

Councillor Annual Report 2016/17

Name: Cllr Nicola Heaton

I was elected in May 2011 to represent Bridge ward, which includes the Meadows, the City Centre, and Castle Marina.

I am also studying at the University of Birmingham, and have previously worked for the Labour Party.

I currently sit on Area 8, Corporate Parenting Board, Licensing Committee, the City Centre Forum, and the Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Panel. I was Portfolio Holder for Community Services 2013-17.

Ward Work and Achievements

I and my fellow ward councillor, Michael Edwards, hold regular surgeries to allow residents to meet with us and raise issues, concerns and cases. Surgeries take place at 10.30am-12noon at the Meadows Library on the second Saturday of each month, and from 4-6pm on the first and third Friday of every month. We also hold roving surgeries.

We try to be as accessible as possible and use social media to engage and interact with residents as well as more traditional communication by telephone, email and post.

Cllr Edwards and I regularly attend meetings of Community Groups, such as the Old Meadows Tenants and Residents (OMTRA), New Meadows Tenants and Residents (NEMTRA), and the Meadows Partnership Trust (MPT).

We have monthly "Ward Walks" with Council, Nottingham City Homes, Police and Community Protection colleagues, so that we can talk to residents about issues affecting them, and identify priorities for action, such as cleansing, enforcement activity, repairs and replacement of signs, bins, etc.

Our priorities are:

- Keeping the area safe and clean, particularly working with the police and community protection to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Tackling parking problems and introducing residents parking schemes where residents want them.
- Improving parks and green spaces including Queens Walk Recreation Ground, the Victoria Embankment, Arkwright Walk, and the Green.
- Supporting community groups and working with local residents associations including OMTRA and NEMTRA.
- Ensuring that there are activities to engage young people, and free events for the whole community.

Use of Devolved Budgets

We have:

- Funded floral displays at Bridgeway Shopping Centre.
- Supported Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens to hold free Spring, Summer and Autumn public events.
- Supported Nottingham Music Service and Nottingham Carnival.
- Supported local Street Cricket sessions, a Manzil cohesion event, an Eid event, and poetry at the Meadows library.
- Run a Your Choice Your Voice event to distribute approximately 20 small grants to local groups.
- Funded a Christmas Tree and run a lights switch-on event with local school children.

Challenges

- Crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly an increase in drugs-related issues.
- Ensuring a visible uniform presence is maintained to deter anti-social behaviour.
- Ensuring that derelict land is looked-after, and cleaned, by property owners, and empty properties are maintained and brought back into use.
- Ensuring that local community groups are supported and remain viable,
- Providing free events to support local families and bring communities together.