

Councillor Annual Report 2016/17

Name: 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 7 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 for scrutinising decisions taken by the Council's Executive. Over the last year I have raised questions on the following areas, amongst others, at Full Council:

- Implementation of paid parking permit schemes in the City;
- The progress of Robin Hood Energy;
- Requesting a review of the collection periods for garden waste

In addition I have called in two decisions made by the Council's Executive in order that they received closer scrutiny:

- An order giving the Council powers to ban dogs from certain parks and other green spaces in the City – as a result of the call-in it was agreed that before powers could be exercised in this way local residents would be consulted prior to powers being exercised.
- A decision made by the Leader of the Council to redevelop the Angel Row Library in the City Centre – it was agreed that no final decision would be taken pending the conclusions of a feasibility study into the plan.

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 Association

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:

- Working with the police beat team and colleagues in Community Protection to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in hotspot areas in the Ward
- Meeting regularly with Town Centre Coordinator in Clifton to review progress of the regeneration of Clifton's Town Centre
- Liaising with residents and working with officers to deliver a parking scheme to tackle issues caused by university staff and student parking in Clifton Grove
- 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 completed roving surgeries covering every street in the Ward over the last year. The ambition for the next municipal to cover every street in the Ward twice over the year, in addition to roving surgeries arranged by the Neighbourhood Development Officer.

5. Learning and Development

I have attended an external course on Disaster Response and additional internal training courses provided.

6. Use of Devolved Budgets

What projects have you approved in the past year?

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

- Wilford Community Group – May Day Event
- Literacy Volunteers Group
- Clear up of fly-tipping from rear yard of Varney Road shops
- Assisting with purchase of racking, tables and chairs for NG11 Foodbank
- Travel Grants for employment programme
- Silverdale Community Centre – Senior Citizens Xmas Party
- Children's Bonfire at Wilford
- Wreath for Remembrance Service at Clifton
- Picnic in the Park: Clifton Playing Fields
- Official Opening of Clifton Flower Park
- Teddy Bear's Picnic

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:

- Footpath reinstatement on Midhurst Way

- Footpath repairs on Sumburgh Road and surrounding roads
- Redeployable CCTV cameras to target ASB and flytipping hotspots
- Replacement fencing on Eddleston Drive

7. Challenges

The allocation of area capital budgets is and will doubtless continue to be a significant challenge over the coming years. The allocation provided for Clifton North is one of the lowest in the City and has in the past proved to be insufficient to deliver all the schemes presented for councillor consideration in previous years. One of the ways that I will seek to mitigate this challenge is to push for more collaborative working with councillors from Clifton South so that where there are schemes that cover both wards the possibility for achieving cost savings is maximised to ensure the overall budget goes further.