

Annual Report: Cllr. Andrew Charles Pinnock 2012/13

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 a number of years recently); Oakenshaw Forum (jointly with Bradford Council); Neighbourhood Management Group for the Spen Valley; Spen Valley Housing Forum; North Kirklees Countryside Forum. I have also attended meetings of an All-Party Working Group which is preparing for the detailed parts of the Local Development Framework.

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 Integrate Transport Authority (ITA). One of the roles of a member is to participate in the Passenger Consultative Committee for Kirklees, which also includes service users.
- I also continue to be 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; as with a lot of such projects, this is taking much longer than originally anticipated.

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:
 - Save Spen Pool is a major campaign being organised and led by Ward colleagues, Cllr John Lawson and Cllr Kath Pinnock and with Spen Valley Liberal Democrats including Richard Farnhill. Spenborough Pool was opened in 1969 and is built of concrete and is coming to the end of its life due to the quality of concrete used at the time. The Pool was on the Council's Risk Register. It is estimated that there is a need for between £8 million and £10 million to replace the pool with a modern facility. The Cabinet at the Council had not set aside the necessary capital to replace the Pool. We proposed additional funding but this was voted down. We then launched a petition to gauge local views. The petition can be signed online at www.SaveSpenPool.org.uk Over 4,500

people have signed the petition which was submitted to the Council in July this year. At that meeting we again proposed that the Council set aside money to pay for the pool and secured £4.651m toward the cost of rebuilding the pool and got it moved from the Risk Register to the Council's Official Capital Investment Plan. While this was a major success we know there is a long way to go before Spen Pool is definitely safe.

- 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 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) built hospitals at Pinderfields and Pontefract. It is outrageous that Dewsbury hospital services for local residents should be cut back because the Trust cannot meet the financial demands of the PFI hospitals.

- Ward colleagues have led a strong campaign to ensure that the Council uses the office space in Cleckheaton Town Hall. Moving Adult Services staff from those 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 30 employees from the Town Hall will have an impact on their businesses. This has had a very positive outcome with Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing staff moving into the offices in the Town Hall in May this year. Virtually the whole office space is now in use, which benefits both the future of the town and the future of our Town Hall.

- Westgate derelict site was cleared in 2012 and a planning application approved for 217 housing units. However, the industrial unit in the centre of the site has to be re-located before development can start. There have been protracted negotiations about this but so far no solution found to which all parties can agree.

- We continue to try and find a way forward with Tesco who have pulled out of building the new store it has promised for a number of years. This has left Cleckheaton with large number of derelict buildings. As ward councillors we have met with senior officers of the Council to find ways that will get Tesco to demolish the derelict buildings.

- Ward councillors have also tried to find solutions to the derelict site on Northgate.

- 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. The work to prevent main road volumes of traffic using these narrow Victorian residential streets has been done and residents are delighted with the result.

- As a result of the work of Cleckheaton Ward councillors and residents in Oakenshaw, a new puffin crossing was installed in August outside St Andrew's Church. This will be an enormous improvement to road safety.

- The lack of gulleys on part of Bradford Road in Oakenshaw has been a constant problem. Finally this has been sorted by 2 new gulleys and drainage system being installed.

- In Hunsworth large parts of the Recreation Ground were permanently flooded and unusable. So we worked with the Council to have new land drains installed.

- We have initiated and then helped to form a Friends of Scholes Rec. Working with the residents, the Church, the school, and the Tenants and Residents Association (TRA), we have

commissioned Groundwork to draw up plans for a major improvement to the area. The initial response in the village has been overwhelmingly positive.

- Cllr Kath Pinnock has campaigned with local residents against the plans submitted by Redrow to build houses on green fields round Lower Blacup farm which is one of the oldest buildings in Cleckheaton dating back to the early 16th century. I am a member of the Planning Committee which refused the application (following officers' advice). We anticipate that Redrow will certainly appeal against the decision and the battle to retain a beautiful green hillside will go on.

- 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.

- I have helped hundreds of local residents over the last year.

This is just a snap shot of the work Cleckheaton Ward Liberal Democrat councillors have done over the past year. Please get in contact 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; and at Oakenshaw Church Hall 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.