

COUNCIL
Wednesday 20th May 2009

Agenda Item No. 18 (a)

Leader of the Council
Annual Report 2008/2009



Wyre Forest District Council



**ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2008/2009**

This past municipal year has been a true test of the fabric of Wyre Forest District Council. I am pleased that Council has met every test that has presented itself with vigour and professionalism.

I am confident that as the dark clouds of global recession darken the doorsteps of Wyre Forest, that this Council has “fixed the roof while the sun shone” and now we are well placed to deal with additional challenges as they present themselves.

I am exceptionally grateful for the support and commitment of the Deputy Leader Cllr Hart and of the Cabinet. I would also like to commend the Chief Executive, his management team and all staff for their commitment and professionalism in facing recent challenges.

We have unfortunately seen some staff leaving the Council this past year as the Council meets its new economic constraints. I would like to pay homage to their significant service to the people of Wyre Forest.

As we look back at the last municipal year, the Council has seen many successes including the re-opening of Bewdley Museum, the re-building of Stourport Sports Club, the re-building of Habberley Changing Rooms to name a few. We have seen the Worcestershire HUB in Wyre Forest consistently top the league in terms of County wide performance and our council tax collection rates also remain amongst the highest in the County.

Looking at the year ahead, the challenges are no less demanding. We have seen the start of a difficult restructure affecting staff across the Council, and we need to continue to make progress on the Council’s key projects including single site, new cemetery provision and regeneration projects in Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport on Severn.

Financial constraints will unfortunately continue to figure largely in the Councils decision making, but I am confident that in the usual “Wyre Forest Way” Council will continue to find new and resourceful ways of continuing to deliver high quality services to our local residents.

I have very much enjoyed working with all parts of the Council this past year, and I hope, whilst hopefully being less controversial, it will be no less filled with progress.

Cllr John Campion
Leader of the Council