

Annual Report: Cllr. Elizabeth E Smaje 2010/11

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I attended Council meetings throughout the year. I attended the Wellbeing and Communities Scrutiny panel, undertaking an assigned task on Health Inequalities, attended the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and the Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Town and Valley Committee meetings.

I continued to chair the Joint Health Scrutiny panel which looked at, and received updates on, the proposals to re-organise some services in the Mid Yorks Trust.

During the year I chaired the scrutiny ad hoc panel looking at ambulance response times within Kirklees. This looked at the category A, 8 minute response rates and the developments that the Yorkshire Ambulance Service were undertaking. I also chaired the ad hoc scrutiny into changes in accommodation proposed at Fox View.

Participation on Outside Bodies

I was appointed to the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority, attending their meetings as appropriate and chaired the Integrated Transport scrutiny committee.

I was also appointed to the Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing Board, attending board meetings, delivery, strategy and audit committee meetings and efficiency and productivity meetings.

I continue to be involved with the Kirklees Historic Buildings Trust, the Kirklees Theatre Trust Board, to be a Governor at Birkenshaw First and Nursery School and am a member of the Friends of Oakwell, East Bierley Preservation Society, Birkenshaw Village Association (Secretary) and Birstall Village Improvement Group. I have also attended Howden Clough Community Centre Committee meetings during the year.

Ward Work

I dealt with a wide variety of ward issues during the year and continue to support local TRA's, attend the Batley & Spen Tenant Committee as well as the Birstall TRA forum and chair the Birstall and Birkenshaw Neighbourhood Management Group.

Together with my ward colleagues, we have held Neighbourhood Forum meetings throughout the year to discuss issues that affect our ward directly and have run our regular garden competition.

I continue to support the campaign for a high school in Birkenshaw and for a co-educational school for Birstall.

I am also supporting Birstall in Bloom.

During the year I have continued to be closely involved with the Fieldhead Regeneration Project.

I attended our ward team meetings at which I, and my ward colleagues, discuss local issues in detail between ourselves and with council officers.

Together and in association with my ward colleagues I have continued to attend a wide range of local meetings, liaised with a variety of local groups and attended briefings by partner agencies.

Members Surgeries

Surgeries for the Birstall and Birkenshaw Ward continued to be held a number of times each week, at a variety of different venues by myself and my ward colleagues, Andrew Palfreeman and Robert Light.

Training and Development

I attended training in Health Inequalities and also in Treasury Management.