

Councillor Annual Report 2019/20

Councillor Audrey Dinnall

Leen Valley Covers several different communities, Aspley, Whitemoor, Nuthall Road, Western Boulevard and Bilborough

I was elected as one of your Councillors for Leen Valley at the May 2019 local elections. It has been a year of reflection, busy, fulfilling and extremely unpredictable. I have worked hard to remain transparent and accountable. I thoroughly enjoy being a local councillor, although there are occasional ups and downs, but these come with all roles. I particularly enjoy talking with residents, supporting and helping with problems they are having. To date I have dealt with around 200 cases, working on behalf of residents to resolve issues. I pride myself on my casework because, in my opinion, it is the main role of a councillor and is one of the best ways to engage with people and to make specific and general improvements to Leen Valley, and the way the council works.

Although I am first and foremost a councillor for Leen Valley, I also have city wide responsibilities such as committee memberships and council budgetary decisions. Although I am responsible to residents in Leen Valley as their councillor, I am also responsible to residents across the city as a member of the city council.

I am also a member of the Fostering Panel and completed the Annual Fostering Panel's training in 2019 and have since participated in at least 45 panel cases, which reviews fostering applications, extensions and connected persons applications and reviews. All Panels, before the meeting, require an extensive amount of prior reading and scrutiny which at times can be quite disturbing when reading about neglect and abuse of children. But I take this in my stride to ensure that vulnerable children in Nottingham city are placed with loving parents / guardians.

As a member of the licensing committee I have taken part in 5 panels when objections have been received for new applications for a licence or to vary an existing licence for selling Alcohol. We ensure that the 5 issues will be met when considering the applications which I ensure are discussed and scrutinised along with the other Councillor Panel member and Chair of licencing; these include;

- Whether the application promotes the prevention of crime and disorder
- Whether the application promotes the public safety objective
- Whether the application promotes the prevention of public nuisance
- Whether the application promotes the protection of Children from harm

2. Council Involvement

Leen Valley, Aspley and Bilborough Area Committee (Vice Chair)
Fostering Panel
Standards Committee
Licencing Committee
National Justice Museum Board
Regulatory and Appeals Committee

3. Community Involvement

Robert Shaw School Governor
Liberty Limes Tenant's Association
Liberty Limes Facebook group
Naburn Court Tenants Association
Leen Valley Residents Bluecoat Primary School
Smile and Achieve
St Margaret's Church
Beechdale Road Mosque
Windmill local community allotment

4. Ward Work and Achievements



- We hold regular surgeries at the sports centre at Bluecoat Academy on Aspley Lane every 2nd & 3rd Saturday of the month 11am -12pm
- I have attend numerous ward walks across Leen Valley, attended with my fellow councillor, our neighbourhood officer, Community Protection Officers, Nottingham City Homes and others.
- I helped create the Leen Valley support group for the elderly (And Sew It Begins). Leen Valley has a high population of elderly residents and some of them were concerned about loneliness. Arts and craft group was created. This has been running now since February 2020 which runs every Wednesday 12-30pm until 2. However due to Covid 19 this has been temporally suspended.
- I have attended community litter picks and clean up events with council officers and residents and Bluecoat school children.
- Since being elected in May 2019 I have dealt with around 200 cases. Casework, taking up issues on behalf of residents, is the main part of

my role as a councillor and met with residents to discuss specific issues in their neighbourhoods, such as fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, highway maintenance, knife crime, domestic violence, car crime, parking, missed bins, housing adaptations, and parking, dog fouling, pot holes and other local issues.

- I have jointly funded and attended community events at Robert Shaw primary school family fun day and Melbourne Park lockdown. It was an honour to be asked to switch on the Christmas lights on Aspley Lane
- I have organised and attended day of actions with our neighbourhood services team tidying up communities. I have also helped organise a day of action on Kingsbury Drive with the Regulation, Enforcement and compliance team R.E.A.C.T due to the issues with parking/traffic in the area.
- I have attended many community events and meetings since May 2019 and invited David Mellen, Leader of the council, and Portfolio Holder for transport, Adele Williams, to speak about Budgets and parking at local issues meeting with Leen Valley residents at Bluecoat Academy in January 2020
- I have collected petitions from residents about parking.



5. Use of Devolved Budgets

Ward Budget:

Below is a list of community projects that I have either wholly or part funded with my co-councillor since the May 2019 elections.

June 19 - Hanging baskets, plants and garden furniture Naburn Court, - £210

July 19 - Aspley Lane Fun Fair (postponed, but funding still allocated)

July 19 - Leaf blower – dedicated to Leen Valley ward - £180

August 19 Local issues fund (to be allocated to any small community projects and/or area improvements- £5000

December 2019 Christmas Lights on Aspley Lane - £1329

December 2019 Christmas Tree on Aspley Lane (joint with Aspley Ward) - £1301

January 2020 Bee Family After School club – supporting children from all over the ward - £135 (joint project with 2 Bilborough and Basford).

April 2020 – Covid 19 Support provided by Vine Community Centre
Hot meals for BAME elderly and vulnerable community in Leen Valley £800
(Wholly funded) breakdown below;

132 Meals provided through Leen Valley
89 individuals supported in Leen Valley Ward
59 individuals are BAME
470 Wellbeing / Check in calls/visits
10 food bank referrals
20 Shopping trips

Area Capital Budget:

Below is a list of area capital projects that I have part funded with my co-councillors since the May 2019 elections

Eskdale Drive - £3,093 provision of four dropped crossings on Annan Court and Kirtle Close off Eskdale Drive - lead service: Highway Maintenance

Northdown Road allotments -£130 contribution to installing removable bollard on the public footpath leading to Northdown Road allotments (joint with Radford Ward)

Wistowe Close tree maintenance £10,000 *tree works in Wistowe Close area (joint with NCH)* -

Leen Valley ward Bins £2000 installation of litter bins at identified locations across the ward -

Aldgate Close- £34,488.

Replace the existing dilapidated timber fencing with new metal railings.
Improve the appearance and environment for the residents.

Manville Close - £5,648 refurbishment of circus planter on Manville Close - lead service:

6. Challenges

Essentially, the greatest challenge has been a lack of money, due to government cuts. It becomes difficult to be able to fund all projects This is most evident when paying for road or path improvements, parking schemes or

even funding local community projects. This inevitably leads to situations where many lose out on the opportunity to be funded. This also means we can only address the worst most pressing problems which can solve short term issues but leaves longer term issues to fester. However, Leen Valley does have a group of committed and dedicated council officers and community members whom all work together to ensure Leen Valley has a voice. I am proud to be the councillor for Leen valley and will continue to work for all my residents despite some of the challenges.