

Annual Report 2016-17

Councillor Adele Williams

1. Introduction

I was very honored to be elected to represent Sherwood in the by-election in May 2017 following the resignation of Alex Ball.

I have lived in the ward since 2004, and I love the vibrant community of Sherwood. My children attend local schools, and we use local shops and services. We are lucky to have the beautiful Woodthorpe Park in our ward, where we've spent many an hour playing, walking and occasionally sledging. One of the things I love most about Sherwood - and Nottingham - is the generosity of our community. Whenever there is a foodbank appeal, for example, we find ourselves laden down with donations from local people. It makes me very proud of the community I represent.

I am a new governor at Haydn Primary School, and am learning from a great governor team.

I work part-time for a local trade union branch. I love live music, and go to gigs when I can - for which Nottingham is world class. I used to work in heritage and am committed to the care of the historic environment of our city. Growing up in Mansfield, I loved Newstead Abbey as a child. As a councillor, I am incredibly proud of Newstead, the Castle, and our other outstanding heritage sites.

2. Council Involvement

During the coming year I will be a new member of the Health Scrutiny Committee, which reviews and scrutinises the commissioning and delivery of local health and social care services in Nottingham to ensure reduced health inequalities, access to services and the best outcomes for local people.

I will also be a member of the Audit Committee, which exists to provide assurance on the adequacy of risk management and control by the Council and to oversee the financial reporting process.

I have also been appointed to the Licensing Committee and Regulatory and Appeals Committee.

3. Community Involvement

Along with my two councillor colleagues, Brian and Jane, I will be attending local residents' associations and groups, including Carrington Tenants and Residents Association, and Edwards Lane Tenants and Residents Association. I look forward to visiting the newly emerging Central Sherwood Tenants and Residents Association.

As a local resident, I regularly use public transport, shops and other local services in Sherwood.

I was a lead organiser on the very successful Great Get Together in Woodthorpe Park, which brought hundreds of local people together in an expression of unity to remember the life of Jo Cox, who reminded us that 'there is more in common than that which divides us'.

I enjoyed attending Sherwood Arts Week events this year, and look forward to it blossoming further as it celebrates its tenth anniversary last year.

4. Ward Work

The three Sherwood Councillors operate a regular programme of surgeries: 7pm on the first Tuesday at Sherwood Community Centre and by the little Co-op on Sherwood High Street at 10.30am on the third Saturday. They continue to be popular with a wide variety of issues being raised – please do come along if you need to talk to us.

We also participate in local tenants' and residents' groups where invited including Edwards Lane, Carrington and Winchester/Woodthorpe. The discussions at these meetings are always taken into account when making decisions about our priorities for spending money or supporting projects.

We are considering broadening the number of locations where we hold surgeries in the coming year, including the Edwards Lane Estate. If you have any ideas of where it might be desirable to hold a surgery then please let one of us know.

We also regularly conduct informal “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> .

I have already picked up cases for local residents and I have worked hard to ensure that I am fighting for the best for local people. If you have an issue you think I might be able to help with, I'd be glad to hear from you.

Since being elected, I have been engaging with residents on the proposed experimental order, which would see a scheme of parking restrictions trialed around the Elmswood Gardens area.

5. Learning and Development

I have undertaken training in adult and child safeguarding, and I have a development and induction programme of visits with various departments planned in order to develop a deeper understanding of how the Council serves residents.

6. Challenges

Each year, the budget cuts to our grant from central government have bitten harder. I am proud to be part of a council that has striven to protect the most vulnerable from these cuts but there is no doubt that, should they continue to deepen, they represent a real threat to the sustainability of our services.

I am also concerned about the effects of funding shortages in the NHS. Last year saw several black alerts declared in the Queens Medical Centre Emergency Department. I will, with colleagues, monitor the impact of this through the health scrutiny process, but also by engaging with and listening to your concerns as residents and service users.