



A year ago, I was Winchester's 819th Mayor, with a strong feeling of déjà vu!
The image illustrates my receipt of a beautiful pair of icons presented by Calin Huma the Romanian Honorary Consul to Winchester. Presently they are to be found in the Mayor's study in Abbey House, Winchester.

This year I have divided my report into a series of paragraphs to illustrate my year of 2019-2020.

March 2019 saw me completing my second year as Mayor of Winchester, the first being during the Queen's Jubilee year of 2012-2013. In March we still had more than fifty engagements to attend before the election month of May 2019.

As you will be aware these elections, not only saw a change of regime in Westminster, but also one in Winchester. Here the Liberal Democrat won the City elections with a comfortable majority.

It is quite a change to move from being a Council chairman, where your Party is 'in charge', to becoming 'mere back-bencher'. With apparently no business to cover.

It was my pleasure that the Conservative Party Leader asked me to cover the Shadow Environment Portfolio. Along with being appointed to a some of the few remaining committees that deal with Council business.

- Council - Shadow Environment Portfolio. This year Environment has been declared a 'lead Policy' as Council declared a Climate Change Emergency. It is their desire that Winchester (Estates) should be net carbon neutral by 2023, with the whole of Winchester's 250 sq. mile hinterland net carbon neutral by 2030. The target for Central Government is 2050! Oddly, having declare an Emergency, it very quickly became clear that there was no *Climate Change Emergency Action Plan* to achieve that aim until one was published in December 2019 seven months after the Elections.
- Health and Environment Policy Committee. This is one of three advisory scrutiny bodies created in May 2019. In this case it deals essentially with Environmental Policy matters relating to the Climate Change Emergency. Such items as the emerging Winchester Movement Strategy, the Parking Strategy, and Air Quality concerns are debated by this committee. It is likely that Biodiversity, and Nitrate Neutrality that relates to Planning will also be discussed here. It is also very likely that 'flooding' will also be an issue.

- Planning Committee. (DEPUTY) This Committee deals with about 10% of Planning Applications. Usually the controversial ones, although it is 'frowned upon' if we reach a decision that is contrary to that of the Case Officer!
- Scrutiny Committee. (DEPUTY) This is the main Scrutiny Committee of Council. It receives Cabinet papers about a week before they are discussed by Cabinet. As such they are sometimes able to influence the final Recommendations made by Cabinet. They also feed comments into Council.
- North Whiteley Development Forum. (DEPUTY) This is a 'forum' (non-decision-making debating panel) that deals with the development of the North Whiteley development. A Major Development Area of some 3500 house to the south of Botley and Curdridge.

- **OUTSIDE BODIES** until May 2020
- River Hamble Harbour Management Committee. This group is Chaired by the Leader of Fareham District Council. An interesting Committee that not only debates matters relation to yacht moorings along the Hamble River, but also to environmental matters e.g. nitrate pollution and its impact on marine biodiversity.
- Winchester District Board of the Council to Protect Rural England (CPRE). As the label states, the CPRE is about the rural environment and the formulation of related planning policies linking local authorities and the SDNP.
- Attendance of the Parish Council meetings of Swanmore, Shedfield (Waltham Chase), Soberton, Hambledon, and Droxford. It is of continuing regret that Council matters in Winchester too frequently clash with local meetings.
- It goes without saying that along side anything that is done in Winchester, all Councillors are also Ward Councillors. As such we act as liaison between our Communities and Winchester (WCC & occasionally HCC). Over the course of this year I have dealt with Planning matters, Community Safety - liaising with the Community Safety Officer and our PCSO; speeding on local roads, and fly tipping are of constant concern in all the villages. There are also residents who have issues that they feel require the help a local Councillor.
- Finally, but certainly not least are the Swanmore Community Meetings. This group, an adjunct to Swanmore College Governors, links the local community with the Swanmore College.