

## October Report from EDDC Cllr Vicky Johns

On the 7th September there was an Extraordinary meeting run virtually the only item on the Agenda was the Honorary Alderman Award. The item was about the removal of the Alderman Award from John Humphreys who has been found guilty of ten charges, relating to sexual assault against two young boys between 1990 and 2001. Was importantly the Chair wished to extend his sympathy and that of the Council, to the two young victims and their families. During a brief debate on the issue, the following comments were made; The Council, being the body which bestowed the Honour, could remove the Honour if necessary. The Councils Constitution does not currently have much information on the issues relating to the role of Honorary Alderman and possibly needs amending. To avoid this situation arising again it may be necessary to review other relevant Council practices. I felt that this was an important decision to make, as removing an Honorary Alderman Status has not been done at EDDC before and I asked for a recorded vote, this was seconded by Cllr Millar. The recommendation was that the award of Honorary Alderman to Mr John Humphreys be withdrawn with immediate effect. Of the members present, not all members were even though I felt it was a very important item to be decided, 48 members voted in favour to withdraw the honour with immediate effect.

On the 8th September I attended the Chairmans Briefing with regards to how the meetings would continue to run virtually and exactly how that would work. As a Council we have given the power of delegation to the officers, so meetings are now consultative and the wording of the meeting needs to reflect that and be made very apparent at all meetings.

On the 8th September I also attended Cabinet the minutes for this meeting is on the EDDC website.

On the 16th September I chaired the joint Overview & Scrutiny committee at EDDC, this again was done virtually, the meeting was with regards to the Draft Updated Council Plan 2021-2023 and all members were reminded that they had been invited to attend all consultative sessions and that was the place to make any recommendations not at this late stage, unless something drastic has come up. The CEO gave a presentation on the Draft Plan and provided a brief introduction, there was only one or two points that needed clarification and these were done on the evening. The recommendation was That the Overview & Scrutiny committees have considered this draft of the new council plan 2021-2023 and provided feedback on it including that of the priorities and actions before it proceeds to Cabinet and Council in October. The meeting is available on the EDDC website.

There has been a lot of work going on at EDDC behind the scenes, as is usually the case and I will keep you informed as much as I am able to.

Vicky