked, why not pay for it themselves? An Arun Councillor, present at the meeting, stated that the reserves referred to were "for the community, as we don't know what Brexit will bring". In response, it was noted that a Brexit Impact Statement, from Arun, had not been seen and the Town Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of Arun District Council to request a copy, which the Town Council could subsequently publish.

It was asked as to whether Arun has the legal authority to go ahead with the Pavilion Park proposals, and whether it was believed that the District Council owned the land. Those present were reminded that there was already a planning application on this land that has had approval. An attendee responded by saying that anyone can submit a planning application for a piece of land whether they owned it or not.

Reference was made to Arun's Residents' Consultation Panel, titled Wavelength, that ran between 1995-2015 and was considered to be an example of valid consultation carried out by Arun District Council.

11. OPEN FORUM WITH QUESTIONS TO COUNCILLORS/ATTENDEES

The Town Mayor invited members of the public and Councillors to put any questions to the Council.

A member of the public drew attention to the accounts of the Town Council, received under Agenda item 4, and asked why there had been an increase in the precept given the reserves available. It was also queried as to why the newly built fourth screen at the Picturedrome cinema was not listed as an asset in the accounts of The Bognor Pier Company Ltd, as received under Agenda item 5, and whether this would be added for the next financial year. The Town Mayor responded by saying that he was unable to provide the answers to the questions, at the meeting, and it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would do so in due course.

A representative from My Sisters' House spoke about the organisation's search for larger premises in Bognor Regis. The importance of the work carried out by My Sisters' House was acknowledged and congratulations offered regarding the recent National Lottery funding received by the group. Bognor Regis Town Council, and West Sussex County Council, were called upon to support My Sisters' House in relocating to a premises, in Bognor Regis, that offered more space.

The Town Council were asked to consider declaring a climate emergency and to become carbon neutral by 2030. Other considerations included: - the use of single-use plastics being stopped, with the initiative being promoted throughout Town; facilities being made available in the Town for the refilling of water bottles; a scheme, such as The Refillery in Chichester, whereby members of the public provide their own containers to fill up with dried foods, cleaners etc without the packaging; the use of public transport, bicycles and footpaths; and litter picking. In response, Ms Goldsmith advised that the matter of climate emergency was to be discussed by the County Council at a Full Council Meeting, to be webcast, on 5th April 2019. The Town Mayor also shared details of a Beach Clean, that the Town Council will be involved with, also to be held on 5th April 2019 and invited anyone interested in joining in to meet at the Bandstand on The Esplanade at 2pm.

It was asked whether the Town Council would agree to making a statement regarding the closure, by a private landowner, of an unofficial footpath that borders the Wards of Bognor Regis, Bersted and Felpham. The path had been used for a number of years, by many people, and it was hoped that it could be made a formal Public Right of Way. The Town Mayor **AGREED** to make a statement in support of this.

A member of the public asked that the public toilets on the promenade be addressed as a matter of urgency as they are used, and needed, by many. The Town Mayor suggested that temporary toilets are to be provided whilst the new facilities are inspected, however the timescale was unknown.

The Leader of West Sussex County Council was asked why it is that Bognor Regis is being seemingly singled out with on-street parking charges when other towns in the Arun District, such as Arundel and Littlehampton, do not have these charges. The County Council were asked to change this as a contribution to the regeneration of Bognor Regis. Ms Goldsmith stated that she would put the question to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure, Mr Roger Elkins.

The Town Mayor thanked all those present for attending.

The Meeting closed at 9.29pm

Annual Report of the Town Council

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to Bognor Regis Town Council's Annual Town Meeting of Electors. Thank you for giving your time to be here tonight.

This will be your chance to hear what the Town Council has achieved over the past 12 months and to have your say on what's going on in our Town.

I must start by saying that I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Mayor and would like to thank my fellow Councillors for giving me the opportunity to serve the Town during this time, meeting many wonderful local people and organisations, including some of the amazing charities we have here in Bognor Regis. I have been very lucky.

There have been so many momentous and important events happening in the Town, which I have been privileged to be a part of; the opening of the long anticipated 4th screen at The Picturedrome cinema, The completion and opening of the Engineering and Digital Technology Park at the University of Chichester's Bognor Regis Campus- including a visit from Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the new 'Play on the Beach' playground on the seafront and the many new businesses which have opened, creating a new and different buzz around the Town centre.

Personal highlights of mine must include this year's 100 years anniversary for the end of the First World War and of course my Civic Service which was held at St Wilfrid's Church on Sunday 24th February and made extra special with performances by pupils from Nyewood Infant School and the outstanding Chamber Choir of the University of Chichester. I am sure my Civic Reception, to be hosted at Butlins later this month, will be just as memorable.

Thanks, must go to my Mayor's Cadet, AC Callum Birch, for his attendance by my side at Civic events through the year.

The charity I have chosen to support this year has been Arun Angels. Since 2009, this charitable organisation has been patrolling the streets of Bognor Regis and specifically the pub and club areas, no matter the weather, to ensure those who are vulnerable, distressed, affected by alcohol, violence or the fear of violence to get home safely. In their words 'There are times when listening to someone's story or simply being there brings a sense of calm and well-being to a person'. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. The self-titled 'Street Angels' are always looking for more volunteers

to help them with their invaluable work. Please get in touch if you can lend a helping hand.

Now for a bit about what the Town Council has been doing over the past 12 months; there have been some fantastic youth investment programmes put into place, which are proving to be very popular with young people in the Town. 'Play Days' is a Town Council initiative delivered in partnership with Bognor CAN, providing sport, activity, craft and games over the school holidays at the Youth & Community Centre at Hampshire Avenue. CREATE is a weekly youth project based in Bognor Regis and surrounding parishes, facilitated by Sussex Clubs for Young People and part funded by Bognor Regis Town Council, which engages with local young people to make a difference to youths from all around the Town. The group meets on a weekly basis and previous projects have included; transforming a rundown subway with graffiti art created by the young people and participation in outdoor sports, games and activities on greens in local parishes. CREATE has also identified and supported young volunteers into mentoring others and encouraged them to further develop their skills and six members of the group successfully achieved the Bronze UK Young Achievers Award.

Partnership working has continued over the past 12 months, with the continuation of the 2- hour free parking scheme, introduction of Business Wardens to help link retail operators with Sussex Police and tackle anti-social behaviour, as well as CCTV operation in the Town.

The Town Council continues to put on many free events over the year; including the 'Drive through Time Motor Gala', World Book Day, Proms in the Park, the very popular 'Funshine Days' to entertain the children through the long summer holidays and last year of course, a live broadcast of the Royal Wedding, which saw thousands flock to Hotham Park with their picnics in hand!

As well as providing activities and entertainment, local charities and organisations have received funding from Bognor Regis Town Council through their Grant Aid applications, which last year, saw over £41,000 awarded to worthwhile causes, for the benefit of the Townsfolk.

2018 has been another exciting and prosperous year, with much investment in and around the Town already having an impact. We have had many new eateries open within the Town Centre and with 2019 promising the opening of Butlin's Splashpool, there are further exciting opportunities to come.

Talking of investing in the future, I'm sure most of you have heard that the local Town Council elections will be taking place on Thursday 2nd May. So, if you don't feel your Councillors are doing a fair job of representing YOU and standing up for your values and beliefs, for the benefit of the Town, then please, use your vote! You have the power to choose your local government, so make sure you take the opportunity on May 2nd!

Before we commence with the meeting, I would like to give a special thanks on behalf of myself and my fellow Councillors, to the staff at Bognor Regis Town Council, especially our Town Clerk, Glenna Frost, for all their hard work.

Lastly, thank you again for being here tonight, we look forward to your involvement in tonight's proceedings.

Policy and Resources Budget Report 2018/2019

I am delighted to present this year's Budget Report to the Annual Electors.

As we come to the end of this Administration, and look back over the Town Council's finances for the past twelve months, we are confident that we are a Council that is financially strong and with healthy reserves - in spite of the challenges we have faced over the past four years, with the abolition of the Council Tax Support Grant.

Our current total precept for the 2018/2019 year was set at £878,655. For the year 2019/2020 we increased council tax by just £3.56 per year on a Band D Property and, although of course no increases are ever welcome, this comparatively small rise has enabled us to continue with our various grants and projects, without making cuts.

Our annual spend includes a generous Grant Allocation of £46,000 which enables us to continue to help support other important organisations in our Town, such as Bognor Regis Shopmobility, Girlguiding and Scout units within the Town, Bognor Regis Swimming Club, Citizens Advice Bureau, and numerous others events and organisations. In awarding grants, we recognise the value of the work done by these organisations, and the benefit to the Town as a whole.

As well as assisting other organisations to put on events, we also fund events ourselves so that local people can enjoy them, free of charge. The Funshine Days, Proms in the Park, Drive Through Time and our popular Book Day in the park for young children. This last year we were also able to fund additional events to recognise the Centenary of the end of World War One and to celebrate the Royal Wedding. Events last year were allocated £19,400.

You will notice the work Town Force do in terms of providing floral displays, clearing graffiti and generally helping keep our Town tidy and attractive for residents and visitors. Some of your council tax goes towards Town Force and the service they provide, but they also bring in much needed income, working for other parishes and private customers requiring rubbish clearance etc.

The Town Council have also been able to continue to part fund a youth worker, to work directly with our young people through CREATE. This has proved very popular and it is hoped that this work will continue. Younger children have also benefited from play schemes we have funded in the school holidays.

We are very proud of our partnerships with outside bodies; we contribute towards CCTV, the seafront lights, and the 2-hour free parking initiative,

all of which I am sure you will agree are of great benefit to our Town. In 2019/2020 this partnership will be extending to contribute, via the BID, towards the cost of the Business Wardens, already becoming a familiar and welcome sight in the Town Centre.

The Town Council has built up our fund for economic projects so that should, for example, a suitable building become available in the Town which offers a potentially strong yield, then we are in a position to be able to invest in it, should that be the new Administration's wish. We are conscious of the fact that the District Council own the Town Hall, and at any time are at liberty to dispose of this asset. As a consequence, we must therefore be mindful of a plan to house Bognor Regis Town Council should that happen.

The jewel in the Town Council's crown, during the past four years, has been the completion of the new 4th screen in the Picturedrome Cinema, a brand-new modern facility with 100 seats. It is hoped that this will help to regenerate that area of the Towns' night-time economy by increasing footfall, as well as bringing in income, through increased rent for the Town Council.

It is hoped that as the present Administration comes to an end, we can leave a legacy for the new Town Councillors, that enables them to continue in providing events and services, whilst still putting aside for a "rainy day", and employing the staff needed in sufficient numbers to carry out the Councillor's decisions.