

Annual Report: Cllr. Elizabeth E Smaje 2012/13

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I attended Council meetings throughout the year as well as being a member of the Wellbeing and Communities Scrutiny panel and attending the Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Area Committee meetings.

I continue to be a member of the Joint Health Scrutiny Panel which meets with Wakefield Council to scrutinise the re-configuration proposals for Mid Yorkshire Trust. I continued as the Kirklees scrutiny representative on the regional scrutiny panel looking at the proposed changes to the Children's Congenital Cardiac Services provision for the region. The regional scrutiny committee was one of several scrutiny committees in England to refer the decision on the proposed changes to Children's Congenital Cardiac Services to the Secretary of State and I was part of the Yorkshire and Humber Committee that gave evidence to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.

Participation on Outside Bodies

I continued on the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority with the position of Shadow Chair, attending both formal meetings and briefings at the Authority.

I also continued on the Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing Board, attending board meetings and meetings of other board committees. My involvement with Kirklees Historic Buildings Trust and the Kirklees Theatre Trust Board also continued.

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 the Birstall and Birkenshaw Neighbourhood Management Group.

Together with my ward colleagues, we continue to hold Neighbourhood Forum meetings throughout the year to discuss issues that affect our ward directly. We also ran our regular garden competition.

I continue as a Governor at Birkenshaw Primary School and being a member of the Friends of Oakwell, East Bierley Preservation Society, Birkenshaw Village Association (Secretary). I also attend Howden Clough Community Centre Committee meetings and Birstall in Bloom meetings. I was on a small working party to support the organising of the event in Birstall to mark the centenary of the unveiling of the statue of Joseph Priestley in the marketplace.

During the year I continue 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.

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 continue to be held at a variety of different venues by myself and my ward colleagues, Andrew Palfreeman and Robert Light.