COUNCIL	Agenda Item 2
13 May 2010	Brighton & Hove City Council

MAYORAL REPORT – 2009/2010

MAYOR – COUNCILLOR ANN NORMAN

1. Performance monitoring of the mayoralty continues. The process has shown that during the mayoral year 2009/2010, of the hundreds of engagements carried out:

    - 90% supported the Council's priorities
    - 89% involved community groups/associations and promoting the City
    - 2% were associated with different religious groups
    - 2% related to Health
    - 7% related to internal visits and supporting Council projects/initiatives
    - 2% involved Youth organisations
    - 14% were education related
    - 2.5% involved school visits to the Parlour
    - 7.5% were sport/leisure related
    - 6% were culture/the arts related
    - 14.5% were related to charities
    - 6.5% were statutory or traditional events (including citizenship ceremonies)

    - 27 centenarians were visited
    - 22 Citizenship Services were attended (Mayor – 15: and Deputy Mayor – 7)

2. The Mayor's Parlour was used on 173 occasions (including 2 weddings)

3. During her year of office, amongst others, the Mayor (or her representative) has:

    - Met with HRH The Duke of Gloucester at the official opening of Patching Lodge
    - Met with HRH The Princess Royal at the official opening of George Williams Mews
    - Met with HRH The Duchess of Gloucester at the Funeral of Henry Allingham
    - Met with His Excellency the High Commissioner for Australia during his visit to Brighton & Hove
    - Hosted a civic reception to welcome John Barradell, our new Chief Executive, to our city
    - Attended the Chattri Annual Commemoration Service

- Met with Rotary Club visitors from Patagonia
- Hosted the Annual Veterans' Reception as part of the Armed Forces Day celebrations and went on to more celebrations along Hove seafront
- Visited Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice
- Attended the Lord Lieutenant's Awards for Voluntary Service evening
- Was presented with three beautiful framed aerial photographs of Brighton and Hove, which are now on display in the Brighton Centre
- Attended the exciting official opening of the refurbished seafront bandstand
- Opened the 2009 Sussex National Bonsai Exhibition – which was very special as both the Mayor and her Consort are renowned bonsai experts themselves
- Attended the unveiling of the Brighton Aids Memorial in the New Steine
- Welcomed the Greek Ambassador and other Greek Diplomats to Brighton & Hove for the unveiling of a blue plaque commemorating Admiral Codrington
- Attended the investiture of an MBE by the Lord Lieutenant upon Mr. Robert Brown in Bevendean
- Attended various events to celebrate the centenary year of the Girl Guiding movement.
- Celebrated, with the RNLI, their 50th Anniversary
- Attended numerous LGBT community events, including the spectacular Pride Parade in August
- Celebrated the Chinese New Year and Moon Festivals
- Met with students from all over the world
- Met with forty-five VIP visitors from the Election Commission of Thailand and other Thai institutions
- Showed civic appreciation for local Age Concern Volunteers
- Presented two Royal Humane Society Certificates for life-saving actions over and above the call of duty, on behalf of the RNLI
- Met with Chinese teachers and Iraqi visitors to City College
- Met with twelve Japanese Local Government visitors
- Hosted a reception in the Mayor's Parlour for the Special Olympics Team
- Hosted a reception for local TA soldiers back from serving in Afghanistan

4. The Mayor 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:

- Visit Brighton to launch their 'Greeters' Scheme
- Trading Standards for the presentation of the "Safety in Action" Trophy

- Capital Projects Team to entertain visiting Europeans
- Revenues and Benefits to celebrate the acquisition of an award
- Transport Projects/CIVITAS to launch 'talking bus stops'
- CYPT for the Primary Schools Annual Poster Competition Awards
- Housing Strategy for visiting South African VIPs
- Democratic Services for a reception to show appreciation for the hard work of the Schools Appeals Panel
- The Lord Lieutenant to perform the investiture of an MBE on local man, Mr. Fred Netley
- Representatives of the RAF Club from London
- A local Brownie Group for an Enrolment Ceremony
- The Churches Together organisation for a multi-faith meeting
- The Old Police Cells Museum for a Charity Fundraising 'Ransom Day'
- The London to Brighton Charity Bike Ride Presentations

5. The Mayor has attended many memorable events – particularly the visits of HRH The Princess Royal, HRH The Duke of Gloucester and HRH the Duchess of Gloucester.

6. She was also delighted to celebrate Armed Forces Day by hosting a Veterans' Reception for 50 men and women from various service associations in the city. This was another wonderful, and emotional gathering much enjoyed and appreciated by all those present – and "Sussex by the Sea" remains the anthem of choice for this event. The reception was followed by the Mayor's attendance at more Armed Forces Day events along Hove seafront.

7. The Mayor is pleased to be able to report that over the mayoral year, 21 schools brought 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, and it is hoped that numbers will rise until all of the city's schools take advantage of the opportunity. School Head Teachers are circulated twice a year with details.

8. On 25th December, the Mayor and Consort were pleased to join the diners at Hove Methodist Church for Christmas Day Lunch, where a wonderful spread is provided for the lonely and needy of the city. This was preceded by attendance of the Chaplin's Service at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, and a visit to some of the hospital's wards. They were pleased to be able to meet many staff working through the holiday period as well as patients who were unable to go home.

9. All of the Remembrance Sunday events in 2009 were very well attended and many calls of appreciation from members of the public were received in the mayoral office.

10. During her term of office, the Mayor also attended the "Laying Up" Service for both the Brighton and the Hove Royal British Legion

Standards – followed by a Service of Blessing for the new Royal British Legion Brighton & Hove City Branch Standard.

11. The Mayor has achieved a number of personal goals during the year. Amongst these was her participation in the Martlets Midnight Walk, and the Sussex Beacon Half Marathon, and her magnificent feat in the inaugural Brighton Marathon, where her grit and determination brought her through to the finishing line in a little over eight and half hours – a truly amazing result from her very first marathon.

12. The Mayor's chosen charities this year have been: The Martlets Hospice, the Sussex Heart Charity, the Friends of Brighton & Hove Hospitals and the Alzheimer's Society (Brighton & Hove Branch). The funds raised over the year are in the region of £27,000.

    The Mayor would like to express her grateful thanks to all the members of her Committee for all the hard work, energy and enthusiasm they have put into making this year's fundraising so successful.

13. One of the most moving events of the year for the Mayor was her attendance at the celebration of Henry Allingham's 113th birthday at St. Dunstan's – and one of the saddest to attend his funeral just seven weeks later. Sadly, Henry's was not the only passing that the City Council mourned – this year we miss John Blackman and Sheila Schaffer, former Mayors of Brighton; Former Mayor of Hove, Peter Baker; Brian Rowe, Alderman of Brighton & Hove; Doreen Radford, former Brighton Councillor; and very recently, Michael Tunwell, Former Chairman of East Sussex County Council. They will all be remembered by friends and colleagues.

14. On 17th May last year the Civic Service took place at All Saints Church, Hove. Attendance was encouraging, and it is hoped that this trend will continue. This year, the Civic Service is at St. Nicholas' Church, Dyke Road – on Sunday 16th May 2010 at 10.30 am, and the Mayor Elect, Councillor Geoff Wells, hopes for a good attendance.

15. The Mayor has been very ably assisted throughout the year by Councillor Garry Peltzer Dunn, who has done sterling work as her Deputy Mayor, and Councillors Carol Theobald, Pat Drake, Bob Carden, David Smith and Jeane Lepper (Former Mayors) who have all helped throughout the year. Councillor Norman wishes to acknowledge their excellent support and thank them all for their much appreciated assistance.

16. The Mayor also wishes to especially thank her husband Ken, for his tremendous support throughout her mayoral term of office, as well as fellow councillors and friends who have all helped along the way.