

Councillor Annual Report – Michael Edwards 2017-18

I was elected to Nottingham City Council from Bridge ward on 20th October 2011. This report is for the civic year of May 2017 to April 2018.

Lord Mayor

I served as Lord Mayor of Nottingham (from 8 May 2017 - 14 May 2018), attending at around 380 events.

The duties are additional to those of ward Councillor and include chairing meetings, acting as First Citizen, giving speeches and making people feel welcome and being proud of Nottingham.

I sought to promote the stories of Nottingham, especially stories of radical action such as the Pentrich Revolution and the Great Cheese Riots of 1766.

I loaded 5,906 photos as souvenirs for guests and visitors (see Flickr “LordMayorMike” - <https://www.flickr.com/people/154928849@N03/>).

There is a full review of the year available -

<https://michaelmedwards.wordpress.com/2018/05/14/lord-mayor-2017-18/> .

Roles

I serve as -

- a member of the Planning Committee (as a substitute since May 2017) and the Police panel as a substitute (until May 2018);
- Chair of the Audit committee (since May 2018) a member of Licensing committee (since May 2018) and the Area 8 committee;
- a council nominated member of the EnviroEnergy Board;
- a council nominated member of the Queens Walk Community Association;
- a member of Heritage Boards overseeing the award of grants to restore buildings along Carrington Street and within the city centre.

I attend public meetings, tenants and residents groups’ meetings (NeMTRA and OMTRA), and have supported -

- the Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens and the In Bloom campaigns in their work,
- the Friends of the Meadows Library.

I attend the Meadows & Clifton Family and Communities Advisory Board meetings (whose work includes oversight of Sure Start Centres).

I hold advice “surgeries” at the Meadows Library (as well as collecting casework at the Bridgeway Shopping Centre) and I attend ward walks.

Way of working

I seek to add value as an elected representative - celebrating our free society and embracing the principles of public life; demonstrating how we can achieve more together in partnership and through public services; helping those most who need most help; and meeting the challenges of today and the future (local jobs for local people, an ageing society, climate change and energy security).

For current services and new initiatives, I test the vision, the planning and the performance management, the capacity, capability and culture, the overall legitimacy; and whether it is inspirational.

I try to visit sites of planning applications in the ward that have been referred to Planning committee and have sought to promote greener architecture and facilities for bikes in particular.

As of 30th April 2018, and since the by-election, around 2080 items of concern (“cases”, including - demands for improvements, requests for information, concerns about failure in service delivery) that require some form of oversight have been logged, probably from around 867 or so clients. Whilst walking around, I also report problems in the public domain (including tipping and litter, road and pavements defects) directly to specific council officers, for them to deal with; there may well have been some hundreds of such reports that were not formally logged.

I met many hundreds of residents during the 2017 election.

Much of my work is reported on a photo-based blog which I began in October 2012 – <http://www.michaelmedwards.wordpress.com>.

New Opportunities in the Meadows and the Challenges that come with them

Main campaigns have been -

- introduction of the extended tram systems; and dealing with outstanding snagging works (including re-connection of CCTV cameras);
- tackling ASB in Arkwright Walk;
- residents parking permits for most of the New Meadows;
- using all the Bridgeway Shopping Centres units;
- the new cricket pavilion for Meadows Recreation Ground, and improving Victoria Embankment;
- new play equipment for the west of the New Meadows (since installed on The Green);
- challenging rogue private landlords, especially in the Wilford Grove neighbourhood;
- identifying trees in the public domain that are most in need of pruning;
- recognising Crocus Street as part of The Meadows when exploring the potential for development;
- objecting to a free school being sited next to a thriving engineering business, and
- seeking style, detail and decoration in designs for significant new buildings.

Crime has generally remained low in The Meadows, although special attention has been required along Arkwright Walk, and now a number of locations throughout The Meadows. The knifing incidents in April in The Meadows required action. (A public meeting was called on June 1st 2018 and Police action since has had a significant impact.) People asking for money in the city centre and taking drugs in the city centre has been a concern.

The number of complaints about the services provided by Nottingham City Homes has remained low.

More queries and issues have been associated with growing commuter parking in residential areas and plans to improve parks.

The introduction of permits for the west of the New Meadows had a significant impact. Many more cars are parked along Robin Hood Way and in streets off it; parking by commuters at Bridgeway Shopping Centre has got worse and parking at the old tennis courts off Wilford Crescent West has grown. A public meeting

was held in the summer to announce more permits for the roads off Robin Hood Way and wider visibility splays at the junctions. NCH are consulting on introducing RINGGO at the shopping centre. Parks met OMTRA and are planning a knee-high rail to mark out the limit of parking at the old tennis courts.

Pleased to see play equipment and goal posts installed on The Green in the West Meadows. Parks have consulted about extra equipment for the Queens Walk Recreation Ground and are to consult about extra goal posts on the grass patch alongside Arkwright Walk and a major renewal of the Memorial Gardens at the Victoria Embankment. I have publicly supported the memorial planned to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

Previous achievements include the engineering changes to avoid cutting at least 27 trees down for the tram, introducing 20mph speed zones, the retention of Portland Leisure Centre through transfer to a trust, defending plans to double the capacity of Riverside school and the continuation of decent homes work. It was a pleasure to see the refurbishment of "crosswall" semi-detached houses, new street lighting throughout The Meadows and to attend the opening of the extension to the outstanding Welbeck primary school, improvements to the Victoria Embankment and Meadows Recreation Ground (road resurfacing, NHS outdoor gym etc.).

A Meadows regeneration plan has previously been issued and updated. The new NCH houses and bungalows are built and welcomed Private housing is being constructed along Arkwright Walk. I am looking forward to the new service overseeing private landlords.

Meadows concerns

There has been a continued determination to tackle tipping.

City Centre concerns

I have reported issues concerning the public domain, ASB (especially fast and/or loud cars) and begging.

Plans for renewing Broadmarsh shopping centre and a new college on Suffolk Street are huge opportunities and bring major challenges.

City concerns

I continue to take interest in the use of the railway station.

Impact of cuts in public spending

I have liaised and sought to help on the following issues of concern –

- Cuts in benefits to those most in need, especially families with disabled children, means Meadows Advice Group has needed to reach even more people.

Personal

Lots enjoyed as Lord Mayor, especially -

- Meadows activists bringing a Meadows banner to the Lord Mayor's Parade;
- celebrating the Pentrich Revolution and the Luddites;
- the Chinasaurs and Hunter the life-size puppet;
- the Caribbean themed ball, organised for and by Nottingham Central Women's Aid and supported by Samantha Morton;
- the St. Patrick's Day Parade - in spite of the sudden bursts of snowfall;
- [Appearing on Radio Nottingham to celebrate 8 music tracks.](#)

I appreciated and valued the help of my family, Councillor Glyn Jenkins, Aimi & Mandy, Hunter, Meadows activists and the civic office of the city council.

As ward councillor, I especially enjoyed -

- the equipping of The Green;
- the Ancestors masquerade troupe's shows and Carnival.

I appreciate and value the help of Councillor Nicola Heaton, Lilian Greenwood MP & her staff, and the caseworkers of the city council.

Dated 29th June 2018