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I Feel I cannot start my report this month without acknowledging the extremely sad new about HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Her grace, dedication to duty and service to our country and her people was an inspiration and this beloved Queen will be missed worldwide. May she rest in peace.

Market Town Meeting

I was pleased to attend a meeting with officers and key portfolio holders for Economy and climate change from Winchester City Council along with some members of New Alresford Town Council, on key issues raised by residents and businesses along with discussions on how to improve certain things key to our Market town moving forward.

Topics raised were -Parking issues esp on a Thursday, the lack of parking enforcement from WCC. This is hopefully being rectified as recruiting for interim enforcement officers is now finally taking place. All agreed that the enforcement has been less than ideal. Discussions for more cycle parking and I raised the issue again of the old stump being present. This is now going to be removed to help prevent anymore residents falling.

Broad street and West street were also discussed with regards to the plans and how things could be moved forwards.

Parking - The Proposed Dean Car Park is planned for September public consultation (informed now 28th September at the light room on the dean) with a view for submission to planning by year end. I also asked what plans and provisions were being made with the lease for The Station car park due in 18months again and only signage going in now 18 months later . This is being looked into.

PublicToilets - Officers confirmed that the cleaning contractors had been issued a default notice and that Estates had commissioned to refurbish the toilets. I am sure everyone will welcome this news.

Grass Cutting Issues - I raised the issues of this that the town had experienced over the last 2 years along with feedback from businesses and residents. Many were unhappy and felt the town had not looked such a mess EVER. I also informed officers and portfolio holders that I had been asked by some residents to formally represent their request for removal of these project areas in some places due to on going issues.

Residents issues

Poor service from the repairs team - I had been disappointed to learn that many council residents had experience poor service from contracted repairs teams. I have resolved many and the rest are being dealt with and monitored. As I sit on Business and Housing I am passionate about ensuring that the Council are also held to account for when services are less than planned. I am please that officers feel that this also the case and are keen to resolve these matters quickly.

Green Bin collection issues - A disabled resident contacted me in desperation for getting their bin collected as they had missed it 3 times. Having difficulty in getting through to the department was one of these issues along with others. I was applauded that this case had been raised 6 weeks prior and still not been dealt with. I arranged for the bin to be emptied the next day . Please let me know if anyone else is having issues.