

Annual Report: Cllr. Andrew Charles Pinnock 2011/12

Introduction

Thank you to the people of Cleckheaton Ward who have, in the past three elections, re-elected members of the Lib Dem team. As part of that team I am committed to do my best to stand up for local people and promote the well-being of all who live and work in the ward.

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I have attended all meetings of Full Council. I attended meetings of the Heavy Woollen Planning Sub-Committee; the Planning & Highways Committee; Spen Valley Area Committee (and have chaired it for the past few years); Oakenshaw Forum (jointly with Bradford Council); Neighbourhood Management Group for the Spen Valley; Spen Valley Housing Forum; North Kirklees Countryside Forum.

Participation on Outside Bodies

- I continue to be a member of the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority. My role there includes membership of the Scrutiny Committee for Bus Services and the Audit & Governance Committee. I am also an alternate member of the Executive Committee of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA).
- During the year I became a member of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee. This rather bland title is the name of a body with responsibility, across West Yorkshire, for Trading Standards, Archives, Archaeology, Metrology and other scientific services. There I am a member of the Audit & Governance Committee.
- I have for several years been chair of the Kirklees Historic Buildings Trust. This was set up originally to be the Council's agent for protecting and rehabilitating Buildings at Risk. Currently the Trust is restoring a building at Wellhouse, Mirfield.

Ward Work

Ward work and Achievements

The Cleckheaton Ward Liberal Democrat team keeps residents informed and involved all the year round. We produce and deliver a FOCUS news and campaigning leaflet which we deliver to the 8,000 homes in our ward at least 5 times during the year.

With my colleagues, I have campaigned on several major issues affecting local people including:

- opposing the poorly considered Boundary Commission proposals for Parliamentary constituencies. The proposal to put Cleckheaton in a Bradford city constituency breaks all community ties and would see the end of a Spen Valley constituency which has existed for over 130 years. Responses from residents were overwhelmingly supportive of our opposition;
- proposals from the Mid Yorkshire Hospital Trust which envisage significant and serious dilution of services at Dewsbury Hospital. The cause of these changes is the rapacious need to fund the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) built hospitals at Pinderfields and Pontefract. It is outrageous that hospital services for local residents should be cut back because the Trust cannot meet the financial demands of the PFI hospitals;

- a strong campaign to ensure that the Council uses the office space in Cleckheaton Town Hall. Moving Adult Services staff from the Cleckheaton Town Hall offices to Dewsbury has caused a great deal of concern and anger in the town. The petition we launched has been signed by over 3,000 people. The Chamber of Trade supported the petition knowing that the loss of at least 30 employees from the town will have an impact on their businesses. Representatives of The Chamber presented part of the petition and spoke to a meeting of the Council in July 2012. The rest of the petition was presented by Cllr Kath Pinnock at the same meeting. This campaign will continue until we have a satisfactory outcome for Cleckheaton;
- Westgate derelict site has been cleared and a planning application approved for 217 housing units. This is positive as the site is brownfield land;
- the ward team continues to be concerned at the delay in redeveloping the Tesco supermarket in the town centre. This delay has resulted in a derelict site near the town centre to become an eyesore. We have been urging Tesco to start work as soon as possible;
- with my ward colleagues, I have helped residents in the Pyenot Hall Lane and Marsh area to find a solution to a difficult traffic problem. Work has been agreed by the Council and will be done this summer;
- the work of my ward colleagues and residents in Oakenshaw, a new puffin crossing is being installed in August outside St Andrew's Church. This will be an enormous improvement to road safety;
- in Hunsworth we want the Recreation Ground to have new land drains so that a large part of it is no longer permanently flooded and unusable;
- with my ward colleagues I have ensured that we tackle speeding traffic in Oakenshaw and Moorside / Moorbottom by the use of a Speed Indicator Device;
- Mann Dam and the viaduct - with ward colleagues and the Area Committee, we are pursuing an aim of creating a countryside park and restoration of the viaduct;
- Metro's bus network review for North Kirklees, which has been taking place this summer, has thrown up some serious issues for local bus travellers. As a result I have been representing these issues with Metro and hope to be able to report a favourable outcome later in the year;
- the Cleckheaton Ward team helps many local residents every year, with issues over a whole range of complexity. Please do contact us if you would like more information.

Members Surgeries

Cleckheaton Ward councillors hold drop in surgeries at the Town Hall and Scholes Church Hall every Saturday morning; at Oakenshaw Church Hall once a month; and at Turnsteads Community Centre once a month.

It is always good to meet residents of Cleckheaton and other wards who come seeking advice and support. We are always pleased to be of help.

Training and Development

On use of social media by councillors; planning; communicating with residents.