

91/05 - **COMMUNICATIONS:**

01. **HARROGATE'S HOUSING TEAM:** The Mayor advised that for the third year running the Housing Team of Harrogate Borough Council had been recognised, following independent reports, as the top housing performer in the country. On behalf of the Council the Mayor conveyed her congratulations to the Director and his staff.
02. **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:** The Mayor presented Garry Atkins with his award for Council Employee of the Year and explained to Council his dedication and commitment to his work which had resulted in, first his nomination and ultimately, his winning of the title of Council Employee of the Year. Garry had now been short listed in the final six to go forward for the national award to be staged in Bournemouth later in the year.
03. **TOWN TWINNING:** The Mayor advised that the first meeting of the Town Twinning Advisory Group had taken place on 6 April when it had commenced work on reporting back to Cabinet on the possibility of establishing a link with a third world town. It was hoped that a representative from the Malawi High Commission would be able to attend a future meeting of the Group in order to provide information on the country but in the meantime the Group would welcome any information Members had on links with the third world. Information on existing links had also been sought from the public via the local press.
04. **HARROGATE BOWLING CLUB:** The Mayor reported that the Harrogate Bowling Club had on the occasion of the Council's 75th anniversary donated to the Council a silver sugar sifter. The Club was now celebrating its own 75th anniversary and, in recognition of this fact, the Mayor had agreed to loan the silver sugar sifter to the Bowling Club for its own anniversary year.
05. **WELL TO WELL WALK:** The Mayor gave details of her Well to Well Walk which was to take place on 7 May 2006 in association with which a Hog Roast and Water Competitions would also take place and invited as many Members as possible to take part in the event.
06. **DRINKS:** The Mayor advised that she was departing from the convention of offering drinks upon conclusion of the final Council Meeting of the municipal year in favour of an invitation to all Members to join her and her consort at her home, details of which had been circulated to all Members.
07. **RETIRING MEMBERS:** The Mayor advised that Councillors Joan Crowther, Simister, Skidmore and John Smith were attending their last Meeting of the Council, having decided not to offer themselves for re-election in the forthcoming District Council Elections on 4 May and called upon the Council to recognise their contribution to its business during their terms of office.

