



Message from the Mayor of Arundel - Cllr Carolyn Kenney

Dear all

I do hope that you had a chance to spend time with friends and family over Christmas; and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Looking back at 2025, there were some great achievements, including the introduction of an overnight ban on motorhomes on Mill Road following a 3 year campaign. This has improved the appearance of the road and freed up parking for workers and visitors to the town.

We had our first Great Big Green Week, led by the Green Team, with a picnic on Herrington Field and many other events throughout the week. Jubilee Gardens and the Ford Road Cemetery were given Green Flag status; and the Green Team's work around the station has transformed the arrival experience to Arundel and secured a number of well-deserved awards.

Our Community Speedwatch Group is now up and running and looking for more volunteers to get trained and join patrols as the days get warmer and lighter. The Farmers Market is as popular as ever; and in the Autumn we trialled a weekly market in Tarrant Square. This will restart from January's Farmers Market.

2026 looks set to be another busy year. We will continue to work on local issues, but, like many other small towns, there are also some strategic challenges to address.

The first is economic, with a tough trading environment, leading to a growing number of empty shops and businesses in our streets. We all enjoy the convenience and variety of amenities on our doorstep; and we must do what we can to support and promote a vibrant town centre for residents and visitors alike.

The second is a significant reorganisation of local government. The planned introduction of unitary authorities will, with the removal of the middle (district) tier - mean more decision making at a strategic (county-size) level, with implications for the Town Council level too.

Councillors are conscious that Arundel Town Council must keep pace with the Government's plans and wider economic conditions. We need to ensure we are best placed to represent Arundel and the residents of the town; with the skills and knowledge required to meet the challenges we now face.

We will be responding to the Government on the various proposals for unitary authorities in Sussex. You can find out more about the alternatives by following this [link](#) to the consultation, which closes on 11th January.

We will also engage further with our business community to evolve a strategy that will assist them, ensuring we retain the quality and charm for which Arundel, the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the South Downs, is known.

I look forward to moving ahead with these initiatives in the year to come.

Best wishes,

Carolyn Kenney, Mayor of Arundel