



## *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

At the close of 2017, we take the time to look back and gratefully remember the many projects that has formed our municipality throughout the year. Many of which bring good energy.

Several events took place in 2017. Our primary school students told Denmark that they are the happiest of all. Our municipality became friendlier towards businesses, and we won a special award at the 2017 open-air municipality award.

Esbjerg Municipality has experienced great development in 2017. Many new projects have arisen and we keep on working hard to finish them, so that our citizens will keep living in a modern municipality that move with the times.

Esbjerg has gained many new features. July 12 we went to lay the foundation of Esbjerg Strand. The city also got Havnepromenaden (the boardwalk) in Havnegade, a Super Bicycle Lane and at Esbjerg City Half we ran a half marathon together for the first time.

In Ribe the long-awaited Vadehavscenteret (Wadden Sea Centre) opened in February. Ribe also got new cobbles in Svigegade and then the future plan of Jernstøberiet was revealed.

We look forward to celebrate the 150-year birthday of Esbjerg City and Harbor in 2018. It will be a year to remember with a Royal Run and visit on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik's birthday. We will celebrate The Tall Ships Races in Esbjerg 2018 and we will gather many talented European athletes, when the 2018 OCR European Championships comes to town.

With all good wishes for a happy holiday season and New Year's Eve, we look forward to a great collaboration in the year to come.

  
Johnny Søtrup  
Mayor