

**APPENDIX 1  
(Minute 62)**

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This is the first Full Council of 2012 – and what a year it is going to be in Havering and London in particular!

We are looking forward to both Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games taking place this summer, as well as many local events, large and small, so there will be plenty for people to see and do and enjoy this year.

I shall be writing an official letter to Her Majesty on behalf of the Council, offering her our fullest congratulations and best wishes for this milestone occasion.

However, before I talk about what we will be looking forward to in 2012, let's just mention the latter part of last year.

Shortly before Christmas, I helped welcome a Chinese delegation from the Department of Transport in Gwan Gung to our borough. We were very pleased to extend the hand of friendship to our overseas guests, and they told us they had thoroughly enjoyed their visit too, and took a great interest in our history and transport links.

I was also very honoured to be invited to Holland Park in West London, to meet the world-renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough and Sir David Brewer, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, to receive a black poplar sapling tree from them.

Poplar trees are being donated to every London council by Westminster City Council, to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It was a great privilege and honour to meet both Sir Davids and receive our tree from them. We are presently looking for a suitable spot in which to plant it in Havering, where it can be enjoyed by everyone.

As well as attending quite a few wonderful events, nativities and carol concerts over Christmas, we attended the annual New Year's Day Parade in the City of London, in which we had a float.

This was a wonderful parade across the City, and I was the only London Mayor to actually walk the route, not be driven along it. I was joined on the day by some of our councillors, and was delighted to raise £940 from the event, which will go to the Mayor's charities.

Last Sunday I attended Havering's annual Holocaust Memorial Day Service, with other councillors and local dignitaries. It was a very moving ceremony and ensures we will never forget all those people who died in atrocities around the globe.

Looking forward to the near future, we will be holding the Mayor's Civic Service on February 19 at St Edwards Church in Romford, followed by the Mayor's Civic Dinner on March 10.

Very soon we will see the opening of a new social care help and advice facility called Care Point, in South Street, Romford, as well as the opening of a new Visitor's Centre, also in South Street. This will coincide with the launch of a visitor's guide

called Discover Havering, promoting all the wonderful attractions around the borough.

Of course, in June we will be caught up in the national celebrations for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, marking her 60 glorious years. We know many residents, young and old, want to join us in this joyous occasion, and the Council is helping all those who want to hold a street party to honour Her Majesty. I'm sure the streets of Havering will be festooned with colourful bunting and Union Jack flags this summer, just like they were for the recent Royal Wedding.

And who can forget the double event of the 2012 London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, taking place just down the road from us in Stratford. They are going to be two spectacular events.

We hope many visitors choose to base themselves in Havering for the duration of the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics, which will highlight all that is great and good about London and Britain.

Let me leave you with two wonderful pieces of local news.

Havering Libraries and Havco have secured funding from Team London to set-up some outreach volunteer centres in local libraries, increasing people's ability to become volunteers and give something back to the community.

And there's good news about Havering's Telecare Service, which provides a range of alarms and sensors to our older and vulnerable residents to keep them safe in their own homes.

They were inspected by the national Telecare Association on six service areas, and passed each one with flying colours, more than meeting the national standards.

It's a small team and I give them my hearty congratulations and full thanks for the excellent and sometimes life-saving work they carry out, round the clock, to keep our residents safe and well.