

Councillor Annual Report 2016-17

Name: Cllr Sam Webster

I was first elected in April 2013 to represent the Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Ward and re-elected in May 2015. The ward includes Wollaton Park Estate, University Park and Jubilee Campus.

I have a work background in the apprenticeships and skills sector.

As well as representing my ward I have additional responsibilities as Portfolio Holder for Business, Education and Skills.

I am a Nottingham City Council appointed Director of:

- Futures Advice, Skills and Employment
- Scape Group
- Nottingham City Homes
- Creative Quarter Nottingham Ltd

I am a Council nominated member of the Governing Body of Nottingham College which is a new organisation formed from the merger of New College Nottingham and Central College.

I am also a Director of Nottingham Credit Union elected by members.

I am joint Chair of Nottingham City Children's Partnership Board

I also sit on the following committees, boards and governing bodies:

- Nottingham City Council Executive Board
- Nottingham City Corporate Parenting Board,
- Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee
- Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Area Committee
- N2 Employment and Skills Board
- Nottingham Education Trust
- Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)
- Standing Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)
- Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
- School Admissions Forum
- D2N2 Infrastructure and Investment Board
- City Centre Forum
- Economic Prosperity Committee

4. Ward Work and Achievements

I and my fellow ward councillor, Sally Longford, 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 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 @cllrsamwebster

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, 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 officers, 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 local ward 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

Attended conferences, seminars and training sessions throughout the year to develop my knowledge and understanding of a range of issues.

6. Use of Devolved Budgets

We have:

- Part funded the refurbishment of Sheila Roper Community Centre in Lenton Abbey.

- Refreshed street lining and road markings across the ward.

- Found new tenants for and cleared neglected allotment sites in Lenton Abbey

Installed new bins at several locations across the ward

Banned verge parking on a further stretch of Woodside Road. This is an ongoing project which will continue along Woodside Road.

Funded free events including Christmas lights switch on and Lenton Abbey Family Fun Day (LAFFDA).

Supported the Fabulous Fun Day in Farndon Green

Provided some start-up funding for the Lenton Abbey Parent & Toddler Group
Introduced 'Good Garden Awards' in Wollaton Park Estate and Lenton Abbey, and funded tea parties to celebrate good gardens with residents.

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. (Now completed)

Supporting community associations in Lenton Abbey through their merger. (Now completed)

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 now underway)

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.

Ensure that local children have access to good school places close to home.