

Councillor Annual Report 2017/18

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 8 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 the last year, I have taken over the Leadership of the Opposition Group on the Council following the sad passing of Cllr Georgina Culley. As Group Leader I have taken up the attendance rights at the Council's Executive Board.

A key element in my role as Group Leader is to deliver our budget amendment at the Council's budget meeting. If the amendment had been carried, it would have provided the Council with sufficient income and savings to avoid raising council tax by the maximum amount. Notwithstanding, that it was unsuccessful, it was pleasing to see the controlling group request an adjournment to review the proposals contained within it; and that our proposals for expanding collection times for garden waste may yet be implemented.

As an Opposition Councillor, I have also 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:

- The planned development of Angel Row and the Central Library
- Proposed limitations to the number of deployable CCTV cameras across the City
- The initial cost of slabbing Station Street and the cost of repair work completed in Autumn 2017
- Apparent inconsistencies in the allocation of free parking permits in the City
- The cost of the unplanned summer shut down of Enviroenergy in 2017
- The profitability and financing of Enviroenergy & Robin Hood Energy;

In addition, the Conservative Group has called in the decision to charge disabled users of Trinity Square car park made by the Council's Executive.

2. Council Involvement

Group Leader of Conservative Group
Group Treasurer of Conservative Group

Member of Area 8 Committee
Member of Audit Committee
Member of Planning Committee
Member of Trusts and Charities Committee
Member of Children & Young Person's Scrutiny 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
Nottingham Moderns Rugby Club

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 fly-tipping hotspot areas in the Ward;
- Liaising with Highways England to ensure maintenance work on the subways and boundaries under their control is carried out;
- Working with council officers to deliver a free parking permit scheme to tackle student and staff parking in Clifton Grove.
- Reviewing commuter parking issues in Wilford Village and Ruddington Lane
- Delivering a parking scheme for Farnborough Road under the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme
- Reviewing safety of cyclists and pedestrians at the junction of Wilford Lane with Main Road/Ruddington Lane, Wilford
- 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 11:00 am to 12:30 at Nottingham Moderns Rugby Club
- 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 11:00 am till 12:30 at the Clifton Community Centre, Southchurch Drive, Clifton

I have continued to complete roving surgeries across the Ward over the last year.

5. Learning and Development

I continue to have regular meetings with the Council's senior leadership team and Heads of Service to ensure I am up-to-date with policy developments within the Council.

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:

- Clifton Donation Group – Summer Fun Day
- Good Companions Christmas Party
- 45th Boys and Girls Brigade Summer Camping Trip
- Silverdale Community Centre – Senior Citizens Xmas Party
- Children’s Bonfire at Wilford
- Floral Display Wilford Village
- May Day Celebration Wilford
- Early Help Team Summer Trip
- Ruddington Lane Family Fun Day
- Picnic in the Park: Clifton Playing Fields
- Additional Litter Bins/Dog Waste Bins in Wilford & Silverdale
- Teddy Bear’s Picnic
- Purchase tables and chairs for community use St Wilfreds Church

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:

- Parking Permit Scheme Clifton Grove
- Footpath Reinstatement Kinsale Walk
- Purchase of defibrillator: Clifton Playing Fields
- Restoration of Clifton War Memorial
- Replacement and reinstatement of bollards to protect pedestrians opposite the school

7. Challenges

The recent cuts to area capital budgets will reduce the amount of schemes we are able to deliver. There is a need to bring council teams together to ensure schemes can be delivered as efficiently as possible to ensure the limited budgets we have at our disposal go as far as possible. The allocation provided for Clifton North remains 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. We will again push for ways to mitigate this challenge including working more collaboratively 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.