

MAYORS SPEECH

I am disappointed there's no Anglia TV tonight but when you leave in a hurry they are there!

Seriously, thank you all for electing me the Town's Mayor and to Cllrs Lewis and Jordan for nominating me. Also a big thank you to Cllr Pegg for stepping in to chair full Council meetings. I intend to do my very best in the coming year for our lovely town.

We have a very busy start to the year with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations/ the return of Downham Market festival/twinning, and lighting the beacon. Also this Thursday Community Cinema in the Town Hall, 2 PM and 7 PM

Tonight we continue going forward forming new committees which will take some work off Full Council. Best of all everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Maybe put your points over instead of turning to Facebook.

This Council wants to include you, our residents, and all the town's clubs and societies. Regular Councillor Surgeries have been set up. I hear complaints that there is nothing for younger people to do. We have an events Committee and I challenge you to come on board with your ideas, show us you are serious about our town. LET'S WORK TOGETHER. I hear there is a demand for Live Music – come on board and make it happen.

I thank Borough Councillor Bullen for his support and County Councillor Tony White for his work but unfortunately County has a slow way of working. He can ask for work to be done but it can take up to 2 years or more to happen. It's not his fault.

Tonight we welcome our newest Councillors. Cllrs Buxton and Wiles. We are now 18, with 2 vacancies. I believe we now have a committed team of Councillors together with our excellent staff working together for the benefit of our town.

Over the last 2 years the formal dress code for Full Council has slipped. Even

getting down to hot pants and T shirts. I would like to return to something smarter. Gentlemen, shirt, tie, and trousers. Ladies no jeans or shorts – I leave it there.

Because we have a lot to debate and only 2 hours, I ask that you raise your hand to speak and when asked to speak, you stand up and say your piece as you may not get any more time. In order to get the agenda completed it is important you read all the documents sent from the office prior to meetings.

Thank you