

Annual Report: Cllr. Charles Greaves 2012/13

Introduction

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me last May and for the many people who have helped and supported me during the campaign and since. Together we made Holme Valley North an Independent ward. While there are many factors that make up this achievement, the most important one to myself is that by working for our community, people can see what we have done, that they know how we do things and, most importantly of all, that we care.

I have had a busy, and often difficult first year as a Councillor and my thanks go to my friends and family who have helped and supported me over the year and to Terry Lyons and Edgar Holroyd-Doveton who have shown me the ropes! The full impact of the substantial Government funding cuts is already being felt and with more cuts coming it is a difficult time for all. There are no easy answers and there will be serious impacts on local jobs and services.

Fitting in the competing demands of my family, job, voluntary work and council duties has been a challenge and it means that I always have a full diary - but I like to play an active part in village life and over the year I have continued to build up my connections with local groups and organisations across the ward.

Ward Work

There have been some great successes in our ward, with bigger and better community events, the completion of many local projects and the launch of many more. There are very few things that I do that aren't part of bigger work being undertaken by residents and local groups - whether it is Planning issues, Road works, Anti-Social behaviour, Dog fouling, Walkers are Welcome, Sports and Leisure provision - I can't and don't take credit for these as they are truly the achievements of our own community - I do my bit to help, fund and facilitate them, and it is a pleasure to see them coming into effect.

There have been much good work in our ward, but there have also been many challenges. The plans to sell council buildings in Meltham, the fight to extend the 20mph zone to include the school, improvements to Broadlands Rec, and the Morrisons supermarket extension are all ongoing. Honley has seen the closure of its Public Toilets, the threat of closure to its library and the deal to build a new supermarket on the main road. Brockholes has finally seen the backlog of street and road work being progressed. Wilshaw has major problems with speeding traffic, Oldfield with buses and stone theft, and Helme with parking and congestion. These are all issues that we are seeking to address and for which we will need the help and support of our communities in order to succeed.

Myself and Terry and Edgar work hard to make sure that the voice of our community is heard and is listened to - but only time will tell if the Council has a genuine desire to address the issues that we have raised, and the commitment to provide the resources to make them happen.

I am and always will be independent, and I will continue to work hard for the people that I represent, alongside anyone who supports people before politics. I am happy to explain my actions and to be honest about what I do, and I am happy to work alongside all of the established parties.

During the year we have opened up dialogue and discussions with all groups, and whilst Town Hall deals have limited our ability to bring about a co-operative approach to politics, we remain committed to bringing councillors together to work for the good of all our residents.

I look forward to another year representing all the people in Brockholes, Helme, Honley, Meltham, Oldfield and Wilshaw and to doing my part to keep our villages special places in which to live. If you have an idea, issue or a concern, please get in touch - and I will do what I can to help.