

## **Town Council report for Councillor Paul Gittins. MBE**

In my role as a town councillor, I am a member of the Planning committee, the Finance and General Purposes committee and the Road Safety Group.

During the past year, as well as carrying out the usual functions of a town councillor such as attending council meetings, reporting potholes and defective street lighting, I am pleased to say that after years of campaigning a BEWDLEY boundary sign will soon be installed at the top of Blackstone Bank to replace the one that was stolen 13 years ago and a town council funded public use defibrillator will be installed in the town centre soon. I am also pleased to be informed that following years of neglect, the traffic island near Catchem's End will soon be repaired.

As the chairman of the Bewdley Branch of the Royal British Legion I was pleased that despite the cancelled Remembrance Day parade we were still able to hold a 2-minute silence in front of the War Memorial with our Standard

Following a request for a Covid 19 memorial, I instigated the Covid memorial tree surrounded by railings made by Dan at Gaytsmaid Ironworks in the Riverside North Park with a nearby bench sponsored by the Civic Society and Bewdley Development Trust.

With regards to the District Councils Localism agenda, we have decided to take on the running of the public toilets, the Riverside North Park, and a new office in the town centre and with your support and agreement, we may also be taking over other small areas of open spaces which are not statutory duties of the District Council. There are also several new planning applications to be discussed soon for houses to be built on the outskirts of the town.

The town council has an excellent Web Site which I urge you to visit. You can find councillors contact details and see all the agendas and minutes of our meetings. You can also join our meetings which are at present on Zoom. (*contact the town clerk for details*)

As a town councillor for 22 years, being Mayor of Bewdley twice, 35 years as a Bewdley Retained Fire Officer followed by 16 years a Bewdley based Community First Responder with the ambulance service and being awarded the towns Civic Award and the MBE for services to Bewdley I hope will show that I care passionately about our town. Although elected to represent the East Ward of our town I also take a very keen interest in the other Wards and support them when I am able.

Cllr Paul Gittins MBE

April 2021

