

Annual Report: Cllr. Vivien Lees-Hamilton 2013/14

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 worthwhile.

The work of the Area Committee has benefited several local sporting groups this year. Including support for a new development at Battyeford bringing rowing and canoeing facilities to Mirfield. 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.

Participation on Outside Bodies

Throughout the year I was a Council Nominee on:

Mirfield Educational Charity, who play an important role in supporting the educational and social development in our Town.

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

Ward Work

The big issues and challenges this year have been planning matters. With the failure of the LDF Mirfield has been left open to over development from housing on public open land and from many large and oversized planning applications.

It has been a challenge to preserve the integrity of Mirfield and its infrastructure. This challenge is still ongoing and I foresee many battles with the planning department and developers alike in the near future.

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.

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.

As part of a strong team in Mirfield we help our residents and do not restrict our support to office hours.

Assuring you of my continued support in the forthcoming year.

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.