

Annual Report – Special Responsibilities

(Under the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Members' Allowances, certain councillors who perform significant responsibilities over and above those of other councillors, are entitled to receive additional allowances to recognise those extra responsibilities. The Scheme requires councillors in receipt of such allowances to report on their actions. This report is published on the Council's website).

Report for period: 2018-19

Name: Cllr Rachael Hunt

Position held: Chair of Council.....

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

To chair all meetings of Full Council in accordance with the constitution, ensuring business is carried out democratically and efficiently and that the rights of councillors and the interests of the community are at the forefront of fairness and equality.

To promote public involvement in the Council's activities and represent the Council and the residents of South Gloucestershire at community, civic, ceremonial and royal engagements.

To attend regular Citizenship ceremonies and officially welcome citizens and their families officially to our county.

To raise money for and the profile of the good work of a chosen local charity or charities to highlight the contribution these organisations bring to our local community.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

Various engagements carried out on behalf of the Council and with organisations across the area, including:

- Armed Forces Day
- Shrouds of the Somme exhibition at Bristol Aerospace Museum
- South Gloucestershire Library Service's Summer Reading Challenge's Events
- South Gloucestershire Council's Community Learning Awards
- Royal Visits
- Events with local Schools, Colleges and Universities

Invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire Dame Janet Trotter to represent the Council and local community by reading the "Voices from Thornbury and Tytherington Reports from 1918" at the Remembrance Sunday WW1 Centenary Service at Gloucester Cathedral.

Being dressed in a traditional sari by the Avon Indian Community Association for the

Diwali celebration in Patchway.

Representing the Council at a “Bishop’s Breakfast”, hosted jointly with Bishop Rachel of Gloucester where the issue of Domestic Violence was the topic, bringing together relevant organisations and stakeholders. This was of particular interest as one of my chosen charities this year as ‘Chair’ was Next Link, Specialist Domestic Abuse Services working within South Gloucestershire, who were present at the breakfast.

The second chosen charity was Freewheelers EVS, who provide transport services for blood, breastmilk and individuals in need to and between hospitals by motorbike and car.

What “added value” to the local community have you been able to achieve through your special responsibilities?

Being able to highlight local community events, groups and causes through the ceremonial lens, featuring the wide array of volunteering successes, educational achievements and community endeavours that our county should be so proud of. Examples of which include:

- Supporting our service personnel at Armed Forces Day and during the 100th anniversary Remembrance Day;
- Acknowledging the achievements of our young people through the Summer Reading Challenge of our Library service;
- Supporting the work of volunteers who help maintain our green spaces by celebrating the launch of new information boards at the Three Brooks Nature Reserve in Bradley Stoke
- Welcoming new citizens to South Gloucestershire at the county’s Citizenship Ceremonies and events such as the Refugees Big Lunch
- Supporting and enjoying the work of my two charities Next Link and Freewheelers EVS, who continue to provide valuable services to our county.

How have your special responsibilities enabled the Council to be more effective?

By ensuring Full Council meetings, open to the public and Councillors to attend and participate in, are chaired with efficiency and efficacy.

By representing and communicating the work that the Council does to the public, including residents, local stakeholders and community organisations.

By acting as a ceremonial figurehead of the Council at events with significance to our local community’s history and heritage.

In what ways has the exercise of your special responsibilities supported the core objectives of the Council?

I believe this role helps to demonstrate the Council’s commitment to its public by celebrating and raising the profile of the hard work, successes and needs of our active and

diverse community.

This role engages people of all ages so they feel they belong and encourages a strong sense of place in our neighbourhoods. It allows visibility of the Council in the wider community, provides a welcome for everyone within South Gloucestershire and helps to maximise opportunities for all.