

Mayoral Report – June 2023

Atherstone Job Fair - 19th May 2023

I attended the Atherstone Job Fair, introducing myself as the Atherstone Mayor and Councillor. During the event, I visited every stall, engaging with representatives from various organisations such as the Army, IT companies, Aldi, lorry drivers, and essential services like the NHS and the police force. Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet Craig Tracy, our MP, who expressed interest in discussing the town and how we can collaborate to improve the lives of its residents. The job fair was bustling with activity, with many individuals seeking employment opportunities. The event was well-organised and maintained order throughout. The Atherstone Partnership, responsible for organising the fair, warmly greeted attendees, including myself and the general public. It was encouraging to witness the presence and support of other councillors at the event, demonstrating their commitment to its success.

Honorary Citizen Presentation - 24th May 2023

I had the privilege of presenting the honorary citizen award to Brian Redfern at the Atherstone Town Council in recognition of his remarkable contributions to the town over many years. It was a proud moment to acknowledge and celebrate his outstanding dedication.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for engagement with other council members, members of the public, and the Borough mayor. Interacting with individuals from different backgrounds and perspectives added to the occasion's significance, fostering a sense of unity and community spirit.

The event organisers did a fantastic job planning and executing the ceremony. Their attention to detail ensured everything ran smoothly, allowing us to enjoy the occasion fully. In particular, the food arrangements were well thought out, further enhancing the overall experience.

Presenting the honorary citizen award to Brian Redfern was a momentous occasion highlighting individuals' valuable contributions to their community. It was an honour to be a part of this celebration and to witness firsthand the positive impact Brian has had on the town of Atherstone.

Whitnash Council for the Mayor Maker Event - 25th May 2023

On a recent visit to Whitnash Council for the Mayor Maker event, I had the opportunity to engage with various mayors and local representatives. The event proved to be a fruitful occasion for networking and building relationships.

Throughout the event, I had the pleasure of speaking with numerous mayors, many of whom expressed a keen interest in collaborating and working together. It was heartening to witness the enthusiasm for joint efforts among the attendees, highlighting the potential for impactful partnerships in the future.

In particular, the newly appointed mayor of Whitnash extended a warm invitation for cooperation, emphasising the importance of unity for the benefit of the entire Warwickshire region. The idea of collaborating on projects such as "Warwickshire Pride" was discussed, showcasing the shared commitment towards promoting inclusivity and celebrating diversity within the community.

Additionally, representatives from Alcester and Royal Leamington Spa showed great interest in participating in the Atherstone Ball Game and Atherstone Dickens Night. These local events held in Atherstone have gained regional recognition and serve as cultural highlights for the area. The mayors from Alcester and Royal Leamington Spa specifically requested invitations to these events, indicating

their desire to foster inter-community relationships and experience the unique traditions and festivities.

Overall, the Mayor Maker event in Whitnash was an excellent platform for networking and exploring potential collaborations. The event highlighted the strong camaraderie among the mayors and local representatives, with discussions revolving around joint initiatives and cultural exchanges. These conversations hold great promise for future partnerships that will benefit the entire Warwickshire region and foster a sense of pride and community among its residents.

Atherstone Farmers' and Artisan Market - 27th May 2023

As the mayor of Atherstone, I attended the Atherstone Farmers and Artisan Market and had a fulfilling experience. The market, which runs once a month, plays a vital role in bringing the town together and attracting attention from neighbouring districts. I made it a point to engage with every stallholder personally, demonstrating my dedication to the event.

It was particularly remarkable that one stallholder travelled over 100 miles to participate in the market, highlighting the significance and appeal of the event. The market boasted various offerings, including cakes, fresh produce, zero-waste products, wines, and more, all sourced locally. This diverse selection impressed both residents and visitors alike.

I was delighted to hear the positive feedback from the stallholders regarding Atherstone. They expressed their appreciation for the warm and welcoming nature of the town, emphasising the sense of community and inclusivity. Many stallholders commented that, as a young gay mayor, I represented the town in a way that reflected acceptance and inclusiveness. This recognition reinforced the idea that Atherstone embraces diversity and fosters an environment of tolerance.

Furthermore, numerous stallholders expressed their eagerness to participate in future events, such as the Atherstone Dickens Night, which indicates the success and popularity of these gatherings. This positive response bodes well for similar events' future growth and sustainability.

During my visit, I took the opportunity to congratulate Bates Butchers on their recent award for the best display. This recognition symbolises the commitment of local businesses to excellence and reflects positively on Atherstone as a whole. Additionally, I engaged in a lengthy discussion with Bates Butchers about the importance of supporting local food and understanding the origin of our products. This conversation highlighted the significance of sourcing locally and reinforced the value of knowing where our food comes from.

In conclusion, my attendance at the Atherstone Farmers and Artisan Market was a rewarding experience. The event showcased the town's diversity, community spirit, and commitment to local businesses. The stallholders' positive feedback and eagerness to participate in future events reflect the market's success and Atherstone's overall reputation.

I look forward to attending future events of this nature and continuing to support the local community.

Atherstone Amateur Dramatic Society Production – 9th June

As the Mayor of Atherstone, accompanied by my consort, I recently had the pleasure of attending the Owen Centre to see the show titled "A Bunch of Amateurs." From the moment we arrived, we were greeted with exceptional warmth and hospitality. The energy from everyone involved, including the staff and volunteers, was truly delightful.

The show itself was an absolute riot, filled with hilarious moments and an engaging storyline. It kept the audience entertained from start to finish, leaving us in fits of laughter. The talented cast delivered their performances flawlessly, showcasing their professionalism and skill on stage.

One of the highlights of the evening was the opportunity to meet and chat with the visitors. Many of them had children who had participated in past shows, and it was heartwarming to hear their stories and experiences. It became evident that the Owen Centre holds a special place in the hearts of the community, bringing families together through the shared love of theatre.

After the show, we had the privilege of meeting the cast, who proved to be just as warm and kind offstage as they were during their performances. They took the time to engage with us, sharing their insights and experiences, which further enhanced our appreciation for their talent and dedication.

The Owen Centre plays a vital role in the community, serving as a hub for cultural and artistic expression. It brings people together, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie. Witnessing the positive impact it has on the residents of Atherstone was truly inspiring.

I eagerly anticipate future shows at the Owen Centre and commend their commitment to providing exceptional entertainment and fostering a strong sense of community. It is undoubtedly a valuable asset to Atherstone, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have experienced such a wonderful evening of laughter and camaraderie.