

Annual Report 2016-17 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 sat on the Corporate Parenting Board, the Admissions Forum, 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 department

Community involvement



I'm a governor at Firbeck Academy and Glenbrook Primary School. I attend Management Committee meetings at Birchover Community Centre am a member of the Bilborough Youth Network and 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 and I've taken part in mock interviews for older students. 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.

I campaigned for WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) on behalf of women born in the 1950s who have had their state pension age increased twice. Putting residents in touch with Nottingham City Homes apprentices, I helped to organise the refurbishment of St Agnes Hall on



Wigman Road and a house where adaptations were being made for a disabled teenager. After receiving calls from local parents of disabled children who felt isolated, I started a Facebook page (NG8 Families with Disabled Children) to enable them to communicate with each other. This led to a weekly drop-in session at the Pelican Pub.

Following a successful art exhibition in Bilborough library in July 2016, showcasing the work of local students and residents, I have been working with Bilborough residents to organise our first ever Bilborough Arts Festival, taking place in July 2017.

Between May 2016 and May 2017 I did 305 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 social media, taxi issues, employment and skills, traffic enforcement, waste management, early intervention and early years, IT and street play.

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.
- Carried out a residents' consultation of parking issues throughout the ward to decide on ways to solve them.
- Supported the building of new council houses, flats and bungalows at Cranwell Road.
- Supported the construction of the new Joint Services Centre on Strelley Road.
- Completed external cladding to 450 concrete and BISF houses in Bilborough.
- Supported the refurbishment of Strelley Social Club.
- 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 a new zebra crossing on Wigman Road, double yellow lines at some junctions and 20mph roundels on Birchover Road and Bracebridge Drive.
- Held regular surgeries at Bilborough library and Beechdale Community Centre and drop-ins at the Co-op and the library.



We have given financial assistance to these groups and projects:



Bilborough Boxing Club
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Bilborough Fest
Party in the Park
Bilborough Library mosaic repairs
Strelley Family Fun Day
Denewood Tenants' & Residents' Association
10th anniversary event
Bilborough Gems Awards
Residential Music Camp

Old Fashioned Cream Tea (older persons' event)
113th Scouts Refurbishment
West 8 Partnership Holiday Club
Make IT Fun Day
YMCA Referral Service
Tick Tock Summer Carnival
What Really Matters Workshop
Music Hub
Bilborough Library garden
Beechdale Community Centre market trip
St Martha's Foodbank
Bilborough Christmas Festival



Some of our plans for 2017-18

- 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 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.
- Implement parking schemes in some areas which have the greatest problems.
- Work with the Parks Dept to build a new children's playground on Bilborough Park.



