

## **Mayor's report to Full Council November 2025**

This is a report to council of activities I have been engaged in since the last full council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

My first event at which I represented the council was the presentation of the cup and certificate to the Allotment winners. I was so impressed by the imagination and variety in the garden that was the winning entry. The next day saw me up bright and early getting ready for the Beacon Hill village fete. As well as holding my own stall there for Slimming World, I opened the fete with a few words of thanks to the organizing committee. I particularly enjoyed the music of the Farleys who are a village favourite. It was a successful event which was only slightly marred by windy weather affecting the gazebos and a downpour at the end of the day.

I attended the last car boot sale of the year at the end of September at Lion Green and as these are so popular and well attended, I am sure will become a regular feature on the council calendar in future summers.

The CBEC committee chaired by Councillor Matthes resulted in a clear up at Grovers gardens with members of the local community joining in to help cut back the laurel where it has become very overgrown. It is good to see the work progressing on this project. On the same day, but in the evening, I attended an uplifting concert performed by the Haslemere Musical society in St Christopher's church.

There were various events held to launch this year's poppy appeal both at the station and at Tesco's. Jim Edwards put a lot of time and effort into rallying the volunteers for poppy collections and I hope they have raised another significant sum this year. The Remembrance event held in the High Street was the culmination of the efforts and organization of Lisa and her team in the office and was a great success. I have never seen so many people lining the streets in Haslemere. Similar remembrance events were held across the Haslemere area including the churches of Grayswood and Hindhead as well as a separate service in the High Street on the day itself.

In the meantime, the playground working party ably chaired by Pippa have been sifting through the proposals from a range of different play equipment companies to select the final two to go to the Amenities committee. It is exciting to think that we will have a brand-new playground in place in Town Meadow before next summer.

I was pleased to be able to attend the launch of the Dementia café to be held monthly in the Methodist church. This will be a monthly event held on the third Tuesday of the month for dementia sufferers and their carers. This has been a long time in the planning, and it was good to see the first event successfully achieved. I plan to attend the second meeting next Tuesday to see how they are getting on.

The LGR working party has met several times to ensure the transfer of assets is going ahead and considering all potential suitable sites and properties.

Meeting with representatives from the Chamber of Trade has highlighted some of the problems faced by Business owners in Haslemere and it was interesting to meet some of the shopkeepers in my walkabout the town with PCSO John Savage.

Having launched the opening of the Cards for Good Causes at the Museum, I am now looking forward to a range of Christmas events including the Mayor's Christmas drinks here in the town hall to which you are all warmly invited. Please RSVP Jo as soon as possible.

The council website has all the important dates for upcoming events but see below as a reference:

**Dates for your diaries:**

23<sup>rd</sup> November Charities Fair in Haslemere Hall 10-2pm

30<sup>th</sup> November Light switch on Beacon Hill

7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Market in the High Street

11<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Carols in the Museum at 6.30pm

19<sup>th</sup> December Mayor's Christmas drinks in the Town Hall at 5.30pm

21<sup>st</sup> February 2026 Mayor's Gala Ball in Haslemere Hall