

COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2019

ITEM 4.2 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Mayor, as this is our last full meeting of this Council year, I would like to start by thanking those members who have announced their retirement and will not be standing for re-election this May.

Many have devoted a significant period of their lives to serving and representing their residents over many years, and without their dedication and sense of public duty, this Council would not be the success that it is.

I would also like us to remember those that have passed away during this Council term, most recently John Sutherland, and almost a year ago now, David Slater. Both were exceptional individuals and councillors, and every day, are missed by those that knew them and called them friends.

On behalf of all councillors I would also like to pay our respects to the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand. Many of you will know of the link between Loughborough and that city, through the work of John Taylor's bell foundry - but hearing of the appalling attack, I was struck by the cold pre-meditated callousness of the act, and the permanent effect it would have on the Christchurch community. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those murdered and all the people affected by this, and all, terrorism.

Lastly, Madam Mayor, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Council, for being our Mayor this past year, but also the Mayor's support staff, and even more particularly Mike Hollingworth, who will be retiring this month, having served countless Mayors of this Borough over many, many years. I know that the University threw a surprise 'thank you' for him last Wednesday – we're not about to repeat that – two in a week would be too many surprises for anyone, but from all of us, thank you Mike, and we wish you a happy, peaceful, and stress-free retirement!