

Councillor Annual Report 2018

Name: Adele Williams

1. Introduction

I have been a Sherwood Resident since 2004, and my children have all gone to school in Sherwood. It's a great place to live and it's remarkable how much our community will work to support one another. I currently work part time for a trade union as a branch administrator.

2. Council Involvement

I sit on the Health Scrutiny, Regulatory and Appeals and Licensing committees. This year I have become Chair of the Area Committee. I hope that we can use this year to involve community groups more in our work - their views on our area are an important perspective. I have attended meetings and have used my role there to raise issues around concerns that people have raised with me as their representative, for example around the development of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for the NHS locally and the closure of the Woodlands Detox Unit.

On Health Scrutiny, I have raised issues around support for carers, staff engagement of the health workforce, and governance of health providers. As part of Health Scrutiny, councillors can attend Quality Account meetings for health providers and I have attended and contributed to some of these to hold local health providers to account.

I have spoken at full council, including on the roll out of Universal Credit to our city and its potential impact.

On Regulatory and Appeals, we have discussed a number of issues this year, including taxi licensing and safety certificates for large venues. On taxi licensing, I was amongst those who put forward further proposals to make Nottingham's Hackney Carriages more distinguishable from those outside the city, which we are not able to regulate as strictly as our own cabs.

I have a very high attendance record at council meetings and committees, missing only one meeting in the last year.

I'd love to hear from you with your views on Sherwood, or these wider issues.

3. Community Involvement

The three Sherwood councillors continue to participate in local tenants' and residents' groups where invited and have encouraged groups to be established. The Sherwood Streets in Bloom Group have formed to encourage and support residents to improve the look of their streets by adding planting in baskets or tubs.

We also regularly conduct regular "ward walks" around the patch, giving residents a chance to pop out and have a chat with us and for us to spot any issues or problems that might be occurring. It has been great to have support from police and council officers on these walks, making sure that we are joined up across the board. You can contact us through the usual email and phone channels and also connect on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mysherwood> and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/SherwoodNottm>.

During the past year Sherwood councillors have dealt with over 225 pieces of individual casework for residents, issues raised range from housing repairs, to traffic free pedestrian routes, to improving allotments and making sure streets are clean.

4. Ward Work and Achievements

The three Sherwood Councillors operate a regular programme of surgeries: 7pm on the first Tuesday at Sherwood Community Centre and by the Co-Op on Sherwood High Street at 10.30am on the third Saturday continue to be popular with a wide variety of issues being raised – please do come along if you need to talk to us. We recently used our Saturday stall to ask people to sign our ‘Thank You’ card for the NHS, part of the NHS 70th birthday celebrations. Sherwood ward includes both the city hospital and the new child and adolescent mental health unit, as well as a number of local surgeries and dentists, so we have a lot to say thank you for!

This past year, we are most proud of the following achievements – just a sample of some of the things that residents have raised with us or we have identified as priorities for the area.

Sherwood Shopping Centre: We have again prioritised the importance of the Sherwood and Carrington shopping centre as the heart of the community and have spent a large proportion of our local budget on Sherwood in Bloom/Carrington in Bloom, as well as supporting the Christmas Lights switch on and associated events and the Sherwood Market, which is continuing to grow and flourish.

Road safety: We funded a study of the streets in the middle of Sherwood, to establish traffic flow, accident and speed patterns. This led to a well-attended public meeting, and we now have proposals to reduce speeds and improve safety on a number of streets in the area.

Events: Sherwood again has had a great range of events through the year including Sherwood Arts Week, which is a hugely successful and established event, livening up the area, and providing a real sense of the creativity in our community. We supported many other local events including the Woodthorpe Nursery Open Days and a new event, Carrington festival.

Parks: Having completed improvements at Peggy’s park, Pirate Park and Woodthorpe in recent times, we continue to work on ways to bring further improvements, and make sure our parks and open spaces are in good condition. Several events on the parks and playgrounds have taken place during the year, showing the importance that local people place on our open spaces.

Parking and Traffic: A parking scheme is due to be implemented on the Dales estate, and added restrictions to improve safety have been put in place on a number of narrow or congested streets. Enforcement is also prioritised in areas where inconsiderate parking is a problem.

City Hospital chimney: For a number of years, local residents have been concerned about the city hospital chimney, and the residues that came from it when coal was burnt for the hospital heating system. During the last year campaigning on this event led to real success when the hospital stopped using the coal fired boilers. Local people’s experiences have been much improved, without the sooty dust that used to cause them problems now a thing of the past.

Dog fouling: This is a high priority for the Community Protection team and the dog fouling cleaning machine also does weekly clean ups in problem areas.

5. Learning and Development

I have attended training on the Homelessness Reduction Act, and have taken advantage of any opportunities to participate in learning and briefing sessions offered to councillors.

I believe that people working in the frontline of services like health and education have a lot to teach us about those areas of policy and I make a point of discussing issues that are coming up at committees etc. with people who deliver those services. I have learnt a great deal from those conversations.

6. Use of Devolved Budgets

These are covered in the activities described above.

7. Challenges

Last year we had a £14million cut in funding from central government – the latest in a long term trend of reductions. What this means is that more of our money has to be raised locally, and of course, that we have less money to deliver the services our citizens and city need.