

Annual Report: Cllr. Charles Greaves 2013/14

Introduction

I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported our work over the year. Honley, Meltham and Brockholes are alive with community groups who are tackling problems head on, organising events and festivals and contributing towards making our village's better places to live. Without a strong community we would not be able to accomplish much, and our close relationships mean that people know who to turn to, and how to get the help that they need. Working together for the benefit of our community, people can see what we have done, that they know how we do things and, most importantly of all, that we care.

Ward Work

It has been a busy and often difficult year, the full impact of the substantial Government funding cuts are 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, but we are committed to doing everything that we can to limit the impact on the services and facilities that people need.

Myself, 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.

Fitting in the competing demands of family, job, voluntary work and Council duties is always 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 our connections with local groups and organisations across the ward.

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 we do that aren't linked in to the work of local groups - Carnivals, Events, Planning issues, road works, footpath problems, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling, and sports and leisure provision - are undertaken as a partnership, and our successes are truly the achievements of our community in which we play our part.

There has been much good work in our ward, but there have also been many challenges. We have major problems with new developments, dog fouling, potholes, speeding traffic, parking and congestion - and in response to these we have funded additional potholing and road patching work all across the ward, deployed "Speed Indicator Devices" on our roads, introduced parking restrictions on dangerous areas and eased restrictions to free up parking - and we are looking at further measures alongside the Police and Kirklees Highways.

In Meltham the highlights have been the creation of the skate park, the transfer of the Carlisle building to the community, and the extension of the 20mph zone to include the school. In Honley we have resurfaced the car parks, funded new signage for the junior school, and we are leading the fight to maintain the library. Brockholes has seen the backlog of street works progressed and we have plans to improve the main play area over the coming months.

I am and always will be an independent and will continue to work hard for the people 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.