

## Annual County Council – 7 July 2020

### Chairman's Election Speech

- First of all, I would like to say an enormous 'thank you' to you for voting me in for another year as Chairman of Surrey County Council.
- It is my honour and privilege to serve the county of Surrey and its residents – particularly during the challenging times that lay ahead of us.
- I will do my utmost to serve and help our great county and all those who live here.

#### Dave Hill

- It is with enormous sadness that we have had to say goodbye to our great friend and colleague, Dave Hill, who so sadly and unexpectedly passed away last month.
- David did a sterling job transforming our Children's Service over a short period of time; the positive impact he had on the council and the vulnerable children in our care can never be underestimated.
- It has been heart-warming to hear all the wonderful sentiments and stories about Dave. His many colleagues recall Dave with much affection and the utmost respect. He was thoughtful, inspirational and committed. He also had a passion for justice and fairness, not accepting discrimination in any form.
- He will be much missed by everyone here at the council, and we will work to ensure his legacy lives on by delivering the very best support for Surrey's young people. I'd now like to invite the council to join me in a minute of silence and quiet reflection for our great colleague and friend.

#### Tony Pidgley

- We have also had to say goodbye far too prematurely to another great friend of Surrey – Tony Pidgley, Chairman of Berkeley Homes.
- A former Barnardos boy, Tony's early years were very humble – yet, thanks to his sheer hard work and determination – Tony went on to become one of the country's most successful housebuilders, providing much-needed housing to many.
- He was the ultimate 'success story'.
- Tony leaves behind his wife Sarah and his four children. He will be very sorely missed.

## Thank You

- Before we move on to the business of our AGM, I would like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to the many, many people who have been supporting Surrey residents during the covid pandemic.
- Thank you to our key workers, Surrey officers, our wonderful Voluntary Community and Faith sector groups and every resident who has pulled together throughout the few difficult months. I’d also like to put on record my thanks to our Leader and Chief Executive, their hard work and dedication has been plain for all to see.
- I’ve always known that Surrey was a special place – but wow, the last few months have shown us what we can do when we all stand together.

## Chairman’s Theme, 2020-21

- Which brings me onto announcing my theme for the forthcoming year. It is **Surrey Stands Together** – recognising staff and volunteers who have pulled together to support Surrey residents during the Covid-19 outbreak.
- I will pay particular focus to those staff and volunteers working with Surrey’s youth. We have a responsibility to the next generation and COVID-19 has disproportionately hit young people.
- I’d like to take this opportunity to announce that Surrey’s Young Mayor, Jacob Wrenn, has successfully been appointed for another year. I intend to work closely with the Vice-Chairman to ensure that we support Surrey’s Young Mayor and Cabinet and enable young people’s voice to be heard louder than ever.
- I’m sure you will agree that we have plenty to focus our efforts on - and as Surrey Stands Together, we will come out the other side of this pandemic stronger than ever before.

Thank you.