

Councillor Annual Report 2015/16

Andrew Rule

1. Introduction

I was elected to Nottingham City Council in May 2015 representing the ward of Clifton North which includes areas of Clifton, Wilford and Silverdale. I have lived in the ward for over 6 years and care passionately about it.

It is a huge privilege to represent the ward and I feel that the understanding I have of the area from living within it enhances my ability to put forward the views of residents in Clifton North.

In addition as a member of the Opposition Group on the Council I have the responsibility to scrutinising decisions taken by the Council's Executive and have taken part as a panel member of two call-in panels over the last year. I have additionally questioned portfolio holders at Full Council in relation to the following areas directly applicable to Clifton North:

- The completion of tram works in the ward and whether penalty payments from its late completion could be utilised to fund road repairs to diversionary roads used by construction traffic;
- The closure of the Laura Chamber's Nursing Home;
- What ward councillors in Clifton North could do to ensure that council owned properties were included in the City Council's solar panel expansion programme.

2. Council Involvement

Group Treasurer of Conservative Group

Member of Area 8 Committee

Member of Audit Committee

Member of Planning Committee

Member of Trusts and Charities Committee

Reserve member of Regulatory & Appeals Committee

3. Community Involvement

I attend the following outside bodies and community groups:

Clifton Community Group

NG11 Foodbank

Wilford Community Group

Iremongers Pond Association

Silverdale Community Association

Silverdale Local Action Group

4. Ward Work and Achievements

Throughout the year I have undertaken a number of pieces of casework across all areas within the ward. The topics have been varied and include:

- Liaising with colleagues in NET to log and finding solutions to a number of snagging issues with the tram line in all areas of the Ward;
- Working with the community protection and police beat teams to respond to a spate of vehicle thefts at the start of year in Silverdale and Wilford;
- Meeting regularly with Town Centre Coordinator in Clifton to review progress of the regeneration of Clifton's Town Centre;
- Meeting with residents to look at concerns regarding the condition and ongoing maintenance of the boundary with the A453 at Clifton Grove.

- Forwarding residents concerns in relation to problem trees in the ward to ensure they were included in the city-wide tree improvement programme
- Supporting and attending community events in the Ward;

I hold surgeries **every** month in all three areas within Clifton North:

- 2nd Sunday of month from 12:00 to 1:30pm at Wilford Social & Bowls Club, 55 Main Road, Wilford
- 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6.15pm to 7.45 pm at the Silverdale Community Centre, The Downs, Silverdale
- 3rd Sunday of the month from 11:30 am till 1:00 pm at the Clifton Community Centre, Southchurch Drive, Clifton

I have been allocated 4 ward walks with council officers which have covered areas in Wilford, Silverdale and Clifton but will be supplementing these over the next year with “roving” surgeries with the aim of covering each street in the ward twice over the calendar year.

5. Learning and Development

I have undertaken a number of internal courses to assist me in developing my skills to be a councillor and to increase my understanding of the various departments and processes available to me as a member of the opposition group on the council.

I have used the information gained from these courses to enable me to scrutinise the decision making process within the Council.

6. Use of Devolved Budgets

I have approved financial support to the following schemes from my ward allocation to support the following projects:

- Family Community Team Summer Programme
- The Old School in Wilford
- Literacy Volunteers Programme
- Wilford Church Luncheon Club
- Clifton 1st Scouts Group
- Wilford Community Event: May Day
- Children’s Bonfire at Wilford Village Bonfire Event
- Nottingham Music School
- Floral Display in Wilford Village
- Wilford Community Event: Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebration

I welcome funding applications for projects by groups from all areas of the ward.

In addition I have supported funding for the following projects from the Area Capital Fund:

- Tree works throughout Ward
- Village green protection in Wilford
- Footpath repairs in Clifton Grove
- Parking restrictions in Clifton Estate
- Investigation into installation of a right filter light in Wilford Village
- Replacement of school signage throughout the ward
- Reinstatement of footpaths at Fairham Brook

7. Challenges

The allocation of area capital budgets is and will doubtless continue to be a significant challenge over the coming years with Clifton North’s allocation being one

of the lowest in the City to meet the costs of the various schemes that have been shortlisted for councillor consideration.

Over the past year my employment arrangements have meant that it is has sometimes proved a personal challenge to attend all the community group meetings that take place in the Ward, in particular the Silverdale Community Association, this is something I will work to resolve over the next year.