

PRESS RELEASE

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL, FIRST LOCAL COUNCIL IN SURREY TO WIN THE QUALITY AWARD ACCREDITATION

On Thursday, 19 December, Mrs Susan Lochner, Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey accompanied by Mrs Anne Bott, Deputy Chief Executive of the Surrey & Sussex Association of Local Councils presented Godalming Town Council with the Award of Quality Council, which recognises the very best of Local Councils. In receiving the award on behalf of the Council, the Mayor of Godalming, Cllr Penny Rivers said “I am delighted that Godalming has become the first Local Council in Surrey to be accredited with the Quality Award Level under the Local Council Award Scheme and I would like to congratulate everyone who has worked so hard over the last 18 months in achieving this award, the Council staff as well as current and former Members of the Council.”

Presenting the award, Mrs Lochner said “When I heard that the Town Council had achieved the Quality Council Award I was delighted as it is my home town. In earning this Award, Godalming Town Council has demonstrated the importance of good governance, with strong financial control, excellent documentation and administration, coupled with a determination not only to embrace, but to take the lead in best practice. More crucially, this Award recognises that the Council, while setting such high standards in the conduct of its business, has succeeded in engaging and working with the community at all levels and encouraging it to flourish. Having such a strong business approach meant that the Neighbourhood Plan was from the very start a community-led process, and this has been a major factor in its success. Without this approach, Staycation would not be the envy of other much larger places, the town’s green spaces would not be havens for residents and nature alike, and the Council would not have been able to support significant infrastructure projects, such as the flood alleviation scheme and the refurbishment of its community buildings.”

Councillor Paul Follows, Leader of the Town Council said “Awards such as this are hard earned and require a great deal of commitment and time. I am immensely proud that Godalming Town Council has been recognised in such a way and I wish to congratulate everyone who has been involved.”

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