

Helyn Clack's Farewell Speech to Council

Chair, congratulations on your appointment and to the Vice chair also.

I have had a wonderful time with many experiences but today I would like to give my thanks to those who have supported me throughout my term as Chair and made it happen.

My Husband Bryan and my family for being patient and supporting me in my role.

Chairs Office

Caroline Wickson

Jamie-Lee North

Rachel Basham

Melissa Woodhams

My office, these women, have made my ambitions possible, they have said yes more than they have said no and we have had fun along the way. Thank you for organising the best of events here at New County Hall, for making things happen, for keeping the protocols and for being my friends throughout the last years. I know you will look after Saj and Tim and be there champions and advocates going forward.

Democratic Services

Paul Evans

Vicky Hibbert

Sarah Quinn

Amelia Christopher

Elliot Sinclair

Thank you, Democratic Services, for all your support both here in the chamber and in the wider council community. Council meetings are a breeze if have these guys at your back!

Military

Peter Bruinvels

Sarah Goodwood

Andrea Newman (CLT)

Jenny Noakes

The Military Covenant has probably been about 40% of the role as Chair. I recognise now how important it is that in our County we support those who serve in our armed forces and make sacrifices not asked of us. Our role to support them and their families, in our schools, health services, housing and to spread the word that the veterans are great employees as we have witnessed here in this council, they are disciplined, present well and show up on time for the job! Sarah and Peter, you took on the covenant and have made this County of Surrey the best in the country for the covenant work and I have been so proud to have been your Chair.

Voluntary Sector

Saba Hussain, The Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, people like Neelam Devesher and the many Chairs and CEO's and their teams of the 1000's of charities around the county.

My first year my theme was Covid Recovery, as soon as the restrictions were lifted, I visited organisations, charities and trusts who help our council deliver our strategic aims and ambitions. Looking after children and adults whose needs mean they need our support. This last year was all about the Royal Family, the Jubilee, the funeral and just now the Coronation. This gave us many opportunities to thank and encourage these wonderful people.

Youth Mayor

Emma Storer

Jacob Wrenn and the Young Mayors

Thank you members for being generous with your allowances and encouraging this new role in the County to grow under the careful guidance of Emma and Jacob.

CLT

Joanna Killian

Michael Coughlin

Andrea Newman

Facilities

Bernice Watson

Jo and all the people in facilities and reception.

After the dark days of the pandemic the move to this wonderful building and grounds has been a light to many, this is a beautiful place to work and meet. Inspiration is found in its gardens and architecture, opening it up as the first building of Surrey, a public headquarters for a county council and residents to use. I thank the Leader and Joanna for bringing us here, and I know that the future here is bright.

My occasional driver – Assim and his cousins from Parkers – sometimes during the dark winter nights travelling 50 or more miles across county to visit some of the people I have mentioned above, having the security of a driver has made me able to do a better job, to feel safe and sure that I will get where I have to go and then home again. My drivers have taken every care over me and I thank them.

Tim Hall, new Vice Chair, the best job, lots of fun without too much responsibility yet! You will have plenty of time to still look after your constituents!

Saj Hussain – my Vice Chair – You are going to love this job! – be kind, listen and support, be fair and be strong. The next two years will fly by so make the very best of the office to the benefit of others. I know your constituents already love you, they will cope I am sure and you will be there for them. But you will also be there for all of us and the wider community of the county. Don't wear yourself out but do make a difference.