

**APPENDIX 1
(Minute 25)**

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let me start by showing you Havering's Armed Forces Covenant, which we have now had framed. I'm delighted to say that, following tonight's meeting; we will be hanging the covenant here, in the Council Chamber, where it can be seen by all future visitors to the town hall.

(The covenant was than displayed to the meeting).

Havering has always proudly supported members of the Armed Forces; both those who are currently serving and also our veterans and cadets. The covenant enshrines our support for them all, and it's a great honour to put it on display here.

Our armed forces day parade was magnificent. It was brilliant to see so many residents lining the streets and cheer on the armed services personnel and cadets as they marched through.

After the parade, I was delighted to introduce the new Mayor's cadet - Lucy Croxall of the St. John ambulance c611 Harold Hill division, and the reserve cadet, flight sergeant Andrew Murphy, of the Air Training Corps 452 Hornchurch squadron.

I'm delighted to tell you that the Royal Anglian regiment will be marching through Romford later in the year, to celebrate having the freedom of the borough. This is something we can **all** look forward to.

The last few weeks have been exceptionally busy for the Mayor's office.

On the same day I attended both the Collier Row carnival and the Elm Park fiesta. It was wonderful to see these local communities, coming together, and I must say a big thank you to everyone involved in organising both events.

This was the first Collier Row carnival to be held for several years. So a big well done to everyone involved. One of the main drivers of this event was Lesley Hallett who I believe is in the gallery this evening.

I also was at the start of the star trek midnight walk, the annual ladies-only fundraising event held by St. Francis hospice.

The hospice is one of my charities for this year, it does such excellent work caring for people in our community. I was very pleased to see so many people taking part. They went off happily and unperturbed by the awful weather. It was wonderful to see their dedication to raising money for this excellent cause.

Another of my charities is the Romford Autistic Group Support, which you probably know as RAGS. I was honoured to be invited to their AGM this week. The group does excellent work to help and support families who have a child with autism.

Havering did very well in this year's Youth Games, and I felt privileged to have been invited to the finals. I've also been to many of end-of-term school events.

I enjoyed the excellent Harold Hill summer festival and also our happy hounds dog show, they were both fun days for the community and again demonstrated how much can be achieved by communities and agencies working together.

I also went to the 50th anniversary event for the RSPCA, which is based in Harold Hill, and have toured the new Myplace Centre, which I was very impressed with. Myplace is a fantastic facility which will benefit not just young people but the wider community as well.

Whilst on achievements, we have some superb news. The Council and Romford's shopping centres recently won the national award for best town team or town centre partnership, which recognised the high-profile "Love Romford" campaign.

Our banking protocol scheme, which sets out to safeguard vulnerable residents from thieves and conmen, was highly commended in a national awards scheme. Banking protocol is the first multi-agency scheme of its kind, and is a new way of working between Havering Council, local banks, the Met Police and Age Concern. It's been such a success locally that banks are now looking at how it can be rolled out nationally.

Finally, this Sunday, and as we all know, the Olympic torch will be coming to our borough.

It will pass through our historic market place in Romford, before moving on to Hornchurch and then Rainham, and I know many hundreds of people are planning to line the route and come along to witness this historic occasion. There will be celebrations at each of the main sites to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event. My congratulations to all those who have been involved in the preparations and I would also like to acknowledge in advance the contribution made by the volunteer marshalls, 85 of whom come from our staff.

It's a tremendous privilege for us to be hosting the torch, and it will definitely be a day to remember.

Thank you.