

Annual Report: Cllr. Kath Pinnock 2010/11

Introduction

It is a privilege to continue to serve the people of Cleckheaton Ward as their councillor. Throughout the year I have worked with my ward colleagues to get improvements in our area and a better deal for local people.

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

Formal public meetings:

- Full Council Meetings
- Member Spen Valley Area Committee
- Personnel Committee

Informal meetings:

- All party budget development group
- regular meetings of Group Leaders
- regular meetings with the Chief Executive and other senior council officers to promote issues of concern to the Liberal Democrat Group and to Cleckheaton Ward residents
- fortnightly meetings of the Liberal Democrat Group to develop policy and discuss issues of concern to residents
- Spen Valley Area Committee preparation meeting
- Neighbourhood Management Group - monthly meeting with Police, and relevant council officers to solve local issues
- Spen Valley Area Forum - meeting of local Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) tenants representatives. Cleckheaton ward councillors ensure that one of us is at the meetings

Participation on Outside Bodies

- Chair of the Governing Body of Whitcliffe Mount School - Specialist Business and Enterprise College
- chair of the WM Curriculum Committee
- member WM Finance Committee
- trustee of Scholes Village Shelter
- member of the Local Government Association
- member of the Local Government Association Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
- member of the LGA Liberal Democrat Improvement Board
- regional peer member for the Improvement and Development Agency - IDeA
- Yorkshire Forward Board member

Ward Work

- Keeping residents informed of local issues through our regular FOCUS
- keeping residents informed on an issue affecting them using a variety of means - letters, meetings, emails
- holding surgeries every week at two venues - we hold more than any other ward in Kirklees
- asking residents for their views on a number of local issues particularly on planning applications
- helped over a thousand local people with individual queries

- supported / helped the Cleckheaton Folk Festival; Wobbly Tots; tenants organisations including helping to establish a new TRA in Scholes
- close working with the local Police team to deal with local issues and to reduce crime
- continued action to get the Park Fisheries building, owned by Tesco, refurbished and brought back into use
- action to get the Westgate derelict mill site cleared to prevent serious accidents and improving the entrance to our town
- raising a petition of 1,000 + in support of the new cancer treatment unit at Dewsbury Hospital
- supporting parents and residents to try and get the best possible school facilities for young people in Cleckheaton
- continuing campaign to get the Young People's Service to start the work on the new centre in Cleckheaton
- successfully campaigned to keep the Bus Station open
- on-going Save our Cheque campaign
- worked with residents to get traffic speed reduced in Oakenshaw
- continuing to campaign for a 6th Form College for young people in our area
- agreement for funding to improve the paths in the Memorial Park
- Spen Beck Countryside Park - first successful actions in clearing overgrown areas and opening discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund about potential funding for the restoration of our unique viaduct

Achievements During the Year

- Supporting town centre businesses with shop front grants
- working with the Scouts to get replacement of the Scout huts next to St John's Church hall within the Young People's Centre. This has been delayed due to the financial situation but I will continue to work hard to get this much needed facility
- Warm Zone - this Liberal Democrat policy has had a 75% take up in Cleckheaton Ward. It cuts fuel bills on average by £200 per year - every year. It also cuts carbon emissions. Successfully got Council and KNH to extend Warm Zone to KNH properties
- new street lighting at Greenroyd Avenue, Hunsworth and Clare Road, Cleckheaton
- Vine Street resurfaced
- spring clean of overgrown sites: viaduct access, Old Robin, Thom's Bridge, Wickham St. Scholes
- worked with my fellow ward councillors to get a free bus service while the M62 Whitechapel Road Bridge is replaced
- leading the debate against the unnecessary so-called free school in Birkenshaw and how, if this goes ahead, it will seriously disadvantage children attending other schools

... and much more besides

Members Surgeries

Weekly surgeries held every Saturday except Bank Holidays as follows: -

- Cleckheaton Town Hall (10.00am - 10.30am)
- Scholes Church Hall (10.45am - 11.15am)

I also keep in touch with residents via my website www.kathpinnock.org.uk and twitter @kathpinnock

Training and Development

- Policy development - attended Liberal Democrat Group away days; briefings from officers on BSF; Budget; LDF and many others
- skills development - included - starting a Twitter account