

2011/2012 Councillor Annual report – Aspley Ward –Councillors Chapman, McCulloch and Unczur

Our main theme for last year, and will continue to be this year's, is **jobs and training**.

We have:

- Provided funding and support to encourage up to 30 young people to give their time free to improve the appearance of streets in the area, cutting hedges and painting and repairing fences. Many have then moved on to training, apprenticeships and jobs
- Worked with the BEST training agency at Denton Green to secure council contracts to create training and employment for local people
- Encouraged other private contractors to take on local labour eg contractors replacing the windows in council houses, or improving parking on the green

In addition we have:

- Promoted the second largest scheme of solar panel installation in England, using the council housing account to borrow money to install panels. This benefits not only the tenants but also the council finances
- Helped obtain finance to enable owner occupiers to insulate their houses and save money by providing an extra layer of cladding (we have had to limit the scheme however to certain streets because of limited funds)
- Held eleven street inspections, still much to do in some streets, but these have served to help us decide where best to direct the street improvement schemes for young volunteers
- Improved 3 more greens so that people can park their cars more safely
- Supported the police in a campaign against cannabis growth. This year we are concentrating on prevention and not just punishment
- Supported a number of community events at Christmas and Easter, and groups including the scouts
- Helped put on 4 tea dances for the elderly
- Continued to campaign against dog fouling, though if anything performance was not as good as last year because the 'poover' machine is now being used city wide and not just for Aspley where it was originally used as a pilot. However we will renew the campaign later in 2012.
- Supported a campaign against domestic violence

Priorities for 2012-13

- Continue to promote jobs and training
- Continue to support the home insulation scheme for owner occupiers
- Provide more parking schemes on greens and in one cul-de-sac
- Work with the health and the police on a campaign to warn people about the dangers of cannabis
- Continue to support the anti domestic violence campaign
- Provide a BMX track on Broxtowe Park

Our main challenge however will be to maintain even the existing quality of service and support in the light of substantial government cuts aimed at the services and the incomes of virtually all people in the ward.