

We often talk about community, what it is and who it serves. But I do wonder if we occasionally use it too much and therefore dilute its truthful value.

I saw for myself what it really means last week when I unveiled a memorial bench to the late Councillor Anne Moloney in Snodland. The town is often the butt of jokes or raised eyebrows but it really shouldn't be. It encapsulates what I think is the true meaning of a good community. Of course it has its challenges like any conurbation does but the residents of Snodland look out for their town and many work hard to eradicate what is bad and preserve what is good.

Anne may have been a Conservative Councillor but she always put community above party and she was not alone in that. The Snodland Town Partnership is bringing the council, businesses and people together to do wonderful things that enhance the local area for the future. With organisations like the Pavilion Café offering cooked lunches for older people at a reduced price they are looking after the people in their own neighbourhood.

Each year the Remembrance Parade and Service and summer fete and fair gets bigger and better as commemoration and celebration passes through the generations. The sports and hobby clubs are fully subscribed, hall space at a premium and nobody was surprised by the supremely generous local response to the Holborough Lakes fire last year. Anne would have been proud of what the town she loved is doing.

I could go and search high and low across the country looking for the bits that make up a good community and yet all I need to do is look in my own back yard at Snodland and this makes me very proud to be its local MP.