

Annual Report: Cllr. Donald M Firth 2013/14

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I sat on the following Kirklees Committees:

- Area Committee - Holme Valley
- Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
- Planning Sub-Committee (Huddersfield Area)

and served as chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Resources

I continued to be a member of the Holme Valley Parish Council and attended every meeting where possible.

Participation on Outside Bodies

I am also a member of -

Kirklees Community Association

Kirklees Henry Boot Partnership Ltd.

Ward Work

It has been another very busy year assisting and advising constituents on a wide range of day-to-day issues including planning, housing and highways, problems with nuisance neighbours and anti-social behaviour.

In Holme Valley South, we continue to meet Metro to resolve issues regarding bus services in the ward. We have seen more progress and some improvements to the overall bus services picture. The bus station in Holmfirth is still to be revamped and will in future serve as the hub for all incoming and outgoing bus services, be they to Huddersfield or locally to the doctor's surgery and clinic etc.

My fellow ward Councillors Ken Sims, Nigel Patrick and I have also been preoccupied with a number of other planning matters. Roads and highways have again featured strongly in our work. Progress has been hampered by the general shortage of money for repairs but we have been able to get repairs done on a "make do and mend" basis and are getting there.

Between us, we will continue to sort out the various issues constituents bring to us.

On the whole it has been an exceptionally busy year but also a very enjoyable one.

Achievements During the Year

I arranged a meeting in London on 7th April with Planning Minister Nick Boles MP - which I attended with my ward colleagues Cllrs Patrick and Sims, Kirklees' Chief Executive, policy group leader and Senior Planning Officer, along with Jason McCartney MP. We discussed how Kirklees could resolve planning issues in the absence of a Local Development Framework.

As I said in my last report, my constituents are the people who can judge what my achievements have been and I trust they will let me know if I have not succeeded in any of my aims. I will always do my best for local residents.

Training and Development

Training and development is on-going, and I continue to attend the necessary training courses and away days to improve and develop my knowledge and skills within the Council.