

Agenda Item 2

MAYORAL REPORT – 2005/2006

COUNCIL MEETING 18 MAY

MAYOR – COUNCILLOR BOB CARDEN

Mayoral Engagements

1. Performance monitoring of the mayoralty continues. The process has shown that during the mayoral year 2005/2006 of the hundreds of engagements carried out:

91% supported the Council's priorities

61% involved community groups/associations and promoting the City

5% were associated with different religious groups

3% related to Health

5% related to internal visits (mainly front-line staff) and supporting Council projects

2% involved Youth organisations

13% were education related

5% involved school visits to the Parlour

7% were sport/leisure related

9% were culture/the arts related

11% were related to charities

8% were statutory or traditional events (including citizenship ceremonies)

31 centenarians were visited (including one lady of 104 years!)

15 Citizenship Services were attended

2. During his year of office, amongst others, the Mayor (or his representative) has met with/offered hospitality to:
 - HRH The Duchess of Gloucester during her visit to open a new sensory garden at Woodvale Cemetery and also visit St. Mary's School
 - African local government officers on a training visit
 - Group of International Students studying at Sussex University
 - Group of European Students visiting Sussex University as part of the Partners in Prospect Project
 - Group of Swiss business students
 - Group of students from Argentina
 - Group of students from Lille, France on exchange with Varndean College

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- Group of Czech students visiting the University of Brighton
- Students on exchange with Hove Park School from Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy and Germany
- French students as part of an Interreg Project
- Group of Italians as part of the 'Education Equal' event

- The Minister for Lifelong Learning
- Various Celebrities at the re-opening of the Honey Club (including an opportune photocall with 'the Cheeky Girls'!)
- The Disabled Access Advisory Group
- Two delegations of Chinese business persons from Shanghai and other Provinces in Southern China
- Members of the newly formed UK China Culture Association
- Brighton & Hove Albion FC Disability Team, to celebrate their winning the Cup Final
- Brighton & Hove Albion FC Girls' Team to celebrate their excellent achievements and wish them well at the World Youth Games in Sweden
- Mile Oak FC Youth Team to acknowledge their excellent achievements
- Members of the Football Association Board
- Members of the Board of the National Trust
- The two founding members of the Brahma Kumaris Faith
- Group of visiting Scouts from Holland
- Group of Brighton Scouts
- Group of Russians from St. Petersburg visiting 'the Friendship Force of Sussex'
- Group of German employees of WDR (German TV & Radio)
- The Mayor of Santa Lucija, Malta
- Visitors from Suzhou Province in China on a fact-finding visit
- Visitors from the Ukraine, including the Mayor of Nikolaev, on a fact-finding visit
- A group of Palestinian children who have suffered from living in a war zone

Mayor's Parlour

3. The Mayor has continued to encourage increased use of the Parlour. To this end, free use of the room has been offered to local charities, community groups and Council departments for special events or occasions. This opportunity has been welcomed and taken up by, amongst others:

- ZAP Art, as part of the Brighton Festival
- Childminding Team's presentation of certificates to successful trainees
- RSPCA fundraising event
- Shopmobility fundraising event
- The Rockinghorse Appeal
- Trading Standards' presentation of prizes for painting competition
- Travel & Tourism – Shareholders' event
- Equalities Forum networking event

- Learning Survey Team prizegiving event
- Neighbourhood Renewal Open College Network Certificate presentations
- Education 'Pupils' Voices' Certificate presentations
- Education 'Outstanding Leavers' party
- City Languages Forum presentations
- Westdene Women's Institute
- Friends of the Royal Pavilion
- Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership
- Learning Disability Services for their 'Healthy Lives' launch
- Education's International Dimension Team to acknowledge gifted and talented students
- School-children involved in the quest for European Capital of Culture status

4. In total the Mayor's Parlour was used on 185 occasions.

Visits

5. The Mayor has been pleased this year to have managed to arrange visits to all of the Ambulance, Fire and Police stations in Brighton, Hove and Portslade. He very much appreciated the opportunity to learn something of their operations and to talk to officers and other staff. Another major highlight was meeting in the Mayor's Parlour a group of young children from Palestine, who all had grim tales to tell, but who inspired us all with their demeanour and their stoical optimism for the future.
6. The Mayor is delighted we are able to report that the number of schools bringing groups of pupils to the Parlour to learn about the role of the Mayor, the history of the mayoralty and regalia, and visit the Council Chamber has greatly increased this year to 34 (45% of all schools in the City). It is hoped that this trend will continue until all schools take advantage of the opportunity. Schools were circulated twice in the year with details and the Mayor has also personally encouraged participation at all schools he has visited, and has been delighted with the response.

Civic Service

7. On 15th May last year the Civic Service took place at St. Peter's Church in Brighton. Attendance was a little disappointing, and it is hoped that more Members will be able to join the Mayor in future years.
8. On Remembrance Sunday last November, the Mayor and City Mace-bearer once again wore ceremonial dress. For the first time, the Mayor was flanked on his way to The Old Steine by one Army Cadet and one RAF Cadet as a 'guard of honour'. Both maces were used for the Hove

Procession and Service – carried by Sea Cadets who were led by Bob Lampert, the Mayor's Relief Chauffeur. The Mayor and Mayoress then went on to the Synagogue for the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women's Service.

Weddings

9. There have been three weddings in the Parlour this mayoral year, and further weddings – two on 27th May and one on 30th June have been booked.

Charities

10. The Mayor's chosen charities this year have been: Macmillan Cancer Relief and the Brighton Heart Care Trust and funds raised have reached around £14,500.
11. This includes a sum raised by the second Mayor's Charity Bowls Tournament – a fun day thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended (despite the wet weather) – and a good amount raised with the kind help of the Dome Management on the Mayor's Charity Gala Evening. Hopefully, both these events will remain on the Mayoral calendar in the future.

Support

12. The Mayor has been very ably assisted throughout the year by Councillor Pat Drake as his Deputy Mayor, and Councillors Jeane Lepper, David Watkins and Francis Tonks (Former Mayors).
13. Councillor Carden wishes to acknowledge their excellent support and thank them all for their assistance.