

**Councillor David Taylor's
Mayor Making Speech
21 May 2018**

Welcome to the High Sheriff, Mayors from other towns, dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen and fellow Councillors.

Thank you for attending my Mayor making ceremony and thank you for the trust and confidence you have shown in me to be Mayor of Dorchester for the forthcoming Year.

Thank you Susie for doing such an excellent job over the past year; indeed hers will be a hard act to follow! Thanks also to Tim for the excellent job he has done as Deputy Mayor.

As Fiona has mentioned, I was born in and finished my schooling in Sherborne, then after training at Salisbury College as a Chef I worked my way up through catering to retail management.

One of my proudest moments was working as the Catering Manager for the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace and seeing stars like Duncan Goodhew , Lynford Christie and many others.

But seeing the Evangelist Billy Graham and the very final race of Sebastian Coe were both an experiences I will never forget.

In 1997 I moved to Dorchester and in 1998 I met Martin it was also at that time my political journey began.

I currently work at Manor Minors and Ossie's All Stars out of School clubs –and I am very fortunate that I *love* my work as it is incredibly rewarding and great fun.

Those of you that know me will know that my hobbies and interest are historically led, especially exploring 'Hidden Dorchester' and my passion for discovering the 'Tunnels of Dorchester'.

My Mayoral year will focus on the Community and Community needs. It is an honour to be the First Citizen of Dorchester but we also need to remember those fellow citizens who may need help.

When meeting people as a Councillor there have been times I have noticed when things are not always quite right behind closed doors, either through issues with DRUGS, POVERTY, DEBT, FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES, HEALTH (MENTAL OR PHYSICAL) to name but a few.

These all show the need for the community to step in and help each other.

I recognise that many people in the Town have helped me on my journey. This led me to a place, when asked to stand for the Town Council, where I was able to canvas with confidence. I believe this helped me in being elected firstly as a Town Councillor and later as a District Councillor and finally to where I have now been chosen as Mayor.

The town of Dorchester has many positives in its favour...

It has a rich history and heritage quarter and has the most complete Georgian High Street in the Country.

Dorchester has a vibrant community augmented by the Brewery Square development and a newly Pedestrianised South Street which links modern Dorchester to old.

Dorchester is one of the top most highly invested County Towns in the Country, with many new businesses setting up here.

Dorchester has an increasing population, largely due to the development of Poundbury but at the same time providing a relaxed environment and being a safe Town in which to live.

We are one of the few towns still to hold a Carnival, so if people want to support this and make it work in its new 'walking parade' format and new route this year then I would be delighted to see you all on Saturday 16th June for some Midsummer Madness!

In the year ahead I will be supporting four charities with a strong local presence:

- Dorchester Youth Club
- Keep 106 – Dorchester's new community radio station
- Home Start – the family support charity
- MIND – the mental health charity

I am proud to have a great team of staff behind me, and a great Town which I am greatly proud to be part of.

Thank you for coming today and I look forward to representing Dorchester and its citizens.
THANK YOU...