Annual Report – Mayor of Warwick

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It’s lovely to see so many of you here this evening. For those of you I haven’t had the pleasure to meet, I am Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, Mayor of Warwick for this civic year.

The Town Mayor has two main roles , Chairman of the Council and Civic Head of the Town

A little bit about the town Council first

Chairman of the council is ably assisted by Deputy Chairman Leader of the council, and I was very lucky to have Noel Butler , Thank you Noel. We also had very good chairs of sub Committees and a good experienced group of Councillors, Thank you all for doing what you do for Warwick.

There is a good number of those that are not standing for re-election, Thank you all for your dedicated service , we wish all those retiring the very best of future. In Particular Cllr Cross and Mrs Cross both been past Mayors of Warwick.

All the councillors are ably supported by our fantastic Town Clerk and extremely good members of staff, they are not just employees of Town Council but very much part of Warwick, Thank you all.

One role that Town Council has is to lobby the Principal Local Authorities , Health Authority , Police Teams , Network Rail and many others . On behalf of the Town Council I would like thank them all , for often taking note of what we say and delivering .

The Town Mayor

I came into office in June 2022, so this seems like the logical place to start my annual report with my mayoral activities. In the summer my year began with the opening the Thai festival an inaugural vintage Carnival in the market square and of course the commonwealth games. Thanks to the Commonwealth cycling events, the town was seen by millions of people from all over the world. The weather was perfect and showcased our town magnificently.

On September 8th 2022, the world was in mourning following the sad news of the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II who had reigned for over 70 years. In my letter of condolence to the King, I commented on a personal note that I was born in Kenya, educated in India and went to university in England; three Commonwealth countries I have a special love and affection for as did Her Majesty. I

In my time as Mayor, I have been lucky enough to take a key role in many of our town’s historic traditions such as the reading of the mop charter, Victorian Evening, switching on the Christmas lights, and judging various annual competitions. I particularly enjoyed Carols at the Castle which in 2022 was the 50th anniversary of this event and latterly a tree was planted in the Castle grounds to mark this.

I have also had the honour of being Lord of the Leet for Warwick Court Leet. They are a fantastic group of people who really focus on what’s best for the town of Warwick. I have very much enjoyed being part of the team for their key fund-raising events in the year – most of which seem to involve alcohol in some way, shape or form!!

Town Mayor is also required to serve on local charities , WRIN and Oken Trust . It was a real pleasure working with some exceptional people on those charities

To our local business community, which we all know is largely made up of small independents and sole traders, across the whole town. They are the backbone which help to make Warwick the individual town it is. Many thanks to all of them for their invaluable contribution to our town. My Grateful thanks to Warwick Chamber of Trade for promoting the retail and leisure offer of Warwick.

We are lucky enough to have a world class Castle, A brilliant Race Course, Fantastic churches , a land mark Sikh Temple , array of Museums , Lord Leycester Hospital and many other attractions, these are absolutely needed to make our Town Viable and give it Vitality

The Volunteer Sector -The Community groups, charities, businesses, friends, neighbours and members of the community offer so much in the way of support for each other and genuinely want good outcomes for the townspeople of Warwick – We are so lucky, Long may this continue.

We have had the added bonus of a Warwick Resident, David Kelham being appointed High Sheriff of Warwickshire , he has been one of the best high Sheriffs in recent memory and certainly has put Warwick on the Map, thank you David .

And going forward, there is a marvellous opportunity for four local young people to become ambassadors for the town at this summer’s Eurocamp based at Warwick Racecourse and host young people from our twin towns in France, Germany and Italy. The Eurocampers will have a fantastic, unique opportunity to be involved in creating a unique artwork installation after being taught street art techniques. My Thanks to all involved for their organising and being the host.

We look forward to The Kings Coronation in May, long live the king

Finally, I have tried my best to promote and represent Warwick at every single opportunity, I hope my best has been good enough

In my time as mayor, I have had the absolute honour of meeting so many people who have done so much, for so many - THANK YOU!!