

## Annual Council Meeting

16 September 2020

### Janice Howard

Madam Mayor, thank you and congratulations on your election. For the Conservative Group it is going to be hard to stop thinking of Janice as Madam Mayor. She had almost become a permanent fixture. Not, of course at our Group meetings – which she correctly avoided throughout her Mayoralty, to stay away from political engagement until last Monday – but at the many Civic events she has presided over, including fundraisers.

I have witnessed a number of these handovers and retrospectives. A common theme which Janice epitomises is that each Mayor brings something special to the role that is both unique to them and can surprise colleagues in all parts of the Chamber.

I knew something of Janice's background professionally, politically and personally but the ease she brought to chairing meetings was immediate and impressive. A light touch but authoritative and fair. The smooth flow of events, such as Silver Sunday, involving a high degree of organisation using volunteers was also a delight.

Janice managed to be ruthlessly efficient during her term, including the introduction of innovative ways to support her charities and get our wallets open. Her Charity Ball would, I am sure, have been a glittering affair. Maybe there will be another opportunity for that one day but, in the meantime Janice can glow in the afterglow of a successful Mayoralty ably supported by Andrew, Ed, Miranda and their families – who now deserve a good and well earned rest from a job well done.

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