

## Annual Report 2017-18 Councillor Wendy Smith

I was elected as a councillor for Bilborough in April 2013. Previously I had been a teacher of deaf and disabled children in Bilborough primary, secondary and special schools.

### Council involvement

This year I have continued to be a member of the Corporate Parenting Board, the Planning Committee, the West Area Committee, the Admissions Forum and I'm a Trustee of Hanley and Gellestrop Almshouses. I attend our monthly Neighbourhood Action Team meetings with the police, Community Protection, Nottingham City Homes and other council departments.

### Community involvement



I'm a governor at Firbeck Academy and Glenbrook Primary School. I'm a member of Birchover Community Centre Management Committee and Bilborough Youth Network. I also help out at St Martin's Church, welcoming visitors, including schoolchildren, to this historic building. I'm in touch with all of our local schools, have spoken in assemblies and classes. I keep in touch with groups for older people such as Supportnet and Wigman Ladies Club. I communicate regularly with hundreds of local residents through an email newsletter and on

Facebook (Councillor Wendy Smith) and Twitter (@CllrWendySmith). I attend local events, such as the Strelley Village Green Fun Day so I can talk to residents about the issues which concern them.

In 2016 I organised an art exhibition in Bilborough Library showing the work of local schoolchildren and artists. This gave me the idea of holding an Arts Festival and in July 2017 we had a full week of events featuring an art exhibition in the library, music, dance, film, clowning, crafts, workshops, drumming and much more. Plans are well underway for the 2018 Festival, which will involve 8 local schools as well as community groups, youth groups and churches. The funding has been provided by councillors from our delegated budgets.



## **Casework**

Between May 2017 and April 2018 I did over 240 pieces of casework for Bilborough residents, which included repair enquiries, housing and benefits problems, issues with parking, neighbour disputes, waste collection, dog fouling, fly tipping, etc.

## **Training**

I have undertaken training on safeguarding, the Homelessness Reduction Act, data protection, taxi licensing and Nottingham Schools Trust.

## **Ward work and achievements**

Together with Cllrs Wood and Watson, this is some of what we have done in the past year:

- Resurfaced footpaths, particularly in areas used by elderly people.
- Supported environmental improvements in the Denewood and Wollaton Vale estates
- Held regular clean-ups throughout the ward.
- Put a residents' parking scheme in the Beechdale area.
- Carried out ward walks with officers from the Council, the Police, Community Protection and Nottingham City Homes.
- Approved road safety improvements throughout the ward, including double yellow lines at various junctions.
- Held regular advice surgeries.

We have given financial assistance to these groups and projects:

Bilborough Arts Festival  
Bilborough Fest  
Strelley Family Fun Day  
Beechdale Summer Fayre  
Community bingo  
Foxton Gardens  
Tartanaires minibus  
Bilborough Gems Awards  
What Really Matters Workshop  
Music Hub  
Bilborough Library garden  
Bilborough Christmas Festival

### **Some of our plans for 2018-19**

We have had 8 years of government cuts and the reduction to our budgets is going to be more noticeable this year. However we will continue to do our best with the limited funds available to us.

- Continue with the library improvements to make it a more attractive and welcoming environment, and enable residents to make more use of the community rooms.
- Continue to monitor road safety and make improvements where needed.
- Work with Nottingham City Homes to make environmental improvements to Cranwell Road, Denewood Crescent and other areas.
- Continue to give financial assistance to local groups, within our funding limits.
- Resurface footpaths in areas of greatest need.
- Support the building of the new children's playground on Bilborough Park.
- Make environmental improvements to Bracebridge Drive shopping area, including providing a new area for the market and moving it to the same side as the shops.
- Hold our advice surgeries at Bilborough Library every Saturday (except August).