

# Annual Report: Cllr. Vivien Lees-Hamilton 2012/13

## Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I have continued to play an active role at the meetings of full Council and at the Area Committee. Full Council meetings have been of questionable value at times with many items for debate not being covered at the meeting. However the work done through the Area Committee with my colleagues has been very, worthwhile and productive.

Area Committee work has enabled myself and my colleagues to issue grants to local community groups including the excellent work being carried out at the Trinity Methodist Church. We have provided a grant for the provision of toilets within the church.

I am pleased to see the completion of the Skate Park. This is a very popular play resource for all ages. I had an excellent steer on this project. Working with a group of young people from Mirfield made up of both skaters and BMX riders. It was inspirational working with such an enthusiastic group it is a testament to their dedication to see their designs come to fruition.

We have also seen a new addition to Knowl Park this year. The park now boasts the addition of a zip wire slide.

This facility has now proved so successful it is very popular with all ages and with the park now being used by families and young people there is much less anti social behaviour taking place in the park.

I am seeking to extend the Skate Park this year and provided some much needed picnic benches in the park.

As a member on the place scrutiny panel I took the decision to under take extra work with an assigned task investigating how our roads are signed and lined, how overhanging vegetation is addressed and all matters relating to clear signage and direction on our roads. It is imperative that all signs and directions are clearly marked for the safety of all road users.

I am pleased to report that this task has been successfully completed with nine of the ten recommendations being accepted and approved by Kirklees cabinet members.

I look forward to seeing the changes being implemented within the highways department.

## Participation on Outside Bodies

Throughout the year I was a Council Nominee on:

Mirfield Educational Charity, which plays an important role in supporting the educational and social development within our Town.

Locally I continue to be a member of and where possible, attend the meetings of many Mirfield Community Groups.

## Ward Work

During the year I have again dealt with many individual residents concerns and also local action groups covering a wide range of issues such as, environmental issues, housing problems, road safety, highways, planning, road safety, health and well being. I will continue to work with the young people of Mirfield to provide more play and recreation facilities within our Town.

I am pleased to have Chaired the Mirfield Neighbourhood Management Group since it's inception. The NMG Committee is a multi agency liaison group, with regular attendance from the Police, Fire, Environmental and Community Rangers, Social Services, Kirklees Anti Social Behaviour Unit, Neighbourhood Watch, Young Peoples Services, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and local

Schools. These are just a few of the regular attendees. We meet once a month and address all aspects of crime and antisocial behaviour.

As the chair of the NMG it has been my pleasure to welcome a newly formed Neighbourhood Watch Group to our meetings. The more information sharing we can facilitate the more effective we shall be.

I have attended regular ward team meetings at which I and my ward colleagues have discussed local issues in detail between our selves and Council Officers to provide solutions and services within the Town.

Together and in association with my ward colleagues I have attended a wide range of local meetings, liaised with several local community and action groups and have attended briefings by partner agencies providing advice and assistance where necessary.

### **Training and Development**

This year I will be attending a refresher course on all aspects relating to planning issues. I receive many calls for assistance on such matters and feel it is my responsibility to be up to date on all aspects appertaining to planning rules and regulations.

Assuring you of my continued support in the forthcoming year.