

Councillor Annual Report 2015-16

Name: Councillor Sally Longford

I was elected in May 2011 to represent Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Ward. The ward includes University Park and Jubilee Campus.

I am a retired teacher.

I currently hold the position of Chief Whip of Labour Group.

I am a City Council appointed Director of Groundwork Greater Nottingham and of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures.

I am a member of the Nottingham City Planning Committee, Corporate Parenting Board, Licensing Committee, Regulatory & Appeals Committee and Standards Committee as well as Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Area Committee.

I am a Local Authority Governor of Middleton Primary School, Harrow Road, Wollaton and I am a Governor on the Nottingham City Virtual School Governing Body.

4. Ward Work and Achievements

I and my fellow ward councillor, Sam Webster, hold regular surgeries to allow residents to meet with us and raise issues, concerns and cases. Surgeries take place on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Sheila Roper Community Centre in Lenton Abbey (6pm – 7pm) and 4th Saturday of every month at Wollaton Park Community Centre on Harrow Road (11am-12pm).

We have also held surgeries at University Park and we both sit on the Student Issues group along with representatives of the Student Unions.

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. We maintain a 'Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Councillors' Facebook page with announcements about local events, issues and our work. I also tweet on @sallylongford.

We report back to hundreds of local residents monthly via our email newsletter. To receive this each month please contact us with your name, home address and email address.

We attend meetings of Community Groups, such as the Lenton Abbey Residents' Association, Wollaton Park Residents' Association, Lenton Abbey Family Fun Day Association (LAFFDA), Highfields Users Group, Wollaton Park Over 50s Coffee Morning and Friends of Wollaton Park.

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.

Priorities

Our priorities are:

- Improving standards in private rented accommodation – making full use of the City Council's Additional Licensing Scheme for HMOs (homes in multiple occupation) to tackle rogue landlords.
- Maintaining a balanced community by using planning rules to prevent more family dwellings becoming HMOs
- Tackling parking problems and introducing residents parking schemes where residents want them
- Delivering insulation schemes in Wollaton Park Estate and Lenton Abbey to insulate homes
- Improving parks and green spaces including Lenton Abbey Park, Highfields Park and Sutton Passeys playground
- Protecting local bus services from cuts including the L5 Local-link bus service
- Working with local residents associations including LARA and WPRA
- Working in close partnership with Nottingham University Students Union to ensure we represent the interests of students
- Continue to support free events for communities in Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey

5. Learning and Development

- Nottingham City Council training for School Governors

6. Use of Devolved Budgets

We have:

- Opened a new refurbished accessible playground on Sutton Passeys Crescent.
- Introduced a residents' parking scheme in the Charles Avenue area.
- Found new tenants for and cleared neglected allotment sites in Lenton Abbey
- Installed a new litter bin on Middleton Boulevard
- Funded a nature pond at Highfields Park which will form part of a bigger improvement scheme
- Banned verge parking on a stretch of Woodside Road. This project which will continue.
- Funded free events including Christmas lights switch on and Lenton Abbey Family Fun Day (LAFFDA).
- Supported the Fabulous Fun Day in Farndon Green
- Funded school holiday activities for local children
- Part funded new equipment including 5-a-side goal posts, table tennis tables and outdoor gym equipment on Lenton Abbey Park

7. Challenges

- Refurbishment of Sheila Roper Centre, Tenants Hall Close.
- Supporting community groups in Lenton Abbey through their merger.
- Continue to roll out the verge parking restrictions on Woodside Road, enabling people to have off-street parking and restoration of verges, within a diminishing budget.
- Bring forward solid wall insulation projects for all tenants and residents who want it in Lenton Abbey and Wollaton Park Estate.

- Work with the University of Nottingham Student Union to spread the word about Additional Licensing of HMOs, so that students understand their rights and how the Council can help them.