

Annual Report 2015-16 Councillor Wendy Smith

I was elected as a councillor for Bilborough in a by-election 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 sat on the Corporate Parenting Board, the Planning Committee, the West Area Committee and I'm a Trustee of the Handley & Gellestrop Almshouses. I attend our monthly Neighbourhood Action Team meetings, with the police, Community Protection, Nottingham City Homes and the fire service.



Community involvement



I'm a governor at Firbeck Academy and Glenbrook Primary School. I attend Management Committee meetings at Birchover Community Centre and am a member of the Bilborough Youth Network. I attend events at local schools and have become a steward at St Martin's Church, welcoming visitors to this historic building. My jazz band has played at St Martin's and at the Gurkha Kitchen Nepalese restaurant to raise money for their charities.

I communicate regularly with several hundred local residents by email and on Facebook (Councillor Wendy Smith) and Twitter (@CllrWendySmith). I'm in touch with all of our local schools and have spoken in assemblies and classes about the issues which concern children and young people. I've also spoken to trainee teachers about the issues which might affect their pupils.



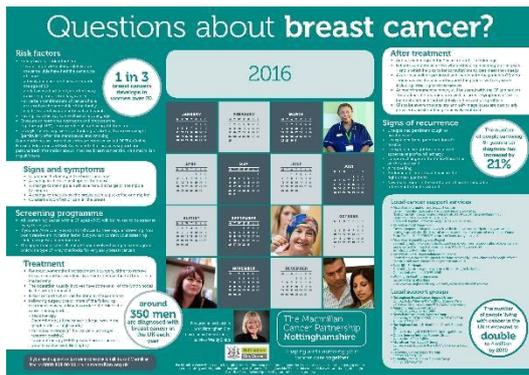
This year I've been working on 'Age Friendly Nottingham' by promoting our Take a Seat campaign and dementia awareness.



Working with Nottingham University Samworth Academy and the library service, I organised an art exhibition at Bilborough library, showcasing the work of students and local artists. This was launched by the Sheriff of Nottingham with the help of SupportNet, a club for older and disabled residents.



I hope that this exhibition will be the start of an annual Bilborough Arts Festival.



In January I achieved the culmination of two years' work by funding and producing a calendar with Nottingham City Council and MacMillan promoting awareness of breast cancer. This was given free of charge to all GP practices in the City.

I'm the Chair of the Our Bilborough project, working in partnership with Groundwork to create apprenticeships for local youngsters. We have created a 'hub' at Hanover Court, an

independent living complex, by refurbishing the disused warden's house. Local young people are being trained to work in catering and horticulture and more apprenticeships will be created this year.

Between May 2015 and May 2016 I did 281 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 in safeguarding, policing, city redevelopment, rented housing, employment, fostering and adoption, local government finance, playgrounds and parks development, and school places.

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 estate.
- Held clean-ups throughout the ward.
- Supported the building of new council houses, flats and bungalows at Cranwell Road.
- Approved external cladding to 450 concrete and BISF houses in Bilborough.



- Continued the refurbishment of Hoylake Park with trees, picnic benches, a new footpath, wildflower meadows and a table tennis table.

- Used Hoylake Park to host a party for the local community on the Queen's 90th birthday weekend.
- Carried out ward walks in Bilborough, Strelley, Firbeck and Denewood, with officers from the Council, the Police, Community Protection and Nottingham City Homes.
- Approved road safety improvements throughout the ward.
- Held regular surgeries at Bilborough library and Beechdale Community Centre and drop-ins at the library and the Co-op.



We have given financial assistance to these groups and projects:

Bilborough Boxing Club
 Tick Tock Nursery
 Dolly Parton Imagination Library
 Bilborough Fest
 Strelley Family Fun Day
 Zodiac All Stars Carnival
 Bilborough Gems
 113th Wollaton Scout Group
 West 8 Partnership Holiday Club
 Nottingham Focus on Wellbeing
 Money Matters Project
 Shabach Summer Activities
 YMCA fitness project at Harvey Hadden
 Free IT training for local residents
 Music Hub
 Bilborough Library garden
 Party in the Park
 Bilborough Christmas Festival

Some of our plans for 2016-17:

- Develop and promote the Glaisdale Drive Employer Network in partnership with the City Council.
- Identify and support local projects to address loneliness and isolation.
- Improve the library both inside and outside to make it a more attractive and welcoming environment, and enable residents to make more use of the community rooms.
- Continue working with Strelley Club to make it a centre for the whole community, and support the very successful boxing club.
- Continue to monitor road safety and make improvements where needed.



- Work with Nottingham City Homes to make environmental improvements to our most deprived areas.
- Continue to give financial assistance to local groups, within our funding limits.
- Work with residents to find a solution to some of the parking problems in our Ward
- Make further improvements to local parks and establish a 'Friends of Bilborough Parks' group



