

Annual report – Cllr Clive Bennett

I apologise for not being present to give this report in person. I think it's the first time I have missed in the last 11 years.

The council re-elected me as its vice chairman last May and that role involves supporting the chairman and standing in for him when necessary at Civic functions. These are commonly known as 'chain gang gatherings'.

These can be very useful affairs as more councils are working together and sharing services. Cotswold council is the leader and prime mover in such matters. These Civic functions are also completely non political. I have no idea of the political parties of the other chairman and vice chairman, nor am I interested, so you deal with people as they are without any political labels. They are great forums for exchanging ideas.

I have attended such things as mayor making, when all the trappings of ancient boroughs are on show; awards to youngsters; official opening of Mop Fairs and many church services.

I also serve on the council's licensing committee as I have done since 2003. Apart from pubs and similar establishments that committee also issues licenses for ice cream sellers that visit the area in the summer. I have never received any complaints about them breaking the rules but if anyone has any comments it would be useful to hear them. The committee also issues licenses for taxis and private hire operators. Again it would be useful to hear if anyone feels that the drivers are failing to maintain the standards that the council and public expects.

We are always asked to keep our reports short and I for one always do so.

Again I apologise for not being here but if there are any questions then please contact me and I will get answers.