

Name: Cllr Charles Greaves	Year Elected:2012	Ward: Holme Valley North
<p>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 villages 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.</p> <p>Government funding cuts are biting hard and we are seeing a major backlog of road works being neglected because of the lack of funding. There are no easy answers and there will be more 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. The prospect of even more cuts to come is very worrying and if it wasn't for what was happening locally it would be all doom and gloom.</p> <p>Myself and Terry and Edgar work hard to make sure that the voice of our community is heard and is listened to. We are keen to see a real devolution of power, not just from Westminster but from Kirklees as well – to give power back to people to decide what is important for them - 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.</p> <p>Fitting in the competing demands of family, job, voluntary work and council duties is always a challenge and it means that my diary is always full– 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.</p> <p>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. Honley in Bloom is a partnership between our local community groups and Kirklees, and the Friends of Honley library are working hard to encourage the whole village to come to library events. The improvement work on Brockholes Rock Recreation ground is now complete and Brockholes has also seen vital work on the drainage and surface of the two hillside roads which have caused many problems over the years. In Meltham the highlights have been the continuing progress of the Carlile building with the launch of the business space, and the completion of the extensions to Meltham skatepark.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There have 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 commissioned additional potholing and road patching work all across the ward, upgraded the "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.</p> <p>I am and always will be an 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.</p> <p>We have ongoing dialogue and discussions with all political groups, and whilst party politics has limited our ability to bring about a co-operative approach to running the council, we remain committed to bringing councillors together to work for the good of all our residents.</p> <p>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.</p>		