

Councillor Annual Report 2019/20

Councillor Ankunda Joel (AJ) Matsiko

1. Introduction

This is my first annual report as an elected Nottingham City Councillor serving the Sherwood Ward.

Since my first-time ever being elected to Public Office in May 2019, it has been a very challenging year. However, whilst the challenge is there, it has been good to be able to succeed upon the range of issues and learn from those that have not yet been resolved.

One of my personal promises was to move into the Ward and I have achieved this now. I look forward to working more closely with the communities of Sherwood, Carrington and Edwards Lane that make up the Ward of Sherwood and progressing on initiatives already started and those in the pipeline.

2. Council Involvement

I am a backbench Councillor which has provided the opportunity to listen and learn more about what I should be aware of, and priorities moving forwards.

Of all the Committees and outside bodies I'm currently a member of, I have found it most rewarding supporting the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee forum and their ambitious plans to continue their vital work to support people seeking sanctuary in the City.

Furthermore, I have engaged very well with the Planning Committee, addressing issues such as s.106 developer contributions and scrutiny of Nottingham's Local Plan with environmental considerations taking primary importance.

With the current planning consultation now open I seek to engage more with residents regarding central Government's plans for overhauling the planning system.

And finally, I'm currently a member of the Councillor Group assessing the disproportionate affect Covid-19 has had on Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities within the City. The report is scheduled to be released in the Autumn.

3. Community Involvement

- Carrington Tenants and Residents Association
- Edwards Lane Tenants and Residents Association
- Sherwood Sponsors Refugees
- Woodthorpe & Winchester Tenants & Residents Association
- Local Issues Meetings, first one held was regarding Homelessness

I've also been able to help respond and resolve issues for Sherwood based businesses that have arisen with my Ward casework and by active involvement within Sherwood.

I have supported over 10 community activities including, Peggy's Park Fun Day, Pirate Park Picnic, Carrington Festival (Organised by CTARA), St. John's Carrington Advent Fair, Edwards Lane Estate Community Centre Halloween Party & Christmas Fun Day (Organised by ELTRA), Carrington Community Litter Pick, Edwards Lane Estate Community Litter Pick, Woodthorpe Grange Park Litter Picks (Organised by the Friends of Woodthorpe Park), Roving monthly litter picks, and Tree Planting at Woodthorpe & Winchester Flats.

4. Ward Work and Achievements

I have setup my own Facebook page in order to keep in touch with residents directly and post updates. Off the internet I, together with my Co-councillors, attend monthly ward walks and host regular Ward Surgeries (x 4 per month).

My casework highlights this year have included:

- Supporting tenants in accessing housing/property repairs
- Responding quickly with solutions to homelessness and other related re-housing issues
- Providing assistance regarding statutory nuisances and other matters that have since been resolved
- Help to residents with access to services and reporting of street cleanliness issues

5. Learning and Development

My primary learning and development has been to understand the Councils' finances. I have attended a two-day training course as well as scrutinising the budget with co-councillors. These are very challenging times and whilst the two-day course was a good introduction, I intend to continue this learning, practice, and development.

6. Use of Devolved Budgets

Sherwood Ward Budget 2019-2020:

- April 19 - Youth Activities - £3000 (allocated not yet spent)
- April 19 – Burglary and Theft Prevention Resources - £620
- August 19 - ELTRA Fundays - £1500
- August 19 - An-Nisa Women's Community Network Eid - £250
- September 19 - Music Hub 2019 - £1080
- November 19 - Double T Awards Event - £747
- December 19 - Seely Primary and Nursery School Mosaic - £1000
- February 20 - Toilet Facilities at Edingley Square Community Garden - £338
- £1507 on Sherwood Events (Christmas, Community Picnics etc. This cost includes publicity, entertainment hire, room hire for the local issue meeting etc.)
- £1204 on community activities including room hire for meetings, litter picking equipment, installation of the two Robins
- £2000 that was allocated in 2018 has now been spent on youth outreach work during 2019/20

Sherwood Area Capital 2019 - 2020 Programme:

- December 2019 - £6000 - contribution to Junction protection scheme at identified locations across the ward
- December 2019 - £45,300 - road safety improvements and crossing points on Haydn Road
- August 2019 - £7000 - contribution to prioritised Sherwood resident parking

Sherwood Public Realm Schemes:

- Carrington Underpass area improvement £242 - programme of improvements to land by Carrington underpass
- Haydn Road Safety approved December 2019 £34,700 - road safety improvements and crossing points on Haydn Road
- Fairbank Crescent footpath approved December 2019 £47,107 - additional contribution to full resurface of footpaths on Fairbank Crescent

7. Challenges

The bulk of the challenges this year will be our ability to deliver a balanced budget whilst maintaining good quality services for all residents. Covid-19 has made this much harder, yet with a positive attitude, a willingness to listen and work collaboratively, I believe this is achievable.