

BILBOROUGH COUNCILLORS- Rebecca Langton, Phil Jackson and Wendy Smith

Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Councillors Rebecca Langton and Phil Jackson were first elected to Nottingham City Council in May 2019 and Councillor Wendy Smith was re-elected. Working together, Phil, Wendy and Rebecca represent you on Nottingham City Council.

Council Involvement

Cllr Langton is Portfolio Holder for Communities and Strategic Transport which involves acting as the Council's lead person for a range of issues; from cleansing to community centres, transport planning to neighbourhood regeneration and community cohesion and equalities.

Rebecca is also on the Corporate Parenting Board, Licensing Committee and the Local Outbreak Control Committee. She is also a board member of Nottingham City Homes, One Nottingham, East Midlands Councils, Local Government Association and Nottingham Futures.

Rebecca is also the Council's Armed Forces Champion.

Cllr Jackson is a member of the Corporate Parenting Board, the Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee. He has also been appointed to Nottingham Revenues & Benefits Ltd, Nottingham City Transport Ltd and Hanley & Gellestrop Almshouses.

Cllr Smith is a member of the Planning Committee, the Standards Committee and is Chair of Hanley & Gellestrop Almshouses.

All three councillors are members of the Bilborough, Aspley and Leen Valley Area Committee.

Community Involvement



Although our normal community work had to change when lockdown started in March 2019, we have supported and been involved with groups such as Strelley Fun Day, Bilborough Memory Cafe, Bilborough Arts Festival, Bilborough Food Bank, various community groups, Bilborough primary schools and academies, local churches and Bilborough Islamic Centre. We also hosted our popular Christmas Festival on Bracebridge Drive. Cllr Smith is a governor at a local schools.

Casework

Between us we did over 400 pieces of casework since the local elections in May 2019. Our cases have included housing issues, benefits problems, road repairs, waste disposal, antisocial behaviour and parking problems amongst others.

Training

As new councillors, Rebecca and Phil did training in safeguarding, GDPR and Local Government finance.

Rebecca did training on Licensing and Regulatory Appeals as a member of the Licensing Committee and training as Armed Forces Champion and as a Hate Crime Champion. This year Rebecca has also completed the 'Next Generation' training programme run by the Local Government Association.

We all had training on the housing allocations policy, social media, Small Steps Big Changes and corporate parenting.

Ward Work

We did a monthly ward walk in different parts of the ward. Councillors, council officers, Nottingham City Homes and Community Protection invited residents to accompany them on an inspection of the area to highlight any issues. We have tried to follow up on issues that were raised with us on these ward walks.

We took part in our monthly Neighbourhood Action Team (NAT) meetings, where we received reports from the police, Community Protection, the Fire and Rescue Service and any other organisations which have been working in Bilborough.

Other work we have done in the ward included:

- Held weekly surgeries at Bilborough Library (until lockdown began)
- Supported a major project on Bracebridge Drive to install new benches, repair and relay paving, install planters and make new signs for Bilborough Library.
- Supported the construction of a new path to Bilborough Library, making it easier for disabled people to access it.
- Supported environmental improvements throughout the ward
- Held clean-up sessions
- Supported the construction of a new path for residents of Stanwick Close, enabling them to walk safely on Bilborough Park
- Approved road safety improvements, including double yellow lines at various junctions.
- Approved improvements to local parks
- Held regular advice surgeries at Bilborough library



We have given financial assistance to these groups and projects:

- Bilborough Community Association
- After school club at St Margaret's

- Bilborough Arts Festival
- Youth & Play pants trip
- Wollaton Vale Community Centre
- Strelley Village Green Fun Day
- Bracebridge Drive Christmas Festiva

Work during the Pandemic

In March 2020 we had to stop most of our regular work when lockdown started. We all worked hard to make sure that local people could still contact us for help with casework throughout. Rebecca also took the lead on the Council on supporting those who were particularly vulnerable to coronavirus through a work programme called 'Mobilising Civil Society'. This helped ensure there was a single phone number that you could call throughout lockdown to ask for help with food, medicines or to help prevent people feeling lonely and isolated. Through this workstream, the Council contacted more than 12,000 individuals who were shielding due to coronavirus including more than 2000 home visits by Community Protection Officers to make sure those most in need felt supported. The Council worked closely with the voluntary sector and community groups to help link people up with local support. We were also involved in the 'Robin Hood Fund', which saw nearly £100,000 donated by Nottingham people and distributed to Nottingham charities helping those in need during the pandemic. We worked hard to make sure we communicated the work that the Council was doing through social media and through a special edition of the Arrow delivered through every door.

COVID-19 has been a really difficult time for everyone, but it's been heartwarming to see how people in Bilborough have pulled together, looking out for each other throughout.

Plans for 2020-21

Although our ability to carry out our normal work may be reduced during the next year, we hope the following will be achieved:

- Continue with road safety improvements
- Resurface some footpaths
- Support a new cycle lane scheme on Wigman Road
- Make improvements to parks in Strelley
- Work with Nottingham City Homes to make environmental improvements
- Continue to give financial assistance to local groups, within our budget limits
- Restart our ward walks and surgeries when this is safe and possible to do so



Please get in contact with us- we are here to represent you!

Rebecca, Phil and Wendy