

4) **Brief Report from the Mayor** Cllr Roger Claydon OBE.

The Mayor spoke largely about the results of the community questionnaire and thus only mentioned briefly the report which is in the booklet provided.

Once again, it has been busy year for the Town Council aided by the good efforts of the new Town Clerk, the Council has, among other things;

- upgraded the town's CCTV system with financial support from the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- tidied up the garden of Remembrance;
- taken action at Potters Pond to prevent work which would have been damaging to the wildlife in Dyers Brook,
- continued to explore opportunities for providing additional parking in the town, including the possibility of establishing a car park on open land behind the Fire Station. This initiative, facilitated by the Chamber of Trade, is still at an early stage and no planning application has yet been made. Public views are welcomed on this. We have been informed by Renishaw that the company intends to continue its operations in Old Town and develop the Stokes Bakery site, thus these locations are not available for supermarkets, parking or anything else.

The Town Council's action plan for 2015 includes:

- working with the Town Regeneration Committee on an update to the 2005 Community Plan
- updating Town Council website to improve communication between the Town Council and residents; and
- bringing the Chipping Club Room under the management of the Town Trust.

The Town Council has continued its financial support for the:

- Swimming Pool,
- Synwell Playing Field,
- Wotton in Bloom,
- Youth Centre,
- Library,
- Citizens Advice Bureau.

Summary financial information, including budget plans and civic grants is included in the booklet. The Precept for the coming year has been set at £264,373 with total planned expenditure of £310,095.

In the past year farewell was said to Cllr Jackie Cartigny who was replaced on the Council by Alex Wilkinson who is also President of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce. Council elections take place in May and so there may well be a "new-look" Town Council next term! All who have skills, time and energy were urged to apply.

Feedback is now available on the charts around the room, for the Community Questionnaire, where residents were asked to indicate their opinion on 58 issues by expressing a priority. Some 3000 questionnaires were distributed with the "Wotton Directory" & 270 questionnaires returned and analysed; an initial report is also available on seats. Determining a priority order from the results obtained has not been straightforward and several methods were tried, including weighted scores, totals by Priority and percentage scores. Using weighted scoring, the highest priorities included the