Thank you Madam Mayor for the opportunity to report to the Council the latest developments on various matters relating to Heywood Township.

Common Good

Heywood Township have introduced a Community Forum, called Common Good, a meeting where all groups from any background come together to develop better ways of working together, including better working practices with the Council and taking part in developing the Heywood Township Plan. The last meeting was well attended by over forty Community members who welcomed the opportunity to have their voices heard and continue the process with the next gathering at Heywood Civic Centre on Saturday the 28th March 2015.

Civic Centre

Heywood Township has funded the installation of Wi-Fi in the Civic Centre Heywood to enhance their facilities and encourage Community use. The Centre have been wowing packed audiences with a production of Hello Dolly, one of the most enduring Musical Theatre hits of all time, which has brought people in to the town from far and wide.

Hey Kids, the junior wing of Heywood Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (HAODS) has been put forward for nine awards by The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) in recognition of its staging of The Wizard of Oz. The show at the Centre entertained hundreds of families last October and both cast and crew have been recognised by NODA.

Bulky Waste Collection Scheme.

This Township funded scheme, orchestrated by Councillor Jacqui Beswick, has proved very successful with residents and a repeat of the original Pilot has been requested for Heywood West as all available slots on the original were oversubscribed very quickly.

Items that are suitable for refurbishment or reuse are stored and put back through Furniture reuse charities or directly to members of the public at little or no costs. Bulky items are diverted from landfill and recycling tonnages are available. Any residue from this process is further handpicked for recyclable items by Wheeldons at their waste plant in Heywood. Additional recycling results at this plant have been very good.
Health Service provision

Heywood residents raised concerns over the removal of the Retinopathy Screening Service from The Phoenix Centre, petitions have been organised and forwarded to the MP and campaigners are continuing to pressure the NHS for the Service to return to Heywood and a public consultation exercise is ongoing.

Police and Community Safety

The last three months have seen improvements across Heywood Township, Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector Stephen Hanlon has been instrumental in improving local community cohesion and increasing Policing visibility in the Town.

Police And Community Together meetings are now to take place again in The Phoenix Centre from March 2015 onwards.

Over a considerable period there were reports of youths damaging shop windows, especially takeaway, and throwing stones at taxis and buses in Heywood town centre. Operation Forward, utilising uniform staff in a high visibility capacity to deter these offences along with plainclothes officers to sneak up on offenders. Police have made regular use of their powers under Section 35 of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 by authorising a dispersal order on selected evenings. There has been a multi-agency approach to the problem with police working closely with partners. Youth services have done sterling work at the Friday Night Project to entertain local youths and pass the message on to moderate behaviour so that youths seem to be behaving in a more responsible way. This operation will continue as the lighter nights arrive.

The police have contributed to increased cohesion in the town by helping to organise a cohesion event on 19th February at The Heywood and St. James’ Church Hall. This was well attended, particularly by families, and was designed to make everyone feel that we are all living and working in Heywood together as one community. The free family fun day with the cooperation of local businesses during the half term break featured various activities including Bouncy Castle, sports, games, crafts a DJ and refreshments. Many thanks go to Dave Kilcourse of Perfect Image Studios who helped to organise the day which saw free stalls provided to local business the event was attended by Heywood and Middleton MP Liz McInnes.

Furthermore, police and partners organised a day of action on 4th March 2015 at Darnhill. This was also well received with officers in increased numbers and various partners including GMFRS, RBH, Guinness Housing and various Council departments contributing to making Darnhill feel a safer place.

The police have re-enforced this by commencing an operation to prevent anti-social behaviour, petty crime and drug dealing at Darnhill, especially at Argyle Parade.

Early in the new year there was a burglary spike, mostly at Darnhill, but again the police responded to this with extra staff and some high profile arrests and subsequently convictions of offenders.

The police are determined to continue their impact on the town with work like that
outlined above during the coming months.

The Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner, Tony Lloyd, held a Public Meeting on the 15\textsuperscript{th} January 2015 at The Phoenix Centre to discuss Heywood Policing issues and answer questions. The meeting was very well attended, the local Community aired their views and asked questions of The Commissioner, who reassured them that despite the budgetary cuts across the Greater Manchester Police Authority, he would do his utmost to ensure that front line Officers were not affected.

\textbf{Cllr Ray Dutton  \\
Chair of Heywood Township Committee}

\begin{quote}
Thank you Madam Mayor, I will be pleased to answer any questions from Members of the Council about these or any other matter relating to the Heywood Township Committee.
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