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ARUNDEL TOWN MEETING 2023

- Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I am Tony Hunt, Mayor of Arundel. Welcome to our 2023 Town Meeting.
- I am very glad that this evening we have with us our MP Andrew Griffith, our County Councillor Gary Markwell, and our District Councillors, all of whom will be ready to answer your questions later in the meeting.
- And of course so will your Town Councillors, who are here.
- If we finish during licencing hours there will be a chance to have an informal chat with everyone here over a glass of wine.

REPORT ON THE 2022 TOWN MEETING

The first thing we need to do is to adopt the report on last year's Town Meeting. It's been on our website for the last year. Does anyone think it is **not** an accurate record of the meeting?

Will someone please propose its adoption? Is everybody in favour, can I have a show of hands please? Thank you.

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AGENDA

- 1. Report on the Year 2022/23**
- 2. Making the Most of our Assets in the Town Hall**
- 3. Environment & Recycling**
- 4. The Greening of Arundel**
- 5. Neighbourhood Plan**
- 6. General Q&A**

This is the menu for this evening. We can take some questions at the end of each presentation and then have a more general question session at the end.

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MAYOR'S REPORT on 2023/24

I am going to speak briefly about what we have been doing in the last year and what are planning for this year.

Everything that we did was based on our core objective:

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To work closely with the community to make sure that Arundel is a great place to live, work and visit.

“Working closely with the community” is key. Almost everything we do in the town is done working in partnership with other people.

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Both Arundel Schools	Scouts & Guides	Our three churches
Arundel Lido	Festival Committee	Chamber of Commerce
Love Arundel	Arundel Museum	Elevenses and the Dementia Hub
Norfolk Estate	Castle	British Legion

Arundel Gardens Association	Friends of Pocket Park	Arundel Community Partnership
The Green Team	Women's Institute	Arundel Railway Station
Arundel Post Office	Angmering & South Downs Rotary Club	

- These are the people who we worked with in 2022/23. I'm sure that I've left someone off, who will email me to complain tomorrow morning!
- In addition we are working regularly with our volunteer Flood Advisor, Planning

Advisor and Tree Wardens, who do invaluable work for the town

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Picture of Nigel and Charlie from the Community Awards

- We have the support of Nigel Cull and Charlie Wearing who are creating a wonderful photographic record of life in our town and have both received community awards for their work.

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Arundel volunteers

- And we have many residents contributing to our working groups
- we benefit from the many people in Arundel who make things happen as volunteers. Stepping forward to

contribute and volunteer is in Arundel's DNA.

- In other words, a large number of people have taken part in the events of the last year.
- So what are some of those events?
- **We held events that enabled the community to come together:**

-To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee

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JUBILEE

-to mourn the Queen's death

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Queen's death

-and to celebrate the King's Coronation

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Coronation

- We really have felt like a close-knit, supportive community as we shared these landmark historic events together.

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Film Shot of Olivia Colman in the High Street

- **In a very different landmark event, Olivia Colman** made a film in Arundel. We are in touch with Blueprint Pictures. They can't tell us yet when *Wicked Little Letters* will be released, but we are trying to get a special red-carpet premiere here in Arundel, in aid of charity.
- We collected £10,000 from the film company and used part of it to support the Community Warm Hubs when energy

prices soared in the winter. The rest of that money we have put aside for future community projects.

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BEE FRIENDLY

- Other events: during the year we saw Arundel recognised as England's first '**Bee Friendly**' town.

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Visual of Elevenses

- and we are now on the way to winning recognition as a **Dementia-Friendly** town too.

- Elevenses celebrated both the coronation and its own second birthday this week.
- Elevenses has become a major success, providing support for people living with dementia, their carers, and people who are socially isolated and just enjoy having coffee and a chat. For some people who attend, Elevenses is almost their only social interaction of the week.
- The meetings are enormous fun, and if you have never been to one I recommend it. Elevenses meets at the Lido every Monday, at 11.00am as the name suggests.

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Dementia Friendly Businesses

- The surgery, the Lido, Arundel Post Office, Lulamae's, Martin Steel, Monan Gozzett solicitors, have all received awards for being Dementia Friendly in the last year. If we can bring in some more organisations we can be recognised as a Dementia Friendly town-which would be something to be proud of.

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Recycling Stall

- Then there's **Climate Change**: Over 70 people attended our Climate Change workshop, leading to a number of environmental initiatives and we will hear about some of them this evening.

- Arundel may not save the world but we have a part to play.

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Iain etc at Christmas

- Then there was Christmas.
- We ran our “reverse Father Christmas” programme, in which we collected food and donations rather than giving out presents

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Tracy with Gifts

- Everything collected went to Home-Start and struggling local families in Arundel, and Home-Start told us in January that *“the number and quality of donations from Arundel was simply staggering”*.

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Arundel at Christmas

In fact, the whole Arundel at Christmas Festival was highly **successful**, with no fewer than 600 performers taking part during the three weekends of December.

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Young Person's Award for Sporting Excellence

- Another successful event was the **Young Person's Award for Sporting Excellence** which we co-sponsored with Arundel Post Office. We discovered there was a wealth of sporting talent amongst Arundel's young people

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The Bell

- **The Bell:** we were very concerned when we learned that The Bell was faced with closure. Gill Farquharson was retiring from the editorship after 10 brilliant years and no one was willing to take over from her.

We couldn't let the Bell vanish.

- So we have stepped into the gap, providing a new editor, guaranteeing that the Bell will continue whilst giving it complete editorial independence. The next issue will be on your doormat in early June.
- The Bell has a vacancy for another volunteer advertising manager if you are interested, please speak to me.

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Brownies with Easter Egg

- Then there were the **Brownies**. We helped the Brownies carry out their **Eggcellent** idea-which saw them collect over 500 Easter eggs to give to people who might otherwise not receive one. These eggs went to Home-Start, My Sister's House (a charity for women and families who have suffered domestic abuse) and Elevenses, with some eggs going to struggling Arundel families identified by ACE and St. Philip's. A Truly Eggcellent effort

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Library

And in the last few weeks, we have finally

persuaded West Sussex County Council to re-open the top floor of the **library**, which has been mothballed for some years now, and Learning Tree Nursery will be back there in September, operating out of both the library and St. Philip's.

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FESTIVAL

- All of our regular events-**Farmers Market, Mayor's Sunday, Remembrance Sunday** and the **Community Awards** were well-attended year.
- The Town Council is the largest sponsor of the **Arundel Festival**. Last year, research suggested that most people believe that the Festival plays an important part in increasing Arundel's sense of community and pride in our

town.

- It is the biggest event in the whole of Arun and after long discussion, we have secured an undertaking from Arun District Council to provide some short-term funding for the Festival whilst we build its sponsorship base and make it sustainable.
- So those are some of the **events** in the town in the last year.

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CAMPAIGNS

- We have also been fighting a number of campaigns for the town:

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION

- The Boundary Commission proposed to put us into a new 'Arundel and Littlehampton' parliamentary constituency, in which we would have been swamped by a much larger coastal town with very different issues to ours. Littlehampton Council didn't fancy being in bed with us either, together we campaigned against this, and the Boundary Commission has dropped the proposal and is now recommending to Parliament that we stay as we are as part of our Arundel and the South Downs constituency.

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Cast Iron Lamp columns

- Cast iron lamp columns are being replaced with stainless steel across West Sussex. We

have campaigned to retain the appearance and character of our cast iron lamp columns in Arundel. We have now been told that no changes will be made in Arundel this year, and that our cast iron columns will be rubbed down and repainted.

- We are taking advantage of this period to try to get our cast iron lamps listed by Historic England, which will give them greater protection, whilst we explore other options.

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Safe Cycle Path to Ford

- We are tantalizing close to getting a safe cycle path to Ford Station. National Highways like our scheme and recognise the support it has from the Arundel community, but tell us they do not

currently have the money to take it to the next stage (which will cost about £ half a million).

- However, National Highways have assigned it high-priority status in the next funding programme that begins in 2025. We need to keep the campaign front-of-mind with everyone and see whether Andrew can find a way to get National Highways to bring the timetable forward.

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'Bollardgate'

On King's Arms Hill, it's a case of **Spot the difference**.

West Sussex County Council tell us that the right bollard will be in place within the next 6 weeks.

It would be unfair to snails to say that it has proceeded at a snail's pace. But at least it is going to happen.

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ADC River Road Airbn

We strongly oppose Arun District Council's proposal to build an Airbnb in River Road. We believe the tide is turning against Airbnbs nationally, and that locally an increasing number of ADC Councillors are beginning to turn against the River Road scheme. But it has not been withdrawn and we need to fight on.

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Mill Road camper vans:

- **Camper vans:** We have not solved this. We still can't get a Traffic Regulation Order to stop camper van owners living on Mill Road.

- Even though we have even offered to pay for 100% of the costs
- Off the record West Sussex Highways officers have told us that the only way forward would be for us to make Mill Road - or a sizable part of Mill Road, time-limited parking, which means you would only be able to park there for, say, 1-2 hours. And even if we did accept time-limited parking, there would still be no guarantee that we would get the TRO.
- We have been reluctant to accept time-limited parking because it would apply to all of us. 1-2 hours would be no good for residents or for people who work in the businesses in the town and it could result in

some visitors in cars driving round the town looking for on-street parking.

- We are going to continue the debate with WSCC - and we may then do a referendum in the town to find out whether residents would accept time-limited parking as the price of dealing with campervan issues. If the answer is no, we will take that answer back to West Sussex County Council and tell them “Residents do not want this, so what alternatives can you offer to us?”

Looking ahead:

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Co-option of Two Councillors

- We have two vacancies on the Council. Being a councillor is the most fascinating volunteer role in the town, I was cop-opted in 2019 and I wouldn't have missed it for

the world. If you are interested please speak to me or contact the Town Clerk. You have nothing to lose by speaking to us.

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Working Groups

Environment

Traffic, Parking and Access

Finance & IT

Town Events

Emergency Planning

Working Groups: we would welcome new members to the working groups tackling environment, Traffic & Parking, Finance & IT, Town Events and Emergency Planning. Please contact any councillor here if you are interested.

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YOUTH CLUB

- We are also looking at whether we can help get a youth club up running again in Arundel. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested-please let us know

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Love Arundel Consultation

In 2019 there was a consultation called 'Love Arundel' which was very useful in identifying what people and businesses in the town wanted to see happen in the next few years. We will be repeating that consultation in the next couple of months, and if you would like to be involved please let us know.

In the meantime, if there is anything that you believe we should include in the 2023/24 objectives, please tell us.

And that is a brief overview of where we have been , where we are and where we are going.

Before I hand over to Sadie Rockliffe, does anyone have any questions about what I have just said-if you raise your hand the microphone will come to you (the acoustics in here aren't great).

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Sadie Rockliffe
Town Hall Events Manager

One reason why we have been able to keep the precept increase down to 3% this year

well below the rate of inflation is because we are succeeding in generating income from our assets. And Sadie Rockliffe is going to explain just how we do this. Sadie

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

Thank You for your participation this evening.

One final point:

Slide (END)

Keep Me Breathing Visual

Each year traditionally the Mayor adopts one or more charities for which

to raise money. This year I am adopting two charities: Home-Start with whom we worked last year and Keep Me Breathing. You have seen the leaflet on your seats. Only 2,500 children have this conditionn

in the world-and one Beau, live with his parents Ash and Eloise Kent, whom many of you know, here in Arundel.

The charity need to raise another £150,000 to enable the Cambridge University team to finish making a prototype of a breathing pacemaker that will mean that these children do not stop breathing when they fall asleep.

There will be a chance to donate by cash (if you still use cash) or card on the way out this evening.

Thank you...I now invite you to stay and have a drink and chat with us.

