

Annual Report: Cllr. Mohan S Sokhal 2010/11

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

From May 2010 to May 2011 I have attended all Full Council meetings and sat on the following Committees and Sub Committees:

- Standards Committee
- Huddersfield Planning Sub Committee
- Huddersfield Area Committee
- Huddersfield Planning & Highways Committee

BUSINESS MANAGER (CHIEF WHIP)

I have been appointed Labour Group Business Manager since May 2011. My role in brief is to ensure that group members are aware of the group policies and that group members vote in accordance with the group policies when required. Liaise between the group leadership and group members, ensuring that comments and information are fed back from the members to the leadership.

I have been monitoring the attendance levels of Labour members at council or committee meetings and their activities in the communities. I held a personal review with all members of the group to establish their support or other needs and agreed a way of meeting these requirements.

Participation on Outside Bodies

I have taken part in the following Bodies:

- Governor of Huddersfield New College
- School Governor of Reinwood Junior School
- Highfields Residents & Tenants Association
- Marsh Community Forum
- West Yorkshire Joint Services
- Chairman of the West Yorkshire Grants Committee
- Member of Regional Environmental Agency (Flooding)
- Hill House Lane Multi Agency Meetings
- NMG Huddersfield North Meetings
- Regular meetings with Highways Officers
- Local Police meetings

Ward Work

I have dealt with numerous cases of individual enquiries ranging from purely individual matters to broader structural issues, i.e. from community safety through to street litter. I attended many police meetings dealing with local problems and I have also dealt with many individual immigration cases, i.e. writing letters of support. I have signed several passport applications and driving licence applications.

Achievements During the Year

I have supported the improvement of pavements, carriageways and street lighting on some streets in Marsh, Paddock, Birkby and Fartown. I have alongside with my ward colleagues improved the back streets in Birkby, Fartown and Paddock through the Huddersfield North area committee budget.

A one way system has been implemented on Blacker Road shopping centre (Birkby) which has been well received by local businesses and residents. We are attempting to set up a Blacker Road shopping centre business association to improve the area.

I have been heavily involved in the upgrading of Greenhead park with 5 million pounds of English Heritage grants.

Members Surgeries

During the year, I have alongside my ward colleagues carried out mobile surgeries every Saturday morning. We knock at doors and meet residents to talk about the issues of concern to them. We leave our business cards with contact numbers. We have found the mobile surgeries to be more successful than the static surgeries.

During the year, we have produced and distributed various types of leaflets providing information about Council services or work in the area.

We have produced and distributed quarterly newsletters providing information about the work we have carried out in the ward.

Training and Development

I have attended Kirklees Council's workshop seminars on Full Council Meetings. Also, as part of the Labour Group's training and information sharing programme I have:

- Attended Magistrates' day training courses.
- Attended planning and highways training seminar.
- Attended Kirklees Licensing Training