

*County Council Meeting – 17 July 2012*

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Nick Danagher**

It is with great regret that I have to tell you of the sad and sudden death of Nick Danagher. Nick passed away on Friday, 6th July, in Manchester Royal Infirmary, having travelled to Manchester to attend a meeting. His sudden and untimely death is a great shock to us all. He was Chairman of Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and Policy Officer for the new South East Network for Disabled People. He worked tirelessly to champion the right of opportunity and independent living of disabled people. He will be greatly missed.

Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the County Council have written with their condolences to Cliff Bush, Vice Chairman and to Carol Pearson, Chief Executive of Surrey Coalition of Disabled People, who are handling the funeral arrangements. When the details are announced, the Chairman's Office will send round a note.

- **Young Epilepsy**

Young epilepsy is based in Lingfield. It has a school, as well as a new medical diagnostic centre, which takes referrals particularly from Great Ormond Street and other parts of the country. It is also visited by people from overseas.

It has a residential unit for young people in transition, aged 19-24, to help them with training, life skills and confidence building. I was hugely impressed by my visit and I hope that members will be interested in hearing more about it at lunch today.

- **Local Government Dinner**

This was held on 19 June, at Denbies, for mayors, chief executives, business and charities from across Surrey. The Chairman spoke about the need for mayors and chairs to be proactive in seeking good connections and partnerships with all these sectors to improve the quality of life and business through the county. The High Sheriff presented one of her themes for the year, which is how to counter drug abuse and drug addiction. This and her drive towards helping people with disabilities are particularly appropriate in a year of celebration for the whole country and especially for people with disabilities through the Paralympic Games.

- **High Sheriff's Garden Party**

A wonderful garden party at King Edward's School, Witley, concentrating on people with physical disabilities – there were displays from MERU, of Epsom and Holy Cross Home and Hospital, Haslemere, and High Sheriff Youth Awards.

- **The Lightbox - Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

People from across the county gathered in Woking to celebrate the achievement of The Lightbox and saw the Lord-Lieutenant present a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

- **Sponsorship of Charities**

Members and staff are invited to give to two charities. The High Sheriff's sons have entered the Virgin Active London Triathlon as a team, under the name of the High Sheriff's Men.

They aim to raise money for the High Sheriff Youth Awards. Please give generously and contact the Chairman's Office for sponsorship forms.

Nick Wilson is cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End in aid of CHASE Hospice.

- **Long Serving Governors Awards held on 26 June**
- **Opening of The Malt House Youth Centre, Dorking**

I was delighted to be present at the opening of this fabulous youth centre, a product of an agreement between Waitrose and the Council's Property Services. Waitrose needed the site of our Mulberry Youth Centre in order to expand their operation for the benefit of Dorking's shoppers. The County Council's Youth Service and Property were only willing to move to another site if the new youth centre would be at least as good as the old one. This has been achieved! Congratulations to all involved. Let's hope we can do something similar in other areas.

- **Attendance at dinners**

Lender's dinner

Watts Gallery brought in patrons from all over the country and the world to celebrate a year's achievements. It has truly placed this gallery on the map both for us in Surrey, with all of its volunteers, and its support for work with less fortunate people, including those in prison and also by its creation of a truly remarkable centre for the arts and crafts movement and 19<sup>th</sup> century figures, including, at the moment, Dickens. It promises to be a fabulous centre of great quality for talks, exhibitions and work.

Guildford roll of honour 2012 celebratory dinner

This was a fabulous dinner in The Guildhall celebrating Peter Molyneux OBE, recognising his outstanding business success in creating two major companies, Bullfrog and Lionhead Studios.

**Lavinia Sealy**  
**Chairman of the Council**  
**17 July 2012**