

# Annual Report: Cllr. Mahmood Akhtar 2010/11

## Introduction

I have been serving the local community as elected Labour Councillor for Batley East ward since 2004. This has been a privilege and I am very pleased to be able to continue this service to the community. Working with my ward colleagues this year we were able to tackle many issues concerning local residents.

Cllr Mary Harkin retired from her position as ward councillor after almost 15 years of devotion and commitment to the local community. We will miss her greatly and hope she has an enjoyable retirement. Cllr Amanda Stubley is now our new ward colleague, she is very keen to help the community and I wish her all the best for her first year in office.

## Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I have attended all full Council meetings and most Labour Group meetings and I have been a member of the following Council Committees and Panels:

- Scrutiny Panel for Children and Young People
- Batley Area Committee
- Planning Sub - Committee (Heavy Woollen Area)
- Planning and Highways Committee
- The Labour Group Substitutes Panel

## Participation on Outside Bodies

This year I have also been a member of the following outside bodies:

- Soothill Community Forum
- Pakistan Muslim Welfare Society (Batley)

## Ward Work

Ward work is the most important part of our role as local councillors, as this is the time we meet residents, listen to their concerns and try our best to help with their problems.

I have continued to attend the ward meetings regularly and also conducted many home visits to deal with resident's concerns. I have continued to attend meetings and Estate Inspections with Batley Area Housing Officers and TRA representatives. As a team we have had a brilliant working relationship and now continue to deal with many local issues collectively with our new team member.

I have had the opportunity of being the safety portfolio holder for Batley last year. However this year road safety issues and problems surrounding crime, anti - social behaviour, noise pollution and neighbour disputes have still been of high priority. We continue to work alongside the Batley Policing team and other agencies to tackle drugs related and anti social behaviour issues.

Once more the extreme bad weather last year resulted in a multitude of complaints about potholes throughout the ward and lack of gritting in certain areas of Batley East. Highways officers tried their best to maintain services during the severe weather and grit as many roads as possible. Potholes were reported and repaired by Streetscene within a few weeks. Many traffic and parking

problems were brought to our attention which were reported to Streetscene and dealt with accordingly. Regular meeting with relevant officers ensure that we receive important updates and to make sure that right decisions are made for the benefit of our ward.

Unfortunately fly tipping/ rubbish dumping has been a reoccurring problem once again, which we are continuously working to resolve. We dealt with over six fly tipping problem spots and made sure that rubbish was removed from these areas and action put in place to prevent further dumping of rubbish. I continue to help resolve traffic issues and street parking problems, which have caused concerns for residents. However housing/ re-housing issues have been the main priority this year.

I have participated actively in formal group and council discussions regarding Building Schools for the Future. I have attended to numerous correspondences via email and phone regarding the concern parents and students have about the future of education in Kirklees. The Parents Alliance group have been very active in making sure that the Asian communities are able to voice their needs and concerns regarding their children's educational future.

My ward colleagues and I try our best to attend local community meetings. This year has without doubt been another pleasant year in which I feel grateful that I have had the opportunity to assist my constituents to the best of my ability. This was achieved by conducting numerous home visits as well as dealing with issues on the telephone and by email.

### **Achievements During the Year**

The key achievement for me this year was the huge majority victory in the local election for our new colleague Cllr Stubbley. Residents have shown tremendous support for which we are very grateful, our hard work and collective efforts paid off.

### **Members Surgeries**

The Members Surgeries are held at Batley Town Hall every Thursday evening from 7pm till 7.30pm. These were attended on a rota basis by Cllr Hanif Mayet, Cllr Amanda Stubbley and I.

### **Training and Development**

I have tried to keep up to date with developments and training that have taken place this year