

Councillor Andrew Cooper Annual Report 2015-16

These are very difficult times for Local Councils and the people we serve. Increasingly, as a local Councillor I feel we are in the grip of a hostile occupying force rather than a legitimately elected Government. The financial future for Councils is at best precarious and at worst disastrous. Vital essential services, often for many vulnerable householders, are under constant threat & there is no end in sight. It is against this continuing backdrop that I present my latest Annual Report.

Elections

I was pleased to be re-elected for the 6th time this May with a significant majority. Elections are always busy and stressful times but it was great to get out and see so many local people.

Kirklees Council Budget 2016

There have never been more difficult times for local Government and the services we provide to the community so the Green Party were keen to ensure that any proposals we put would either raise money or not impact negatively on local services. We were also clear that protecting Adult Social Care was a priority for us. The Labour Budget was passed as there were insufficient opposition Cllrs present to vote on alternative proposals.

Action around the ward

Not only have I been involved in the usual work of a local Councillor dealing with many local concerns and issues but have also got stuck in helping with local clean ups, driving our regular New Year's Day bus service and helping out at community events. I have always firmly believed that being a Councillor is about a lot more than simply sitting in meetings it is about getting out in the Community and doing practical things that help people in their everyday lives.

It's been a busy year. Here are some of the highlights:

Hunters Group – This Waste removal company started storing huge amounts of waste illegally causing distress to local residents. The company has now abandoned the site and this is an ongoing issue I am dealing with.

Newsome Community Sports & Bowling Club – The Bowlers were denied access to their bowling green by the leaseholder of the Newsome Working Men's Club. I have worked closely with the bowlers to help them regain access to the site.

Local Plan - The biggest issue in many ways for the area is the draft Local Plan that proposes land for development across Kirklees. In Newsome there are 6 sites identified and one of which is on Taylor Hill Road where residents back gardens are identified as possible sites. I've raised this issue with national newspapers and even appeared on 'The One Show'

Cleaning Signs – I have continued to get involved in clean ups and practical projects including sponging down the mucky 'Welcome to Berry Brow' and 'Welcome to Newsome' signs

HRI – I have been a strong supporter of the ‘Hands Off HRI’ campaign, speaking at rallies and proposing the Council has a motion opposing the closure of our A+E services

Flying Lanterns – Green Councillors successfully proposed the banning of the release of flying lanterns on Council land due to the damage this can cause to animals when chopped into animal feed and ingested.

Weight limit at Armitage Bridge – After a long campaign we have successfully got a weight limit established through Armitage Bridge village. The next battle is to get the weight limit enforced.

This is not an exhaustive list of my activities but feel free to contact me and I can provide more information.

Follow me on twitter @clrandrewcooper and/or read my blog
www.greeningkirklees.blogspot.co.uk

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