

Woodside Ward

Ward councillors Ian Brown, Karen Collett and Tony Rogers

Councillors Collett and Rogers completed a self assessment

Councillor Collett

Year elected: 2010

Reasons for becoming a councillor:

I have always wanted to be a Councillor as this gives me the perfect opportunity to represent the people of Woodside. Firstly it is important for me to listen to the concerns and views of the people and to address them at meetings and the right forums. Secondly, I believe in supporting the local people by being involved in community groups and offering assistance where I can. Personally I have been involved with local groups in the past and so I have witnessed first-hand how powerful a community voice can be, so with that in mind I intend to uphold these values

Roles in the Council:

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Member Development, Member of Conservation task group. Member of Voluntary Sector Task groups looking at Community Centres, HPAG and attended Highways Forum meetings

Membership of outside bodies:

West Herts Crematorium Joint Scrutiny Committee

Training & Development undertaken:

ASB Management and the wider safety portfolio. Procurement/ contract issues, Public speaking, Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness and Leadership Academy for elected members on Commissioning

General Information

- This is my fourth year as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, a role that I continue to value and hold in high regard. Our committee continues to question officers and partners, as well as in addition seeking the views of Watford residents which I see as vital to the role. I believe we are in a fortunate position as we see first-hand how our council's policies and performance relate to the wider Watford community- we are in the unique position to bring about change and to address issues head on. I am incredibly proud of our committee who engage, encourage and support the aims of Overview and Scrutiny with transparency.

- I feel very privileged to serve my community and feel it is so important to get the best outcome for my residents. I believe in sincerity and fairness as that is my mantra in life. The residents in Woodside are a caring community and are proud of the community they live in. It is my job to ensure that our ward is represented and that our area continues to flourish.
- I enjoy meeting my residents face to face so that I can listen directly to their concerns and ideas to enhance our area and environment. Meeting people is deeply important to me as immediate contact makes all the difference to those residents who are troubled or to those who want to make our ward a better place.

Attendance Record: Percentage = 93%.

How she has met Council Objectives

Making Watford a better place to live in

- I have represented my residents at Development Management Meetings, highlighting a property in Leveret Close, Lincoln Court, North Watford Police Station Development and the Warner Brothers expansion plans.
- In particular on planning matters I have met with WCHT officers and managers to bring about changes to the development plans- ensuring my residents get the best possible outcome. Initiated more public meetings so that more residents could voice their concerns and be heard.
- Continued to talk with WCHT Property Managers during their works programme to ensure that residents' concerns are taken on board.
- Taken up residents' concerns as to unsatisfactory repairs on housing.
- Met with local residents who were living in temporary accommodation, supporting them in a move to suitable housing. Furthermore, visited York House to look and discuss the issues that face our residents who find themselves in temporary accommodation.
- Dealt with neighbourhood disputes- visiting all those involved to seek a resolution.
- Working with Veolia and WCHT on lopping local trees that are diseased or overgrown.
- Went to Radius House to support a disabled resident who was appealing the Bedroom Tax.
- Working with council officers to support residents' concerns, these consisted of environmental health cases, overpayments and council tax.
- Reporting pot Holes, loose drain hole covers, sewage odours and lighting to HCC on behalf of residents.
- Reporting broken signage to officers.

- Worked with the YMCA and council officers on improving on Community Centre car park to ensure residents living in close proximity could park.
- I continue to clean up Alban Wood once a month, plant bulbs and trees with a handful of supportive volunteers.
- Met with local police to discuss ASB which was affecting residents in my ward, with intention for CCTV to be installed. Working towards an improved CCTV system- a roaming camera to be placed in Weall Green to act as a deterrent.
- Attended the Audentior Awards to honour those important volunteers who make Watford the caring place that it is.
- So proud to organise our local Remembrance Service on Leavesden High Road and laid a wreath on behalf of the Liberal Democrats at our memorial service in the town centre.
- Attended an Inter Faith event to show our support for unity, solidarity and tolerance.

To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth

- I was proud to attend the launch of the 'Big Festival' at Watford Palace Theatre and attended several outstanding street performances in the town centre.
- Supported the German Market visiting and talking to those who work on the various stalls.
- I was delighted to spend time at WCHTs 'Celebration Day' at the Colosseum talking to local residents groups and meeting up with user groups.
- I attended the Councillors visit to Watford Community Trust in order to be updated on the Trusts future plans and recent projects.
- I supported Watford's second Film Fair Comic Con which took place at the Central Leisure Centre- I assisted the UK Garrison by supporting Star Wars costumers at the event. Supported a local resident from Woodside who worked on films, TV and helped promote his book at the Film Fair event.
- Attended an incredible performance of 'The Witch of Walkern' at Watford Palace Theatre.
- Attended the Community Fair talking to volunteer groups about their wonderful work in and around Watford.
- Met with local businesses to discuss trade and improvements to location.
- Visited Watford Police Station and Control room to look at the work of our local police and to see how the town is monitored in order to protect our town and communities.

Promoting an active, cohesive and well informed town

- I attend 2 residents Associations, Boundary Way Community Group and the Leavesden Community Group. Both are extremely active and I support their group activities such as local quizzes, Cultural show,

children's Christmas party, Halloween event, Carol singing for charity and public meetings.

- I attend regular meetings concerning B/Way development. In addition, working with residents in phase one- Magpie Place to make sure works are heading in the right direction and the properties are put back to a high standard.
- I communicate regularly with residents via our local newsletter, e-mails, phone calls, mail chimp and Facebook. Appeared in a Party Political Broadcast on the importance of councillors working for their local communities.
- I visit local residents to discuss their issues and keep regular contact with those vulnerable in our community.
- I have contact with 2 local schools In the ward, passing on community projects, such as Music Gym, YMCA Orbital community Centres youth club.
- Visits to local youth club to answer questions on local issues and my role in the community.
- Looking at The Brow enhancement with WCHT- to improve the shopping parade.
- Attended the End of Summer –Polish event at the Brow which invited all local people to come along and enjoy the culture, experience the food and entertainment. A truly wonderful event.
- I was interviewed by some local students from West Herts College who are interested in local councillor's work. We also looked at the importance of young people being engaged with politics and the need for more women to become MPs.
- Neighbourhood Forum Budget- used for providing cooking utensils for local Youth club and resources to support the young people in their work with the elderly members of our community. In addition to enhance activities within the youth club for young people.
- Provided funding for the Leavesden Community Group for a Tea Urn and Microwave so they can provide refreshments for local people who attend local events.
- Agreed to local Scouts Hut roof repairs.

Operating the Council efficiently and effectively

- Attended an evening at Woodside Leisure Centre to see what SLM provides for local users. I was delighted to see local people using the terrific facilities that are provided.
- Surveyed residents in Macdonnell Gardens regarding Conservation areas- spent time in hearing their views and delighted that they are indeed pleased with the support they receive from WBC.
- Visited the Datchworth Project ARC Services in Alban View looking at their facilities for young people who need support. They work with young people and parents to improve their relationships and self-esteem.
- Making sure I am current with local government issues.

