

Annual Report: Cllr. Mohan S Sokhal 2012/13

Introduction

I have been appointed Labour Group Business Manager since May 2012 and was re elected again in May 2013. 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 at Council Meeting Committees

From May 2012 to May 2013 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
- Licensing and Safety Committee
- Heavy Woollen Planning Sub Committee
- Labour Group Meetings

Participation on Outside Bodies

I have taken part in the following Bodies:

- Marsh Community Forum
- West Yorkshire Joint Services Substitute list
- Hill House Lane Multi Agency Meetings
- NMG Huddersfield North Meetings and Ward meetings
- Regular meetings with Highways Officers
- Local Police meetings
- Kirklees Passenger Consultative Panel

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.

I maintained regular contact with my local constituents and established new relationships within the local community of all sections. There were no Local Elections this year.

I am happy with our hard work we have a Labour Controlled Council headed by our brilliant Council Leader Councillor Mehboob Khan.

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 was involved with my colleagues in introducing a new permit parking and waiting restriction scheme on Syringa Street/Mint Street, Marsh and Blacker Road North Birkby. A new traffic calming scheme has been introduced on Birkby Hall Road to improve the safety of pedestrians and drivers.

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.

I worked hard in the local By- elections in June and gained a seat from Tories in Liversedge and Gomersal

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.

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 Neighbourhood Management Group Training
Attended Kirklees Benefits Advice Service Training
Attended Planning and Highways Training
Attended Kirklees Licensing Training