

2018/19 Annual Report
Erewash Borough Council
Cllr. Carol Hart

This Annual report is the last in the 4 year cycle, elections will have taken place for the new 4 year term by the time I present this.

Cllr. Chris Corbett has been Mayor for this Civic year ably assisted by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. Sue Beardsley and they have carried out many engagements representing our Borough and much appreciated by many organisations and individuals, major highlights in the year are Beating the Retreat, Mayor's Awards, Charter Fair, Chestnut Fair, Bonfire night, Remembrance Sunday and the switching on of the Christmas lights.

As with a few previous years the Council has had to make savings but with good governance and hard work we have managed to make savings without having to make major changes to our front line duties and in fact we have managed to add extras such as the recently piloted bulky waste scheme which has proved so popular that we have promised to continue it, we have also purchased a small compact refuse lorry as many times our refuse lorries cannot access some streets to empty bins due to parked cars, this new vehicle has solved a lot of problems with refuse collections on some of our worst affected streets.

One of the major events during the year was our outsourcing of leisure facilities, unfortunately our leisure side was in deficit of just over £2M pounds a year and on a budget of approximately £11M this is not sustainable, a lot of hard work went into making sure that we got the best deal possible for Erewash and Parkwood Leisure was our preferred partner, we have a 10 year contract, with the option to extend for a further 5 years, to lease our leisure facilities to them, we still own the buildings and the grounds surrounding the facilities, we expect to receive £6M over the 10 years which we can use to maintain our first class front line services, Parkwood are also investing £1.3M in new equipment and a Sky Trail at West Park, the contract we have with them makes sure that groups and organisations that use the facility regularly will be safeguarded.

We still offer an hour's free parking in our car parks as we are trying to increase the footfall into our two major towns, a lot of work has been done to encourage businesses in our town centres and we continue our Golden Hello scheme which gives a grant to a new start up business.

A major concern for Erewash is of course the possibility of HS2 coming through our Borough, whether you like the thought of HS2 or are totally opposed to it we cannot stop it from happening, it is a Government project supported by both major political parties and only Government can decide whether it goes forward or not. We have put all our efforts into fighting for the best mitigation package for our most affected areas in Long Eaton and Sandiacre, better compensation for residents and businesses losing their properties, getting rid of the low level line which divides the town, reserved areas for new housing and help for finding new homes for displaced businesses.

Once again we have won medals in the East Midlands in Bloom competitions for our wonderful flower displays and won Green Flag accreditation for our parks and nature reserves.

All of this for only 11% of the Council Tax collected, but it is good to know that the Erewash Auditors Ernst and Young in their inspection confirmed that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money, your money, and we still remain a debt free council.