

Annual Report 2015/16

Introduction

This has been my first year as a Councillor for the Kirkburton Ward and I have enjoyed representing the varied communities and villages that make up the Ward. This has been a busy period with the year overshadowed by the Local Plan proposals, especially the proposal for a Farnley Country Park which met with widespread opposition and I have worked alongside local resident groups in opposing these proposals. I have also played a full role in supporting the two Libraries that we have in the Ward and have trained as a Library Volunteer.

Council Meetings Attended

I am a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet and attend our regular meetings as lead member for Economy and Skills. My Council duties include the Huddersfield Planning Committee, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, the Kirklees Historic Building Trust, and a Member of the Kirklees Rural Committee. I have also attended the Personnel Committee as a sub. I have also been an active member of the Kirkburton Parish Council.

I have spoken on behalf of residents about planning applications and held a number of public meetings in the ward about the impact of the Local Plan. I also attended community group meetings which were also focussing on the impact of the plan and I helped draft a response to the plan on behalf of the Shepley Village Association of which I am an Officer.

Ward Work

My duties here have been wide and varied. I have been active in helping residents with a wide range of issues including problems with refuse collection, skip removals, Council Tax and other benefits road sweeping, overgrown vegetation, repairs to roads, footpaths, gullies and road signs and even the provision of new street nameplates.

I have been involved in many planning matters, supporting and guiding local residents both in favour of and in opposing applications and I have supported the local community in opposing the original proposals for a wheel park in Highburton.

I have held several meetings with officers regarding concerns about the provision of social care for vulnerable adults in rural areas and supported the safer communities campaign, helping both Mencap & Age UK access community groups in the Ward.

I have worked with local residents in addressing noise issues relating to wind turbines and supported residents in opposing planning applications for wind turbines in inappropriate places. I have also helped local residents affected by the operations of one of the quarries in the Ward and have held meetings with Marshalls about establishing better community relations via a Residents Liaison Committee.

I supported the village of Shepley in applying for Village Green status for land in the village and assisted them in the May Day celebrations to support its successful registration. I have also helped many groups access grants including those offered

by the District Committee and by the Parish Council and have given guidance on completing applications.

I am a Library Volunteer, Secretary of Shepley Village Association and a Director of the Shepley Hub which has been established to help maintain the Library in the Village. I am also a local Parish Councillor.