

## TIVERTON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Council, in deciding its precept demand from the Principle Authority, were very mindful of the increased utility and diesel/ petrol costs, which of course impacts on the price of nearly everything else we purchase. For that reason no increases were implemented on the 2022/23 precept demand as far as rate payers were concerned.

The Council decided to assist Mid Devon District Council in the purchase of a new CCTV system for the town centre. We will now work in partnership with the district council to provide this facility. MDDC were also able to obtain a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office towards this valuable service.

One of the highlights last year was the Vintage Bus Day run by the Devon General Bus Society in September. The day was centred on the Tiverton Bus Station, and saw hundreds of people enjoy a free bus ride on vintage buses. Tiverton Town Council sponsored the event and the Town Clerk acted as banksman for the day to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved.

2021 saw Tiverton once again be awarded Gold in the South West in Bloom competition. This competition is not just about having a floral display in the town, but is about actively involving the community in that. Last year was particularly challenging because of Covid-19 restrictions. The floral displays really did brighten up the town, and received many positive comments.

2022 will be the final year of the four year cycle of this council, so will result in General Elections for all 24 places on the council in May 2023.

The usual lantern parade through the town for the Christmas Lights switch on was not possible in November 2021, however we did have a super pyro technics display from the roof of the town hall which really gave the wow factor.

The Edward the Peacemaker statue has received a makeover and we will shortly start work on the town hall to prevent problems caused by pigeons and gulls.

It is evident that for many reasons the next few years will be challenging for this council, and indeed most people, therefore the budget setting for 2023/24 may be a difficult one.

John Vanderwolfe

Town Clerk