

Annual Report: Cllr. Steve Hall 2011/12

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

Over the last year I have sat on the following committees:

- Heavy Woollen Planning
- Planning and Highways
- Regeneration and Development
- Spen Area Committee
- Various TRA meetings
- Full Council

As I am a Labour Group substitute, I have also sat on most Huddersfield Planning Committees and also Licensing.

At meetings I listen to what people have to say and then have my say if I think I need to. At one meeting with a developer, I backed a fellow Labour member who stated her case for bungalows and we got them - only to lose out to another developer.

Meetings that make a big difference are the Spen Area Committee and the Neighbourhood Management Group (NMG) which is for all 3 Spen Wards. Information is exchanged and various schemes for the Spen Valley are discussed. The NMG takes place in private, all the agencies that take part are able to bring local problems to light so they can be dealt with.

Participation on Outside Bodies

Outside the council I am a member of the Community First Group in Heckmondwike.

Ward Work

Ward work is similar year on year. I have attended public meetings regarding school parking, planning and traffic problems.

In winter residents want to know when their grit bin is going to be filled or their road gritted. A good thing Kirklees Streetscene is doing is providing councillors with updates on how many gritting teams are out in their area and what time the work started. When you can tell residents this information, it does say this is what the Council is doing to get things back on line.

I have had meetings with traders in Heckmondwike Market to try to bring in more business.

Along with my two fellow Heckmondwike Labour councillors, we have had a stall in the market to help promote our role and that of the council. We have handed out leaflets with various information and contact phone numbers. So far it has worked well as the public can see us and have a chat or have a go!

Achievements During the Year

For the ward as a whole a massive achievement would be to have the Library and Information Centre and bus station built.

We have had major investment in the park last year and also the first Petanque terrain in Kirklees and in a few months membership has grown to 50.

I and my colleagues have also done well with affordable housing, having the first council houses to be built in Kirklees in over 20 years. We are also having a 53 bed care home built in the ward.

I have visited mosques in the ward to help get railings erected at the roadside and better lighting.

Finally, a personal achievement was to retain my place on the council with a majority of 1609. This shows hard work does pay off but there will still be much to do in the years to come.