

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Janet Lloyd
Mayor of Wellington

MAYOR'S REPORT - JANUARY 2021

4th December. I did my "voice over" for the Wellington Council Christmas Concert as we could not allow any of the schools to sing in the town as we would do normally. Wellington School, Court Fields, St Johns and Beech Grove took part in the project which was a wonderful success and at the last count, there were over 9,000 hits on You Tube and our website. My sincere thanks go to our staff for organising the concert and for Matt's wonderful expertise producing the video. I hope that everyone has had a chance to view it at least once. Again, this is something that we will consider undertaking again in the future.

STREET ENTERTAINMENT. As you will recall, this programme of street entertainment was funded from the £100,000 Emergency High Street Fund to brighten up our town centre and bring some festive spirit to everyone. There were five events in total but unfortunately, it rained on three of the days but this did not deter the entertainers or the public watching it. My thanks go to all those councillors, staff, Jill and Dave Mitton from the Community Centre and Town Centre Working Group who worked so hard to get the project together and of course the artists for having to perform in the rain!

Prior to the event on Saturday 19th December, we were contacted by BBC Somerset Sound who wanted to interview me on the early morning show at 7.00 a.m. to talk about the project. As there would be no way that I would be up and coherent at that time of the morning, at my suggestion, we recorded the interview on Friday 18th. I didn't hear the interview for the reasons just outlined but some of my neighbours did and said that it sounded alright.

SHAULS BAKERY. As the district councillor for this area, I have received notice that a planning application has been lodged with SWAT planning department to convert the first and second floors into flats. The building is not only in the conservation area but is also listed. I presume it will come to us in time for our February planning meeting.

THE PIECE OF LAND NEXT TO LONGFORTH ROAD TOILETS. After attending a district council briefing on the Taunton Garden Town Project, I thought that perhaps the Town Council could acquire the land to try and tidy up the area. When it was for sale recently, the town council declined to purchase it but now apparently is only for rental. The Town Clerk has followed this up but I have asked him to go back to the agents to discuss this further as the land is an eyesore. I think that we need to look at the whole area near the coach stop and liaise with the district and county council regarding tidying the area.

TAUNTON AREA CYCLING CAMPAIGN. Some longer serving councillors will remember that approx. two years ago, along with Taunton Deane Borough Council, we gave a grant to part fund, a feasibility study on setting-up a cycle route from Taunton to Wellington. Nothing has happened to this project for the last 18 months. At last week's district council scrutiny meeting, Keith Wheatley asked the Portfolio Holder, Mike Rigby, what progress was being or had been made on the project. Mike Ginger, from TACC is seeking grant funding from SCC's Climate Change Fund so asked if Wellington Town Council would be prepared to write a letter of support for his application. As the closing date for applications is tomorrow, I wrote a letter to Mike over the weekend on the basis that we would still support the project in principle, as we had part-funded the feasibility study.

Janet Lloyd
11th January 2021

