

Annual Report: Cllr. Viv Kendrick 2010/11

Introduction

I was very pleased and grateful to be elected as a Councillor for the Heckmondwike ward and would like to thank everyone who voted for me and had faith in my commitment to work hard for the people of Heckmondwike. Regardless of whether or not Heckmondwike residents voted for me, I promise to help and assist all residents as much as I can.

I would also like to give particular thanks to Labour party members who helped and supported me through the election campaign.

2010 -11 has been a very busy year and shows no sign of slowing down in 2011-12!

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I have attended:

Full Council Meetings

Planning & Highways Committee

Planning Committee (but only as a substitute when another member cannot attend)

Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny Panel

School Transport Appeals

Spennings Area Committee & the Committee's Planning Meetings

Fostering Panel

Neighbourhood Management Group - meeting with the Police, Fire Service, KNH, Streetscene, and Community workers etc to look at issues/problems in the ward.

Ward Meetings with Highways/StreetScene, Community workers to decide on how to progress issues in the ward.

Ward Councillor Meetings - to discuss local issues with colleagues in the ward.

Spennings Valley TRA Forum

Batley & Spennings Tenants & Resident Committee

I have also regularly attended:

Labour Group meetings

Heckmondwike Labour Party meetings

Local Government Committee of the Labour party

Tenants & Residents Committee Meetings of Brighton St TRA and Dale Lane TRA

I have also attended a number of 'one-off' meetings with groups of local residents and other organisations such as:-

Panel Member of the Yorkshire & Humberside Assembly on Poverty

Meetings at local Heckmondwike schools

Meeting at the Leaside Children's Centre

Friends of Spennings Beck

Flood Awareness

Volunteer Awards Celebration for a wide range of local volunteers

Ward Work

I started to become involved in some casework whilst campaigning to be elected and during the year have dealt with 231 cases. These cases covered a wide range of issues such as income and benefit problems, refuse collection, crime & fear of crime, council house repairs, obtaining a council property, fly tipping, neighbour disputes, road safety issues and infestations. I have also worked with and represented groups of residents with particular local issues such as problems with footpaths, residential care, fly tipping, noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour and planning issues.

For most of the year I and my ward colleagues, Cllrs Hall and Sheard, have stood at a market stall once a month but most of the issues and cases that I have dealt with have arisen through telephone contact or email followed up by home visits.

My telephone contact number is 07747791686 and my email address is viv.kendrick@kirklees.gov.uk I welcome contact from any Heckmondwike resident who wishes to discuss a problem with me. I am sometimes not available because I am in a meeting but please leave a message and I will get back to you.

It has been a problem to find a suitable building in which to hold regular surgeries but I may be able to resolve this in the near future.

Achievements During the Year

- Provision of traffic calming measures to discourage speeding cars & lorries cutting through a residential area.
- Representing local residents to have an unusable footpath closed which was a site attracting anti-social behaviour.
- Getting gates put on the bottom entrance to the cemetery to prevent 'joy-riding' around the cemetery grounds.
- Organising public meetings and supporting a group of Council tenants to form a tenants & residents association to address problems with their properties and surrounding area.
- Resurfacing of 3 unadopted streets that were in a serious state of disrepair and providing additional street lighting in one of them.
- Getting an issue about residential care for adults with learning disabilities looked at by a Scrutiny Panel and addressing the issue directly with the Primary Care Trust.
- Improvements to Firth park.

Many of the achievements in Heckmondwike have been accomplished by co-working with my fellow ward Councillors and also some have been achieved through joint working with our local MP Mike Woods and his team. My thanks to them.

Training and Development

The amount and range of training and development for a new councillor is substantial and very worthwhile. Below are listed some of the trainings that I have attended:-

Induction for new Councillors

Planning - both the introduction and annual Planning training but also had the opportunity for briefings from a range of Planning Officers and to accompany one on site.

Corporate Parenting - about the responsibilities for looked after children.

Overview/Scrutiny - what is the role of Scrutiny Panels

Health Scrutiny Training

Website and Intranet

Housing Induction

Safeguarding Adults

Public speaking

Excel training - to use spreadsheets more effectively

Fostering panel training and induction

Total Respect - training delivered by looked after young people.

Introduction to Streetscene

Picture of Kirklees Conference