ENCLOSURE 2

Kenilworth Town Council: Proposal for a Mini Mayor

Suggested from WALCs Empowering Young Voices Training (and a later informal chat with Sally Gurney (Mayor) and Nikki (Town Clerk/Mayors Secretary at Wokingham Town Council), and also the Visit of the 4th Kenilworth Beavers to the Council Chamber on 13th November.
Wokingham have run this scheme for approx. 10 years and are happy to support us with practical advice/"hand holding" in future. The aim is to engage young people, starting with youngest first, to show them that the Council values their views and their contributions and wishes to give them a voice.

The task and finish group Cllrs Insley, Stevens, Dearing and Chalmers met and discussed the written proposal below, followed by a further virtual Meeting with the Wokingham Mayor/Town Clerk at which our Town Clerk was present as well. Wokingham recommend it as an easy way in to engaging young people and we can borrow their process for ease. The Cllrs present MS, AI and AD, were happy to proceed with the scheme, and AD explained the process separately to Cllr Chalmers, who did not wish to proceed this year. The group therefore proposes that each Mayor will decide during their deputy year whether to go ahead or not. Start point would be September with the help of the Group, to be ready to commence at Mayor Making the following May.

Process

1. Year. 5 (aged 9-10) at all local schools are asked in September if they would like to enter a competition to be the Mini Mayor. The current Mayor could visit the schools to propose this for the first time.
2. Pupils write a short letter explaining why they'd like to do the job and what they like about our town and what they'd like to see improved.
3. Teachers choose the best 2 letters per school. Not all schools eventually submit.
4. Each successful pupil is invited to a tea party at the Council Offices together with a parent/carer 3 per table, cakes and sandwiches provided.
5. The Mayor, and about 4 other adults to be selected from – Town/Deputy Clerk, Mayor's secretary/Deputy Mayor/any other interested councillors work around the tables chatting with everyone making sure parents are engaged with the idea – important as the parent will be accompanying the child at all times. Children are applauded and appreciated for taking part, but the choice is not made in front of them.
6. Later, Councillors/Clerk put heads together to discuss and vote and one per table is chosen, then a final winner. All participants are informed individually and their school informed by letter.
7. Start term of office the following May at the Mayor Making. In Wokingham they have their own robes, hat, sense of pageantry, (a Chain/Ribbon in our case?), the winner has a voice in the Charity (and may even fundraise), and choose what they would like to attend from a small range of suitable events eg Bonfire Gala, Remembrance, Carols, Lights Switch On.
8. Managed (at Wokingham) by the Mayor's Secretary.

Cllr Alix Dearing
Mayor of Kenilworth 2023-24
3.4.24

Sally Gurney: Mini mayor and short mayor: https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=...