

# Annual Report: Cllr. Andrew Cooper 2010/11

## Introduction

I have continued to blog throughout the year on Council matters and I was pleased to make it into Total Politics Top 30 Councillors blogs. I will put weblinks into my report where you can get more information about some of the issues I raise in my report. I also 'tweet' and you can follow me on Twitter at @clrandrewcooper

The Green Party New Years Day Bus Service ran again which I and other volunteers worked on. This is now in its 18th year and provides a vital link with town and the hospital when no other public transport services are available. <http://greeningkirklees.blogspot.com/2010/12/greens-to-run-volunteer-bus-service-for>.

The Webcasting of Council meetings was introduced this year and has successfully enabled thousands more people to view how decisions are made in Kirklees. The decision to webcast followed on from a successful motion I and my Green Party colleagues put to the council so we are pleased that it is proving to be successful.

I continue to represent residents and organistaions in Planning Committee meetings and I have referred a number of applications to be considered by elected Councillors rather than officers. This has successfully enabled people to put their points directly to elected members resulting in better outcomes than they were expecting in most instances. One planning matter I have consistently opposed is the prospect of building a huge Tesco store on the site at Huddersfield Sports Centre. This was passed this year by Councillors on the Planning Committee. Council protocols on Annual Reports may restrict me expressing my views fully but there is a weblink here which will give you more details. <http://greeningkirklees.blogspot.com/2011/02/tesco-gets-away-with-it.html>

One of my most satisfying pieces of casework this year was helping staff and students at Castle Hill School with improving the pavements up to Newsome Centre. Many of the pupils at the school are wheelchair users and find the route up to Newsome difficult to negotiate. I took a Highways engineer out with a staff and pupils push them in their wheelchairs around the route demonstrating directly the difficulties they faced. These issues have now been addressed through lowered kerbs and improved footways.

After 3 years Kirklees Warm Zone finally ended which was made 'free' to householders as a result of a Green Party amendment to the 2007 budget. The headline figures were Loft insulation 41387 homes and Cavity wall insulation 20357 homes. It has been the largest insulation scheme of its kind ever in the UK. <http://greeningkirklees.blogspot.com/2010/06/kirklees-warm-zone-ends.html>

The most difficult part of this year has been addressing cuts to Kirklees jobs and services imposed in the Council by central government. I and my colleagues fundamentally disagree with the priorities of the coalition government and can see that it is those in the greatest need who are suffering the most through these cuts. Though we took a full and active part in the process we could not in all conscience vote for substantial cuts to services to vulnerable adults and children. <http://greeningkirklees.blogspot.com/2011/02/kirklees-budget-meeting.html>

I continue to attend my Advice Surgery in the Monkey Club at Armitage Bridge on the first Sunday of every month between 1pm and 2pm. Please come along if you have an issue. We continue to put newsletters out to people outside election times to inform people what we are doing and issues on the Council.

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