

Message from the Mayor

I joined Ledbury Town Council at the beginning of May 2023 and I had the honour of being elected Mayor on the 11th May, my birthday! I was told, before being elected, that there was to be a change in Council structure and that the Chair of the Management Committee would be responsible for the day to day operation of the Council and that it would be the role of the Mayor to attend functions and to represent the town at Civic events etc. adopting the same procedure as Ross on Wye Town Council.

However, this change has yet to be implemented. This year has been very busy as I have tried to keep abreast with every aspect of the working of the Town Council, and given help and support to the staff wherever I can.



Councillor Helen l'Anson

What can I say about all the wonderful organisations working in our Town to help the suffering and needy and those people facing overwhelming life challenges, for example The Food Bank, Talk Community, The Food Group, LEAF, the Churches, Refugee Support, to name but a few? Well, they are fantastic and a great big thank you to all those volunteers who give up so much of their time to help others. Ledbury will I am sure step up to the challenge that all the new development surrounding the town will bring, embracing new neighbours and making sure that all the good things about our Town are not extinguished.

The Council faces many challenges, historical and new which need addressing on a daily basis. This is made harder by the fact that the Council operates without a full compliment of Councillors. (Despite the co-option video brilliantly created by Sophie and Olivia) Three new Councillors were co-opted on to the Council last year and they are a very welcome edition to the team. However, it was very disappointing that Councillors chose not to co-opt, the ex Mayor of Malvern and former Church Warden, when he put his name forward for co-option, as he would have brought a wealth of experience and knowledge of local government to the Council.

I repeat the statement that I read to Council on the 13th July :---

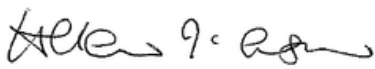
"People become Councillors for many different reasons, but basically they do so to serve the community and once they become a Councillor there are rules which they have to abide by Rules set by Government for the whole country. And they have to abide by those rules and their personal agendas should not be paramount when they are Councillors. We look to upholding that in Ledbury and to move forward on that basis.

I would like to thank Julian, my husband and Consort over this past year, who is so brilliant at chatting to and being interested in everyone he meets. I would also like to thank Stephen, Deputy Mayor, for attending the functions that I could not and for his wise counsel. I wish him all the best. To David, my Chaplain, so full of energy and life and providing a listening ear. Ledbury is very fortunate that Kiln Church has come to the Town.

To all the businesses in Town who have been so generous in donating raffle prizes and to all the Council staff who, under Angie's great leadership, work so hard often under a lot of pressure.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Sophie, the Mayor's Secretary who is frankly brilliant and I have had such fun planning events with her and I will really miss her 'organising' me and watching over my diary.

My year is not over just yet and our big fundraising event for my two charities Megan Baker House and Close House Youth Project 'Ledbury's Got Talent' takes place on 3rd May - It should be a riot!



Helen l'Anson

