

**APPENDIX 1
(Minute 29)****MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I am delighted to tell you that Havering has excelled in this year's London in Bloom competition with gold, silver and a first place award.

Hornchurch Country Park was named Country Park of the Year and awarded a Gold Award and Lodge Farm a Silver Gilt while Langtons Gardens received a Silver Award for Small Park of the Year. We also came first in The London in Bloom Biodiversity Award and was awarded silver in the borough City Group Awards category. My congratulations go to our Parks, StreetCare and Regeneration services. This recognition is very well deserved.

I would now like to ask Martin Stanton from Parks Services, Bob Flindall from Regeneration and Mark Jones and Maria Smart from StreetCare to come up and receive the awards.

I would also like to congratulate our School Catering Service. The service has been awarded the Silver Food for Life Catering Mark by the Soil Association for the fresh seasonal local and organic food it serves. It is one of the first council run catering services in London to receive the national award and one of a few services throughout the country.

I am also pleased to tell you that Havering is set to receive a substantial share in the proceeds of crime confiscated from the criminal behind a global fake golf club scam. Snaresbrook Crown Court this week issued a confiscation order of just under £1million from Gary Bellchambers, who has also been ordered to pay us £250,000 in legal costs. The confiscation order is a result of Operation Augusta, an unprecedented investigation by the Council, which was the biggest of its kind ever to be investigated by our Trading Standards Team and won national recognition. Earlier this year four other members of the gang were ordered to pay a total of £513,000 in confiscation and £130,000 towards our prosecution costs.

On that high note, may I say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the festivals and events such as Cottons Park, Harold Hill Summer Festival and the Community Festival – Mardyke that took place throughout the summer in the borough. The Havering Show once again proved a hit with our residents as did Hornchurch Live with our younger people.

I would also like to mention some equally impressive and enjoyable events. These include the 90th Birthday Parade of the Hornchurch British Legion and the centenary celebration of Romford based Symons and Gay solicitors. A performance of On a Wing and Prayer about Hornchurch Airfield written by Sue Ospreay of the Lightening Theatre Group was also enjoyed as well as a visit to Rainham Marshes Visitor Centre with our neighbouring Mayors.

And there is more to come with the Havering Business Awards on 7 October, our Community Cultural Celebration event at the Queen's Theatre on 22 October, along with the Christmas Lights Switch On in the Market Place on 17 November.

I am especially pleased to say well done to hundreds of our students who received excellent results in their GCSE' and A' Level examinations.

And finally, a word of thanks to everyone who played a part in ensuring the borough remained safe and calm during the London riots. The extraordinary time required exceptional people and I am proud to say Havering wasn't caught lacking.