

## **Watford BC: Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

### **Q1 – Self assessment of Councillor**

Stephen Bolton

### **Q2 – Elected representative for**

Central Ward

### **Q3 – Year elected to Watford Borough Council (if you have served two separate terms please give your most recent year of election):**

2014

### **Q4 – What were your reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To support and represent residents; to have a say in decisions affecting the local area and Watford more broadly; and to contribute to improvements to the local environment

### **Q5 – What roles have you undertaken in the Council (such as membership of a committee, task group etc)?**

Council, Licensing Committee, Chief Officer Pay Panel, Standards Committee, Policy Planning Advisory Group, Member Development Group, Community Safety Partnership Task Group, Parking Strategy Task Group, Central Neighbourhood Forum, 'Get Active' Steering Group (Chair)

### **Q6 – What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough Council ( such as membership of outside bodies)?**

Council Oversight of Wellspring Church; Groundwork Hertfordshire Advisory Panel; Queens Community Action Group; Watford Foodbank & Community Relief Trust Trustee

### **Q7 – The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

Supporting the Health Campus development; contributing to briefing meetings on future developments; attending Watford 2020 workshop

### **Q8 – Priority 1: Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs**

Attending briefings on housing issues; being part of Policy Planning Advisory Group; being active on planning applications and engaging with residents

### **Q9 – Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

Supporting developments in the town, including BID; working with local businesses; supporting the Health Campus development

### **Q10 – Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

Raising residents' concerns with the council, police, and other bodies; assisting groups financially that support vulnerable people through the Central Neighbourhood Forum; working with local charities and residents; Chairing the Get Active steering group aiming to assist people to become more active, meet others and be healthier; attending meetings at residential homes/accommodation for the elderly

**Q11 – Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

Attending Watford 2020 workshop; attending IT training and using technology; supporting residents

**Q12 – Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

Ensuring understanding of the Council's financial landscape; supporting strategic budgetary policy; helping with cost-cutting by use of technology

**Q13 – Are you a Cabinet member?**

No

**Q14 – Providing vision**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q15 – Managing performance**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q16 – Please write in: Objective 1 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Continue to support and engage with residents - I have actively assisted residents, kept them up to date through letters and leaflets, and spoken at Development Management Committee meetings

**Q17 – Please write in: Objective 2 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Support residents associations, and help them to be sustainable - I have worked with Queens Community Action Group, and Watford Fields Residents' Association, but more work is needed with Central Town Residents' Association, and there is potential for more groups

**Q18 – Please write in: Objective 3 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Continue to develop my knowledge, and increase my experience, so that I can be as effective as possible as a borough councillor - I have attended various training sessions and briefings

**Q19 – a Please write in: Objective 4 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q20 – Please write in: Objective 5 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q21 – Please write in: Objective 6 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q22 – Please write in any other objectives you set and your progress below:**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q23 – Objectives:**

- 1) Continue to support and inform residents, in particular to hold Neighbourhood Forum meetings, and engage more with residents in flats
- 2) Develop at least 1 new residents' association, and support existing ones to help them to be sustainable
- 3) Gain support for, and develop a Friends of Waterfields Park group
- 4) Continue to develop my knowledge and experience

**Attendance:** 100%

## **Watford BC: Member Self-Assessment 2016/17**

**Councillor:** Aga Dychton

**Year elected:** 2016

**Ward:** Central

### **Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

- To help and represent residents
- To make a difference and improve the lives of the community I serve
- To contribute to improvements to the local environment
- I want to contribute to ensuring that Watford remains a good place to live in

### **Roles in the Council: (Committees/ special responsibilities etc)**

- Annual Council
- Central Neighbourhood Forum
- Council Functions Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003)
- Licensing Sub Committee

### **Membership of outside bodies**

Wellspring Church (Watford)

### **Training & Development undertaken since election**

<b>Induction Afternoon</b>	10.05.16
<b>Open Evening</b>	10.05.16
<b>Development Management Training</b>	16.05.16
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Foundation training</b>	09.06.16
<b>Code of Conduct training</b>	05.09.16
<b>Licensing Special session</b>	09.09.16
<b>Data Protection</b>	14.09.16
<b>Police Station/CCTV Suite</b>	22.09.16
<b>Public Speaking</b>	06.10.16
<b>Briefing by Alison Thomas, Watford Women's Centre (following MDG)</b>	17.10.16
<b>Highways, Parking and Transportation all Member Briefing</b>	03.11.16

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**November 2016** Surface Pro Workshop

**November 2016**

Surface Pro Workshop

**Watford 2020 Briefing** 10.11.16

**Taxis/PHV special session** 12.01.17

Providing Vision (Cabinet Members only)	N/A
Managing Performance (Cabinet Members only)	N/A

<b>Percentage of meetings attended</b>	80%
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<b>Key Objective</b>	<b>Objective for 2016/17 (if applicable)</b> N/A
	<b>Have you met your objective? Please add comments on how your objective has been met/worked towards.</b>  N/A
<b>Future Objective</b>	<b>Objective for 2016/17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to serve my residents to the best of my abilities.</li><li>• Engage more with local schools, organisations and local businesses.</li><li>• Develop my knowledge and experience so I can contribute more to Watford wide issues.</li><li>• Contribute to a more sustainable, greener environment.</li><li>• Do my bit to ensure Watford remains a diverse, thriving town!</li></ul>

## **Watford BC: Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

### **Q1 – Self assessment of Councillor**

Matt Turmaine

### **Q2 – Elected representative for**

Holywell

### **Q3 – Year elected to Watford Borough Council (if you have served two separate terms please give your most recent year of election):**

2016

### **Q4 – What were your reasons for becoming a councillor:**

- To represent my community and constituents
- To promote political engagement
- To contribute to the cultural and economic development of the town
- To foster harmony and integration amongst the town's diverse communities
- To be a voice for the many
- To highlight the impact of legislation on our community and constituents

### **Q5 – What roles have you undertaken in the Council (such as membership of a committee, task group etc)?**

Full Council

Licensing Committee

Community Safety Partnership Task Group

Council Functions Committee

### **Q6 – What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough Council ( such as membership of outside bodies)?**

Attendance at Holywell Community Action Group

Attendance at West Watford Community Association events

Attendance at community events in the ward

### **Q7 – The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

Attended community based events through West Watford Community Centre and Holywell Community Action Group.

Participated in group and council initiatives for benefit of Watford's diverse community.

Attended community organisation events, e.g. Audentior Awards, Community at the Colosseum.

### **Q8 – Priority 1: Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs**

Engaged with WCHT on planning and development issues of relevance to residents.

Worked with residents on housing and development issues of importance to the community.

**Q9 – Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

Attended New Hope Market Garden Day.

Support local economic and cultural events in local ward, e.g. Imagine Watford, Watford Market and Hertfordshire events of relevance to Watford.

Support local business and retail.

Provide support, feedback and engagement with local businesses.

**Q10 – Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

Attended Remembrance Sunday event at memorial at Town Hall.

Visited Watford Hospital Radio events in community.

Attended Hertfordshire County Show.

Engaged with residents on legislation and issues of local relevance.

Campaigned for such groups through actions of the Labour Group.

**Q11 – Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

Participated in Watford 2020 sessions and communication back to other group members.

Champion use of digital resources and information sharing as part of day-to-day council work and when communicating with residents.

**Q12 – Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

Mindful of resources and waste prevention.

Operate in a considerate and efficient manner.

**Q13 – Are you a Cabinet member?**

No

**Q14 – Providing vision**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q15 – Managing performance**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q16 – Please write in: Objective 1 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Continue to represent constituents living and working in Holywell ward and play an active and supportive part of the council's democratic process.

I have continued to work towards this objective through engagement with the council, committees, other members and the community in Holywell.

**Q17 – Please write in: Objective 2 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

My objectives for the 2015/16 year are dealt with in box 16, above.

**Q18 – Please write in: Objective 3 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

My objectives for the 2015/16 year are dealt with in box 16, above.

**Q19 – Please write in: Objective 4 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

My objectives for the 2015/16 year are dealt with in box 16, above.

**Q20 – Please write in: Objective 5 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

My objectives for the 2015/16 year are dealt with in box 16, above.

**Q21 – Please write in: Objective 6 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

My objectives for the 2015/16 year are dealt with in box 16, above.

**Q22 – Please write in any other objectives you set and your progress below:**

My objectives for the 2015/16 year are dealt with in box 16, above.

**Q23 – Objectives:**

1. Represent residents in Holywell ward.
2. Endeavour to help residents with casework and escalate appropriately if unable to do so.
3. Play an active and supportive part of the council's democratic process.
4. Raise issues of concern and relevance to Watford residents through the council's processes.

**Attendance: 77%**



**Watford Borough Council**

**Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

**Leggatts Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Bilqees Mauthoor

**1. Year elected:**

May 2014

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

I became a councillor as I wanted to represent people from my ward and I believe in the Labour values. I want to make a difference to our society and bring communities together. I have so far worked across board and doing just that to the best of my ability. I also want what is right for the people in my ward.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

I have held or in current post of the following:  
Chair of the Cllr Group  
Member of Audit, housing, licensing, member development, major projects and overview and scrutiny.  
Chair of the Watford Labour Woman's group

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

Nursing and Midwifery Council  
Royal college of Nursing

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

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**6. Attendance Record:**

96%

## Your work with Constituents and in the Community

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

Being a ward councillor, I have helped with individual cases regarding housing especially when it came to a case where a disabled child was involved. I arranged a meeting with the housing officers and explained reasons for the difficulty presented in the case. I have also been part of setting up a petition with regards to the compound site that is on the Harebreaks many residents were against this and feel very unsatisfied with the outcome.

There has also been objections to building homes in Leaford Crescent again residents were objecting this planning unfortunately we lost the appeal. Although in these circumstances we lost the most important thing we did was gathered people together and representing them before the council was my priority.

Lately I have also been interested in the reformation of the Refugee centre where many women are facing difficulty with domestic violence and fleeing away in order to stay safe. In this case I arranged a meeting with the housing department for them to explain their rationale and understand the process involved. Being a member of the housing policy advisory group, we had the chance to voice out our concerns given the national status and aims regarding the crisis in housing.

- In terms of business the Courtland shops have been involved with the regeneration and face uplift of the area, concerns regarding parking and safety have been raised and addressed appropriately.
- I have worked very closely with the Watford mosque and the Church to see how we could integrate communities. In order to celebrate the Big get together in memory of the late MP Jo Cox the church has agreed to host an event next summer. I have also visited local schools summer fairs and helped possible.

I have also initiated a programme for ESOL classes held in the local community centre in partnership with the Watford Women's centre and the Watford housing trust as I recognised there was a need to help women from with an ethnic background to learn English and sewing to help them gain confidence and be able to communicate effectively. We arranged a prize giving ceremony for those who attended the course. I am always in favour of supporting community events no matter how big or small as long as people can celebrate their differences and support each other.

Communication is very important hence I regularly do ward walks, canvass and delivering leaflets. I am contactable via twitter, Facebook, email or even face to face. I have attended training provided by the council and I have also done a few externally as well to help become more confident. For example, I have done a presentation and public speaking course and master class, Trained by parliament in women in politics. I am currently the Chair of the Watford Labour women's group and I have done some presentations to help and bring women and their issues together for discussion. We are moving in the right direction more work needs to be done so hopefully if I get elected again in 2018 I would look to do more with schools and for members of the public.

Being in opposition can be challenging but it is important to stay focus and understand your limitations. Scrutiny is the key and this year I am a member of outsource services looking at the services that this council works in partnership with external providers. It is always

important to ensure that the residents of Watford are the main focus of any decision making.

I presented a motion regarding tackling loneliness in our society, this was agreed unanimously and now a task group has been set up to look at how this can be dealt with in our community.

I am also working with the police to look at how we could engage with younger people in our society preventing gang crime and negative influence.

Externally I have visited and met with main MP's including our Labour leader on different occasions, it is always very important to understand the direction the party is taking from a national level and implement it to a more local level where possible.

Overall, I have broadened my knowledge and sincerely hope my journey into politics does not stop here, I am willing to learn more and champion the challenges that lie ahead.

### **Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

#### **7. Providing vision**

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#### **8. Managing Performance**

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<b>9. Objective for 2016/17</b>	<b>Update on progress</b>

#### **10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

- + to become more efficient in scrutiny.**
- + to represent more motions of issues that are affecting resident in Watford**
- + carry out more training sessions for Women in politics**
- + carry on being a good advocate for local residents and foresee problems that may arise.**

**Watford Borough Council**  
**Member Self-Assessment 2016/17**

**Meriden Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Amanda Grimston

**1. Year elected:**

2016

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To help in my community.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

Chair of Community Safety Partnership  
Member of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Highways Forum (vice-chair) and Chief Officer Pay Panel.

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

Represent WBC on the Armed Forces Covenant Board.  
Member of Friends of Meriden

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

**6. Attendance Record:**

100%

**Your work with Constituents and in the Community**

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- I have helped with housing issues by having regular meetings with the Management Team regarding issues on the Meriden Estate. I also attend Meriden Residents' Association (MRA) and Edward Amey Residents' Association coffee mornings. This

often results in housing issues and casework being raised by residents. I take these issues up with the Housing Trust or Watford Council.

- I have supported community arts and heritage projects by attending the Green Canteen Open Days, the Friends of Meriden Fun Days, Garston Bowls Club fun day and the Big Events across Watford.
- I have helped vulnerable or disadvantaged people in my community by regularly visiting vulnerable residents and have used my experience in social health to help residents in care.
- I often visit residents to communicate with them face-to-face. I respond to enquiries via e-mail and Facebook.
- I have attended a number of training sessions at the council. These have covered planning, induction and housing policy.
- I am an active member of a number of committees and chair the Community Safety Partnership. In this role I have increased the number of sessions and visited the local police station,
- I have dealt with planning and development in my area by being a member of an action group who are active in development issues in Meriden.

**Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

**7. Providing vision**

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**8. Managing Performance**

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**9. Objective for 2016/17**

**Update on progress**

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**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

1. Continue to work with residents on community issues and engage with local residents' groups.
2. Work with local schools to raise awareness of the problems associated with littering.
3. Continue to work effectively with partner organisations (such as Watford Community Housing Trust, Veolia, HCC, police and Watford Football Club).

## Watford Borough Council

### Member Self- Assessment 2016/17

#### Meriden Ward

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Kareen Hastrick

#### 1. Year elected:

2006

#### 2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:

Living in Meriden Ward, I felt it important that residents have an advocate and I was impressed with what the present administration had achieved for Watford.

#### 3. Roles in the Council:

**Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, Cmte member on Licensing, Outsourced Services Scrutiny, Highways Forum, Housing Policy Advisory Group, Constitution Working Party (Chair)**

#### 4. Membership of outside bodies:

**County Councillor for Meriden Tudor, Board member for Shopmobility Watford, invited to attend North Watford Children's Centre Advisory Board  
Watford's representative on the county council's Health Scrutiny Committee**

#### 5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):

09.06.16	Overview &Scrutiny Foundation training
15.06.16	Licensing training
21.06.16	Licensing training ( taxis/private hire)
28.06.16	Budget Panel Finance Briefing
03.11.16	Highways, Parking and Transportation all Member Briefing
November 2016	Surface Pro all Member workshop
26.06.17	Licensing; taxis and sex establishments.

**6. Attendance Record:**

96%

**Your work with Constituents and in the Community****Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- Set up and supporting Friends of Meriden – Action Group on WCHT plans for the redevelopment of Meriden Estate.
- Attending regular meetings with WCHT regarding issues arising for residents of high rise and low rise apartments as well as redevelopment plans and also general concerns and individual issues. Also taking up issues with other housing providers in the ward.
- Attending Big Events occasions and supporting the Council where appropriate
- Helping residents with a variety of issues with WBC and WCHT
- Communicating and informing residents using regular newsletters, phone, email, and social media
- Participation in Scrutiny committees and regular member on Task Groups.
- Spoken at Development Management on behalf of residents concerns. Aided residents with enquiries over planning.
- Attending Resident Association meetings
- Supporting parks improvements
- Liaison with Police over residents concerns with ASB
- Working with ward councillors in Meriden and Tudor as County councillor

**Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

**7. Providing vision****8. Managing Performance**

<b>9. Objective for 2016/17</b>	<b>Update on progress</b>
<b>Continuing support and organisation for Friends of the Meriden</b>	Ongoing

<b>Setting up Friends of groups for ward parks</b>	Ongoing
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**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

**Support potential application for Green Flag for Garston Park**

**Increase attendance for Licensing hearings**

**Establish 'Friends of' groups for ward parks**



**Watford Borough Council**  
**Member Self-Assessment 2016/17**

**Meriden Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Paddy Kent

**1. Year elected:**

2016

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To represent residents in Meriden and play a role in the governance of the town.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

Member of the following committees:  
Outsourced Services, Development Management and Member Development

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

**6. Attendance Record:**

80%

**Your work with Constituents and in the Community**

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- How you have helped with housing issues e.g., dealing with residents enquiries, taking up issues with a housing provider, attending Housing Policy Advisory Group etc.
- Any occasions where you have consulted local businesses and represented their views to council.
- Examples of supporting community arts and heritage projects, Big Events etc.

- How you have helped vulnerable or disadvantaged people in your communities
- How you communicate with your residents e.g., through e-mail, face to face, using social media etc.
- Where you have attended relevant training which has helped you in your role as a councillor
- How you have participated in the scrutiny process (either by being a member of a committee or on a task group, or answer questions at a scrutiny committee)
- How you have dealt with planning and development in your area e.g., attending Development Management Committee (as a member of the committee or to speak as a ward councillor), attended Planning Policy Advisory Group etc.

I have acted on a wide variety of issues raised by residents, for example, dealing with a neighbour's overgrown garden, requesting the repainting of white lines in a car park, fixing a patch of grass left in a poor state by roadworks, ensuring that overgrown grass on Fairfields is cut.

I have attended the WCHT's Annual briefing for Councillors. I have also attended various meetings organised by the Meriden Residents' Association.

Working in partnership with the other Meriden Councillors, we produce a regular newsletter. I have communicated with residents by. I have also engaged in regular visits to residents' properties.

As a member of the Outsourced Services committee, I am involved in scrutinising the work of the services the Council outsources and am particularly interested in the performance of the operator of the leisure centres. As a member of Development Management, I have sought to balance the principle of sensible and sustainable developments and the concerns of residents with planning guidance and the need for more homes.

**Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

**7. Providing vision**

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**8. Managing Performance**

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<b>9. Objective for 2016/17</b>	<b>Update on progress</b>

**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

Continue to inform and support Meriden residents as WCHT's development works continue. Contribute to the process of appointing a new leisure centre contractor.

Contribute to the process of campaigning for an improved Watford Junction.  
Continue to find ways for the council to help make Watford a great place for pedestrians and cyclists.

## **Watford BC: Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

### **Q1 – Self assessment of Councillor**

Mark Hofman

### **Q2 – Elected representative for**

Nascot

### **Q3 – Year elected to Watford Borough Council (if you have served two separate terms please give your most recent year of election):**

2012

### **Q4 – What were your reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To engage with local residents, help Constituents with issues they may encounter and ensure the interests of young people are heard.

### **Q5 – What roles have you undertaken in the Council (such as membership of a committee, task group etc)?**

Council

Licensing

Budget Committee

Major Projects Board

### **Q6 – What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough Council ( such as membership of outside bodies)?**

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q7 – The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

Work toward an inclusive, innovative and compassionate Council equipped with 21st century solutions to local issues.

### **Q8 – Priority 1: Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs**

Work with Westminster politicians and policy makers to ensure our 35% affordable housing requirement is maintained, and build our own developments in appropriate locations throughout the borough.

### **Q9 – Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

Lobby TfL and DfT to re-zone Watford stations, bringing them into zone 6 of the TfL zoning system and unleashing Watford's true economic potential.

### **Q10 – Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

Invest in local community assets, education and housing programmes to ensure everyone, no matter what their background, should have the same chance in life.

**Q11 – Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

Lobby Major and senior decision makers to introduce smart bins around Watford, and other smart city technologies including wayfinding apps, smart lighting, parking solutions, and traffic management, to name but a few.

**Q12 – Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

Continue to diversify our investment portfolio and work toward a financially independent, strong and secure budget.

**Q13 – Are you a Cabinet member?**

No

**Q14 – Providing vision**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q15 – Managing performance**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q16 – Please write in: Objective 1 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

**Objective:** To work with all of my local colleagues and stakeholders to build a stronger, well informed community.

I have built my knowledge of local government by attending training sessions and briefings during the past year to ensure I'm up-to-date with changes in the local landscape.

**Q17 – Please write in: Objective 2 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

**Objective:** To ensure we protect and enhance the wonderful character of Nascot Ward.

I have worked with my colleagues to campaign against over-development throughout the ward, and secured a number of tree protection orders to preserve the area's green character.

**Q18 – Please write in: Objective 3 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q19 – Please write in: Objective 4 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q20 – Please write in: Objective 5 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q21 – Please write in: Objective 6 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q22 – Please write in any other objectives you set and your progress below:**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q23 – Objectives:**

To improve transport services for residents living in Nascot, and protect and enhance the wonderful character of Nascot Ward.

**Attendance:** 92%

## **Watford BC: Member Self-Assessment 2016/17**

### **Q1 – Self assessment of Councillor**

Mark Watkin

### **Q2 – Elected representative for**

Nascot

### **Q3 – Year elected to Watford Borough Council (if you have served two separate terms please give your most recent year of election):**

2016

### **Q4 – What were your reasons for becoming a councillor:**

My principal reason was, and remains my desire, to improve the facilities and services provided to my Ward by the council and its associated bodies. “To make a difference” to the lives of the community I serve

### **Q5 – What roles have you undertaken in the Council (such as membership of a committee, task group etc)?**

Member of Cabinet - Portfolio Holder for Legal and Democratic Services, Shared Services and Customer Services

Digital Watford Board (Chair)

Chief Officer Pay Panel

Council Functions Committee (Chair)

Development Management Committee

Planning Policy Advisory Group

Property Investment Board

### **Q6 – What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough Council ( such as membership of outside bodies)?**

Chessbrook ESC – Governor

Nascot Wood Junior School - Governor

Friends of Cassiobury Park – member

Nascot Residents Association – member

Friends of Watford Museum – member

### **Q7 – The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

As a member of the Cabinet this is core to what I and my colleagues consider when reviewing policies and making decisions affecting the Borough. In particular in my role as Chair of the Digital Watford Board I am seeking innovative ways of creating an environment in the Borough where businesses will be able to access superfast broadband. This Board will be looking for ground breaking innovations to utilise the capabilities of the low power wireless services that will be introduced in the Borough.

### **Q8 – Priority 1: Identify ways to manage the borough’s housing needs**

I support the Portfolio Holder for Housing in his search for innovative measures to meet the growing demands for social and affordable housing.

**Q9 – Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

This is encompassed in my role as Chair of Digital Watford. If the Borough can provide the core digital services local firms are looking for, they will flourish. It is vitally important that Watford is a leader in this field.

**Q10 – Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

Being the Portfolio Holder for the Benefits Section, it is absolutely crucial that we provide an excellent and responsive service to this group while ensuring that we are constantly vigilant for any fraudulent claims.

**Q11 – Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

This is now one of my prime roles as I chair the Digital Watford Board. This encompasses transforming the way residents will be able to interact with the Council 24x7, 365 days per year, as well as working to ensure that all our businesses will enjoy the high quality broadband services at an economical price. We have established a town centre wide wi-fi with over 48,000 registered members at no cost to the council.

**Q12 – Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

It is crucial that the Council becomes sustainable and this at the heart of my role as the Finance Portfolio Holder. We must question every costs and ;look for every commercial opportunity. We must be alert to the potential benefits following the localisation of Business Rates. By using the capabilities of the latest IT technology, overseen by the Digital Watford Board, we will enable the success of the fundamental review of the Council's services which has started and will run through until 2020.

**Q13 – Are you a Cabinet member?**

Yes

**Q14 – Providing vision**

As a member of Cabinet I am constantly asked to consider matters of policy which in themselves set the vision for the future of Watford. I challenge and question their effectiveness before agreeing to their implementation.

In my particular area, my objective is to ensure that all the shared services are responsive and effective and are in good shape to meet the demands facing them in the future.

The implementation of the innovative ideas and technology that will flow from the decisions taken by The Digital Watford Board will enable the Borough to create a new vision of where it wants to go to.

**Q15 – Managing performance**

This is absolutely at the heart of everything I do in my portfolio. The work that has been done between me and the senior officers in Revenues and Benefit, ICT and indeed all the Shared Services, substantiates this. Objective for 2015/16 Update on progress. I regularly monitor the key performance indicators for all my Departments to ensure that they operate as effectively and cost efficiently as possible.



**Q16 – Please write in: Objective 1 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

To aim to ensure that all the departments in my portfolio achieve their targets and when the services are supplied by 3 Rivers, that we receive a high standard of performance matching agreed targets, In particular the reorganised ICT Service starts to become a real provider of enhanced efficiency and support to the whole Council.

2016/17 has seen real progress in the quality of the services, reliability and equipment used throughout the Council. Innovations such as the replacement of virtually all the desktop devices and updating them to Windows 7; the introduction of a faster more reliable internet Service; the move from thin client to fat client and the introduction of Surface Pro tablets to all members and an increasing number of staff are just some examples. On the service side, the 24x7 support provided by Amicus has had a dramatically positive effect.

Apart from ICT, all the other Departments in my Portfolio either achieved or passed their performance targets. Most notably, Watford Council was awarded the IIP Gold Standard.

**Q17 – Please write in: Objective 2 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q18 – Please write in: Objective 3 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q19 – Please write in: Objective 4 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q20 – Please write in: Objective 5 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q21 – Please write in: Objective 6 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q22 – Please write in any other objectives you set and your progress below:**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q23**

**Objectives:**

1. To ensure that all Departments meet or pass their service targets.
2. To see the continuing improvement of the Council's ICT service.
3. To ensure that the Council meets the Government's PSTN standard.
4. Through the use of its ICT , wireless and broadband to see the Council adopt innovative strategies and services to serve Watford better.

**Attendance:** 90%

## Watford Borough Council

### Member Self- Assessment 2016/17

#### Oxhey Ward

**Self-Assessment of: Councillor** Iain Sharpe

#### 1. Year elected:

1991

#### 2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:

I wanted to make sure that Watford remains a good place to live in, and for people to visit and work in, especially to protect and enhance the build environment. I believe strongly in local democracy and the need for councillors to hold public bodies accountable to the public. In addition, I am a committed Liberal Democrat and believe the party has strong policies for open government, responding to the concerns of local residents, and providing quality services at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

#### 3. Roles in the Council:

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development, Member of Development Control Committee, Hertfordshire Chair of Highways Forum, Major Projects Board, Planning Policy Advisory Group (Chair),

#### 4. Membership of outside bodies:

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (comprising planning portfolio holders for all Hertfordshire districts and Hertfordshire County Council.

#### 5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):

Surface Pro all Member workshop (Nov 2016)  
Development Management (June 2017)  
Viability (for Development Management)  
Watford vernacular training (July 2017)

I have also participated in various training and discussion events organised by the Local Government Association at the twice yearly Liberal Democrat conference, particularly in the fields of planning, housing and environmental issues.

#### 6. Attendance Record:

92%

## Your work with Constituents and in the Community

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- How you have helped with housing issues e.g., dealing with residents enquiries, taking up issues with a housing provider, attending Housing Policy Advisory Group etc.
- Any occasions where you have consulted local businesses and represented their views to council.
- Examples of supporting community arts and heritage projects, Big Events etc.
- How you have helped vulnerable or disadvantaged people in your communities
- How you communicate with your residents e.g., through e-mail, face to face, using social media etc.
- Where you have attended relevant training which has helped you in your role as a councillor
- How you have participated in the scrutiny process (either by being a member of a committee or on a task group, or answer questions at a scrutiny committee)
- How you have dealt with planning and development in your area e.g., attending Development Management Committee (as a member of the committee or to speak as a ward councillor), attended Planning Policy Advisory Group etc.

### **Housing matters**

I have continued to play the lead member role on planning policy, helping to develop policies that will enable the council to meet its targets for housebuilding, including providing affordable homes. Despite the challenges of an ever-changing national planning environment, we have taken important steps forward, including agreeing a policy for accepting commuted payments for affordable housing, and our taller buildings policy, 'Skyline', produced in response to the increasing pressure for taller buildings in Watford.

### **Business and the local economy**

Our town faces particular challenges with increasing housing need and obligation within the national planning regime to meet that need. I have been closely involved with the development of policy to regenerate two key areas of the town to provide new homes, Watford Junction and Watford Health campus.

My cabinet responsibilities for planning also involves bringing forward policies and projects that help to make Watford a more attractive town for businesses – for example the planned public realm improvements to Watford High Street to complement the regeneration of the Charter Place shopping centre.

### **Arts and Heritage**

As a member of the cabinet I have strongly supported a wide-ranging arts programme in Watford, as well as supporting effective conservation policies.

I have attended performances at Watford Palace Theatre and at the Imagine Watford and

Big Screen on the Beach events.

### **Vulnerable people and communities**

This also relates to our approach to securing more affordable housing through the planning system.

In addition, much of the individual casework raised with us comes from residents who have in some way faced difficulties accessing services or getting their voice heard.

### **Communicating with residents**

I communicate regularly with local residents in Oxhey ward in conjunction with my fellow ward councillors, the elected mayor and the county councillor for the area.

This includes producing a regular ward newsletter, *Oxhey Opinion* approximately eight times a year and a tabloid newspaper around three times a year. In addition we send out e-newsletters at around fortnightly intervals.

We also regularly carry out surveys to ask people's views on local issues, both by knocking on doors to ask people to complete questionnaires and by posting the questionnaires online.

In addition we participate in council-led consultation exercises, such as the one currently taking place regarding improvements to Oxhey Park North.

### **Training**

The various training events I have attended on planning issues organised by the council have enabled me to keep up to date with recent developments in development management and policy-making, as well as providing an opportunity to see other possibilities for improving how the council can promote high quality development and resist inappropriate schemes.

Training I have attended at the Liberal Democrat conference, particularly on the debate on whether the priority in housing should be new settlements or further urban intensification have given me a sense of the wider political context for the debates we are having in Watford over planning issues.

### **Scrutiny**

As a cabinet member, by definition, I am not a member of a scrutiny committee. While in previous years, I have attended various scrutiny committee meetings, this has been less so this year. However, I have been involved in briefing cabinet colleagues who have attended scrutiny meetings, including for call-in of cabinet decisions and overseeing officers' responses to scrutiny questions.

### **Development management**

In my role as cabinet member for the planning service, and through being a member of the Development Management committee, I am closely involved with the planning process.

I am a vocal participant on the committee (perhaps overly so in the view of some colleagues), participating in the debate on most agenda items.

Planning is a very controversial area. There is a demonstrable need for new homes and regeneration to create jobs and ensure a strong local economy. Yet almost all housing schemes, even relatively small ones, are extremely controversial.

On occasion, I have successfully moved that the committee override an officer recommendation to approve a scheme, where I think the scheme is poor quality and/or has an unacceptable effect on its surroundings. In two cases in the past year, the refusal has been upheld by inspectors when the scheme went to appeal. Overall it is important that the committee does not just rubber stamp officer recommendations and that councillors bring to bear their own knowledge and judgement, even if this does sometimes mean losing appeals.

I am active in discussing planning issues and interpretation of planning policy with fellow councillors and residents groups who are concerned about interpretations of planning policy, including being in regular dialogue with my local residents' association. In addition I have met residents who are unhappy with council decisions to approve schemes to explain the reasoning behind our decision.

Development management is probably the most challenging and difficult aspect of being a councillor. It is sometimes necessary to approve schemes, which have considerable opposition, and where this is the case, I try to make clear to everyone attending the committee meeting why I am voting a particular way, so that there is at least transparency behind our decisions, even if people will still disagree with them.

### **Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

#### **7. Providing vision**

Key activities include:

- Contributing to the council's corporate plan through discussions with senior officers, the mayor, cabinet members and councillors.
- Contributing to development and delivery of council's key priorities, including work towards a family-friendly town centre and improvement of parks and green space
- Promoting via planning policy etc. work towards a strong local economy and sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Willingness to take difficult decisions (e.g. over major regeneration sites) for the greater good of the town, especially in trying to meet the need for new homes.
- Participation in regular meetings with senior management to further the council's policy goals.

## 8. Managing Performance

### The key activities I undertake in these areas are

- Regular meetings with the head of service and quarterly reviews to monitor performance of services within my cabinet portfolio.
- Taking up complaints and concerns raised by local residents and being willing to challenge questionable performance by the council where necessary.
- As part of cabinet regular meetings with leadership team to monitor council's performance on key priorities.

9.Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continued progress on local plan and wider planning framework.</li><li>- Further consultation to agree future of North side of Oxhey Park</li><li>- Continue to campaign for improved rail services and station facilities at Bushey</li><li>- Achieve progress on and timetable for town hall square improvements.</li><li>- Ensure Property Investment Board achieves goals of increased return on council's investment portfolio</li></ul>	<p>-Changes in the national framework mean that we will now be moving towards a review of the whole district plan rather than completing Part 2 as previously. I have approved other key policy documents, including for conservation areas and commuted payments for affordable housing.</p> <p>This is well under way, with representatives of local groups participating in regular meetings with councillors and council officers to agree details of the scheme.</p> <p>With my Oxhey ward colleagues I carried out a survey of the views of passengers about facilities and services at Bushey Station and we are pressing rail operators for improvements, especially more shelters on the heavily-used Platform 6.</p> <p>This scheme has been developed and consulted on, but we have agreed to prioritise a related scheme to improve the High Street</p> <p>Although this is no longer in my cabinet portfolio, I continued to attend meetings of the Board, properties have been purchases and the council is meeting its targets in terms of increased revenue.</p>

**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

- Continued progress on development of planning policies for the town with sustainable solutions.
- Successful completion of improvements to High Street between Market Street and Clarendon Road
- Successful completion of improvements to North side of Oxhey Park
- Continue campaign for improved rail services and station facilities at Bushey Station.
- Carry out informal consultation with residents in Oxhey on parking issues.

## Watford Borough Council

### Member Self- Assessment 2016/17

#### Oxhey Ward

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Peter Taylor

#### 1. Year elected:

2012

#### 2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:

To serve my community and support the Liberal Democrat administration in delivering high quality services across the town.

#### 3. Roles in the Council:

Deputy Mayor, Liberal Democrat Group Leader and Portfolio Holder for Client Services.

#### 4. Membership of outside bodies:

Oxhey Village Environmental Group  
Friends of Oxhey Park

#### 5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):

LGA Leadership Academy

#### 6. Attendance Record:

100%

#### Your work with Constituents and in the Community

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- I have helped a number of Oxhey residents with housing issues. This has involved taking up case work with the Housing Trust relating to overcrowding, fire-safety and property insulation. I have arranged and attended meetings with residents to discuss



problems with representatives for WCHT and with Watford Council's housing team.

- Working with ward colleagues, I am currently organising a survey across Oxhey Ward on parking regulations. As part of this process I have discussed the issues with local businesses and sought their views on the best way to proceed.
- I have attended and promoted community events at Watford Museum and Watford Palace Theatre. I have also attended many of the council's Big Events, including the Big Skate, Big Sports Day, Big Beech and Big Screen.
- I have helped vulnerable or disadvantaged people my community by responding to case work matters quickly and effectively. I have also supported the 'Dementia Friends' programme both in Oxhey and at the town's two leisure centres.
- I communicate with residents through e-mail, face-to-face, using social media and in ward newsletters.
- I have attended the 'Leadership Academy' training that is provided by the Local Government Association. This involved sharing best practice with senior councillors from different parties across the country.
- I have participated in the scrutiny process by answering questions at a scrutiny committees, mainly the Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel.
- I have kept residents in my ward updated on proposed developments through ward newsletters and emails. I have spoken at a number of Development Management Committee meetings to raise the concerns of residents. I have also attend meetings in my ward where residents have asked questions about particular planning applications.

### **Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

#### **7. Providing vision**

I attend regular meetings with senior council officers and other members of the cabinet where we discuss the strategic direction of the council. I listen to others but make frequent contributions in these discussions too. Our vision of being a 'Bold and Progressive' council is applied in a range of situations. I have contributed to the development and delivery of council's key priorities, including a family-friendly town centre (Big Events), improved parks (Green Flags and Cassiobury Park improvements) and a thriving local economy. I recognise that an important part of my role as Group Leader and Deputy Mayor is to articulate the council's vision in public meetings, the local media and in the council chamber.

## 8. Managing Performance

I hold regular meetings with senior council officers to discuss the performance of the areas in my portfolio and strategic priorities. This includes quarterly reviews to monitor the performance of services within my cabinet portfolio. In these discussions, we consider the latest Key Performance Indicators and specific matters of interest. I am also in frequent email and phone contact with officers to discuss issues of high priority and I am willing to challenge the performance and expectations of the council when necessary.

9. Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress
<p>Continue to respond quickly and effectively to casework from local residents.</p> <p>In my role as a portfolio holder ensure that residents continue to receive high quality services and good value for money.</p>	<p>I continue to receive a high-volume of casework from local residents, mainly via email. I respond to this in a timely manner and always do my best to achieve a positive outcome.</p> <p>This year Watford gained 11 Green Flags, 3 more than last year and the highest number of any council in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The recent QUEST assessment of our leisure centres rated both 'excellent' and in the top 50 of over 700 assessed.</p>

## 10. Objective(s) for 2017/18

Continue to respond quickly and effectively to casework from local residents.

Ensure that an Oxhey Ward parking survey is undertaken in a fair and transparent manner and that the wishes of local residents determine the outcome of this.

Oversee improvements to Oxhey Park North and the start of the project there. Make sure that the views of residents are incorporated into this project and that the work is carried out to a high standard.

In my role as a portfolio holder ensure that residents continue to receive high quality services and good value for money.

## **Watford BC: Member Self-Assessment 2016/17**

### **Q1 – Self assessment of Councillor**

David Barks

### **Q2 – Elected representative for**

Park

### **Q3 – Year elected to Watford Borough Council:**

2016

### **Q4 – What were your reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To represent my ward and contribute to promoting liberal values and policies in our town.

### **Q5 – What roles have you undertaken in the Council (such as membership of a committee, task group etc)?**

Development Management Committee, Budget Panel and Digital Watford Board

### **Q6 – What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough Council ( such as membership of outside bodies)?**

I have attended meetings with WCHT and Watford & Three Rivers Trust

### **Q7 – The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

I have supported the councils plans for digital services identifying areas where we can improve and change our services to transform them for the better for residents with better value. I continue to campaign for better road

### **Q8 – Priority 1: Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs**

I have supported the set-up of Hart Homes and have supported residents who have contacted me in need of housing or a change of housing

### **Q9 – Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

I have attended a conference about Smart Cities and worked on the digital Watford board. I have also campaigned for the Metropolitan Line Extension to progress and the retention of the Watford Met station as I believe infrastructure is vital to our continued economic prosperity and better comfort in growth.

### **Q10 – Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

I helped review the satisfaction and usage of the leisure centres and highlighted how communities in Watford are able to access these services as well as suggesting improvements

### **Q11 – Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

I am a member of the Digital Watford Board and helped direct our digital strategy to enable the community to access better services.

**Q12 – Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

I have reviewed our budgets and financial plans as part of the budget panel and suggested changes, such as amendments to council tax and property investment

**Q13 – Are you a Cabinet member?**

No

**Q14 – Providing vision**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q15 – Managing performance**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q16 – Please write in: Objective 1 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Continue to represent and help members of my ward and wider Watford when they need help

**Q17 – Please write in: Objective 2 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

To improve the living situations of those who need it most

**Q18 – Please write in: Objective 3 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

To improve the digital services the council offers

**Q19 – Please write in: Objective 4 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

To honestly and reliably judge developments in the town to help ensure they make a positive impact on us

**Q20 – Please write in: Objective 5 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q21 – Please write in: Objective 6 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q22 – Please write in any other objectives you set and your progress below:**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q23 – Objectives:**

Please see above

**Attendance: 97%**

## Watford Borough Council

### Member Self-Assessment 2016/17

#### Park Ward

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Peter Jeffree

#### 1. Year elected:

2017

#### 2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:

To be more active in the community, particularly in the area of influencing the quality of development in Watford

#### 3. Roles in the Council:

Chair – Development Management Committee  
Member – Licensing Committee  
Member – Planning Advisory Committee  
Member – Housing Advisory Committee  
Member – Major Projects Board

#### 4. Membership of outside bodies:

Council nominated Board member on Watford Community Housing Trust

#### 5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):

Induction Afternoon	08.05.17
Development Control (general) training	12.06.17
Licensing; taxis and sex establishments.	26.06.17
Viability	28.06.17
Watford Vernacular	10.07.17

#### 6. Attendance Record:

N/A

## Your work with Constituents and in the Community

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

I edit a Park Ward e-newsletter which is sent out to more than 800 residents every 2 or 3 weeks depending on news content.

As chair of DMC I am actively engaged in ensuring development in Watford is appropriate for the town.

I presented a motion to Council proposing scrutiny of WBC's tall buildings policy and emergency procedures. This was in response to the Grenfell House tragedy. I expect to serve on the scrutiny panel when the proposal is accepted by Overview and Scrutiny later in September.

I always respond to resident's queries and comments promptly and have intervened on behalf of residents on topics such as litter and dog fouling. I have engaged with residents on parking problems in Cassiobury Triangle and have followed up with officers to introduce further parking restrictions.

I am pursuing issues around changes to the parking provision in Cassiobury Park.

I have supported many of the big events programme including the programme of band concerts at the relocated band stand and the Imagine Watford arts festival, and have promoted these through the regular e-newsletter.

### Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY

**For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?**

#### 7. Providing vision

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#### 8. Managing Performance

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9. Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress

**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

Continue serving as an effective Chair of DMC

Contribute to the development of appropriate housing and planning policies through the two Advisory Committees

Be active in contributing to Licensing sub committees as required

Continue regular communication with residents through the local e-newsletter

**Watford Borough Council**

**Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

**Park Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Nikki Steele

**1. Year elected:**

2016

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

Wanted to get involved and help local community

**3. Roles in the Council:**

Council Functions Committee

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

Cassiobury Residents Association - Member  
Friends of Cassiobury Park – Member

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

IT Training

**6. Attendance Record:**

86%

**Your work with Constituents and in the Community**

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- Together with the support of my Park Ward team, I have assisted with residents' casework mostly concerned with planning, parking, highway faults and potholes, as well as anti-social behaviour issues within Cassiobury Park itself
- I have reported Highway Faults via the HCC online service which has had quick results



- I have raised Cassiobury Park issues with WBC Officers, and have also met with the Park Manager and the Park Ranger to see what can be done to improve things
- I have conceptualised a Considerate Cassiobury Campaign and presented it to the Park Manager and WBC representatives. If launched, hopefully it will make a positive impact on the mindfulness and consideration of all users of the Park and facilities
- I am a member of The Friends of Cassiobury Park and attend meetings to keep informed
- I am interested in retaining the historic heritage of Watford and attended a Friends of Little Cassiobury meeting to understand the challenges of preserving this significant local building, making it accessible and relevant for future users
- Park Ward residents stop me in person to talk about their concerns, and I follow up by phone or email. I also contribute to the Park Lib Dems email newsletter keeping residents informed of news and events in Park Ward
- I attend Lib Dem Group Meetings, and full Council Meetings

**Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

**7. Providing vision**

n/a

**8. Managing Performance**

n/a

9. Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress
To support my colleagues and stakeholders in nurturing a robust and well-informed local community	I have developed my knowledge of what is going on locally by attending various groups, meetings and talking with residents

**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

To keep Park Ward Residents informed about events and activities in Cassiobury Park and to protect local amenity from being negatively impacted by increases in traffic and footfall

**Watford Borough Council**

**Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

**Stanborough Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Derek Scudder

**1. Year elected:**

1994

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To assist residents and to help improve the operation of the council.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

**Current roles are member of the Licensing Committee, HPAG and Chairman of the Audit Committee**

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

**Trustee of the Bedford, Cordery and Morison Alms-houses**

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

**6. Attendance Record:**

**89%**

**Your work with Constituents and in the Community**

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- How you have helped with housing issues e.g., dealing with residents enquiries, taking up issues with a housing provider, attending Housing Policy Advisory Group etc.

- Any occasions where you have consulted local businesses and represented their views to council.
- Examples of supporting community arts and heritage projects, Big Events etc.
- How you have helped vulnerable or disadvantaged people in your communities
- How you communicate with your residents e.g., through e-mail, face to face, using social media etc.
- Where you have attended relevant training which has helped you in your role as a councillor
- How you have participated in the scrutiny process (either by being a member of a committee or on a task group, or answer questions at a scrutiny committee)
- How you have dealt with planning and development in your area e.g., attending Development Management Committee (as a member of the committee or to speak as a ward councillor), attended Planning Policy Advisory Group etc.

I have dealt with many residents housing issues over the years. These residents come from a variety of backgrounds, including some with particular disadvantages. I am a member of the Housing Policy Action Group.

Stanborough has one of the strongest residents associations in the borough (Kingswood Residents Association) and I attend most of its committee meetings, including the AGM.

There have been several occasions when I have represented residents at Development Management meetings. I have also helped negotiate changes to WCHT developments to improve both their quality and their acceptance by local residents.

With my ward colleagues I produce regular newsletters which are delivered to every property in the ward. We also produce an email news update. I attend local community events whenever possible.

I attend many of the training events the council organises and these have constantly informed my dealings with residents.

I chaired the scrutiny task group on parking in the town centre.

**Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

**7. Providing vision**

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**8. Managing Performance**

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9. Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress
<p><b>My objectives were to continue to offer a good service for local residents.</b></p>	<p>I believe I am continuing to meet this objective.</p>

10. Objective(s) for 2017/18
<p>My main objective will continue to give a good service to residents and also to assist the council in the furtherance of its aims of continuing to improve the town.</p> <p>As chairman of the Audit Committee I will be ensuring that the work of the committee is of a high standard and meets the aims of the council both internally and externally with the various bodies and agencies with which we deal.</p>

## **Watford BC: Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

### **Q1 – Self assessment of Councillor**

Councillor Tim Williams

### **Q2 – Elected representative for**

Stanborough Ward

### **Q3 – Year elected to Watford Borough Council (if you have served two separate terms please give your most recent year of election):**

2016

### **Q4 – What were your reasons for becoming a councillor:**

I became Councillor at the age of twenty-two, in 1987, as I wanted to help local residents with the issues that affected them, to assist residents in their dealings with the Council, and wanted to see a “younger” voice on the Council. This willingness to help local residents, and local community groups, in my Ward, and in Watford, is still the paramount reason that I stand as a local Councillor in the ward that I live in with my family.

### **Q5 – What roles have you undertaken in the Council (such as membership of a committee, task group etc)?**

Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel - Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Audit Committee - Vice-Chair

Leisure Management Contract Task Group

### **Q6 – What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough Council ( such as membership of outside bodies)?**

- employed as a Credit Services Manager for Randstad UK
- committee member of Kingswood Residents Association
- member of Friends of Woodside
- member of Friends of Cassiobury Park
- member of Friends of Watford Museum
- member of Friends of Frogmore House
- member of North Watford Allotment Garden Society
- allotment holder at Briar Rd site
- member of Watford Mayors' Association
- member of Hunstanton Civic Society
- Member of Everyone Active - Woodside
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management
- Governor of St Joan of Arc RC School

### **Q7 – The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

Corporate Plan 2020 - adopted - 21st March 2017 -formally approved. Take an active interest in the Major Projects Board and the strategic Property Investment Board - safeguarding Watford's future for decades. Major Projects being Charter Place redevelopment, Health Campus, Watford Metropolitan Line extension, Watford Business Park and to plan/explore possible development around Watford Junction.

**Q8 – Priority 1: Identify ways to manage the borough’s housing needs**

Attended Housing and Planning meetings to become aware of the serious housing issues that we are facing - support the initiatives being launched including the new nomination policy. I attended the Councillors visit to Watford Community Trust in order to be updated on the Trust's future plans and recent projects.

**Q9 – Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

Taken part in formulating the Local Plan - ensuring Watford has a sustainable future balancing employment land and residential land. Previously been a member of the Development Control Committee and the Planning Policy Advisory Group, and this has a direct impact on the Town’s sustainability in both the short term and the long term.

**Q10 – Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

At the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committees we regularly review the Housing KPI's and the Housing Benefit KPI's to ensure that those who might be considered as vulnerable and disadvantaged receive prompt and efficient services. In my own Ward we've been fighting to maintain the R8 Bus Service that serves both Kingswood & Leavesden Green estates that is a lifeline for many vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and is the only bus service they have.

**Q11 – Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

On the Audit Committee we regularly raise IT/Digital matters to ensure that the Council is at the forefront - Town Centre WiFi is a great example. On a ward basis I regular send out an e-circular of local matters by mailchimp, have a twitter account, facebook account and regularly contribute to three neighbourhood facebook pages.

**Q12 – Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

To make Watford financially secure in 2020 when government funding ceases - attended workshop sessions to explore ways to make this happen - asked questions and challenged assumptions when necessary.

**Q13 – Are you a Cabinet member?**

No

**Q14 – Providing vision**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q15 – Managing performance**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q16 – Please write in: Objective 1 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Maintain Green Flag status for Woodside Playing Fields & Albans Wood - achieved Summer'16

**Q17 – Please write in: Objective 2 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Investigate improvements to Leavesden Green Playing Fields – links into Hemming Way redevelopment by Watford Community Housing Trust - in progress - development of Hemming Way now underway and due to be completed in Jan 2018 and yes the plans include improved entrances into the playing fields.

**Q18 – Please write in: Objective 3 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Continue to report and address Highway matters to Herts County Council - achieved but this is a constant matter and the state of the roads is poor (Herts County Council need to review the management of their contract/contractors).

**Q19 – Please write in: Objective 4 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Address Anti-Social Behaviour matters with the Neighbourhood Police Team - achieved but again this matter is constant with youngsters in the area causing antisocial behaviour issues and vehicle break-ins (often vans for tools) - police attended the recent Annual General Meeting of the Kingswood Residents Association

**Q20 – Please write in: Objective 5 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Continue to work with residents, and residents' groups on getting improvements to the area - achieved but this is on-going - recently appointed to the Kingswood Residents Association committee

**Q21 – Please write in: Objective 6 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Continue with regular communications with residents via newsletters and attendance at Residents' meetings - achieved with regular newsletters, e-newsletters via mailchimp, regularly reports in the Kingswood News and attend monthly meetings of the resident associations

**Q22 – Please write in any other objectives you set and your progress below:**

Work with Watford Community Housing Trust and other Housing organisations with matters that tenants/residents raise with me - achieved, have healthy relationship with the Watford Community Housing Trust and together we resolve many issues raised

**Q23 – Objectives:**

- 1) Maintain Green Flag status for Woodside Playing Fields & Albans Wood
- 2) Investigate improvements to Leavesden Green Playing Fields – links into Hemming Way redevelopment by Watford Community Housing Trust (to be completed Jan'18)
- 3) Continue to report and address Highway matters to Herts County Council
- 4) Address Anti-Social Behaviour matters with the Neighbourhood Police Team
- 5) Continue to work with residents, and residents' groups on getting improvements to the area
- 6) Continue with regular communications with residents via newsletters and attendance at Residents' meetings
- 7) Work with Watford Community Housing Trust, and other Housing organisations with matters that tenants/residents raise with me
- 8) Maintain a Bus Service for Kingswood & Leavesden Green estates (R8 Services is being withdrawn by Mullany's)

**Attendance:** 92%

**Watford Borough Council**

**Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

**Tudor Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Joe Fahmy

**1. Year elected:**

2016

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

An interest in serving the community coupled with a wish to use my local government experience to engage with the local community and make improvements at ward and borough level.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

Licensing Committee (Chair)  
Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003) (Chair)  
Licensing Sub Committee  
Budget Panel  
Constitution Working Party

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

N/A

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

**6. Attendance Record:**

89%



## Your work with Constituents and in the Community

Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:

- Assisting residents of local housing associations and housing trusts with the improvement, maintaining, and fixing problems with resident's properties, and where necessary making a case to the housing provider on their behalf.
- Improving resident's local amenities by supporting and taking the appropriate course of action with damaged street furniture, fly-tipping, as well as maintenance and upkeep of communal areas and green spaces.
- Actively engaged with residents to understand their concerns in relation to issues of parking and highway repairs, and liaise with the appropriate people when dealing with low level anti-social behaviour.
- Actively engaged in a range of local community events from improving the public realm by initiating clean-up and action days to arranging a regular Christmas event at the Tudor Parade Shops. Improvements include, street furniture, trees and open spaces, and the maintenance of highways including the revamp of the Tudor Parade.
- Actively used the ward locality budget to help local community organisations including helping vulnerable and disadvantaged groups including local charities.
- I have addressed the Development Management Committee as a ward Councillor and sat on the committee as a substitute on a number of occasions.

### Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

#### 7. Providing vision

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#### 8. Managing Performance

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9. Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress

10. Objective(s) for 2017/18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="240 443 1394 517">• Enhance the area of Tudor Parade shops which have not yet revamped with planters and seating areas.</li><li data-bbox="240 562 1350 674">• Meet with the local OWL Watch Liaison Officer, PCSOs and Safe Neighbourhood Teams to build a good relationship with them and our residents so my colleagues and I can keep the residents aware of matters which arise in the Ward.</li><li data-bbox="240 719 1110 752">• To communicate regularly with residents via social media sites.</li></ul>

## Watford Borough Council

### Member Self- Assessment 2016/17

#### Tudor Ward

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Steve Johnson

#### 1. Year elected:

2009

#### 2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:

I became a Councillor because I wanted to serve the local community by representing their interests in local government. I also wanted to have more involvement at a local level in decision making. I felt this was the next step, after chairing a local Residents Association.

#### 3. Roles in the Council:

Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property  
Annual Council  
Appointments Committee  
Cabinet  
Constitution Working Party  
Council  
Development Management Committee (Vice-Chair)

#### 4. Membership of outside bodies:

#### 5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):

2016

21.01.16

Leadership Essentials, Housing, Leadership Academy/LGA, Scarman Centre, Warwick University.

November 2016

Surface Pro all Member workshop

03.03.16

'Resettling Vulnerable Syrian refugees; a multi-agency approach for the East of England',

Trinity Centre, Cambridge. LGA/ East of England LGA (Strategic Migration Partnership). No cost.

27.09.16

Effectively Regulating Private Housing and Tackling Rogue Landlords

24.4.17

Herts Housing Conference.

#### **6. Attendance Record:**

92%

#### **How the Councillor has met Council ambitions**

**‘All our passion determination and team work, that is what makes Watford bold and progressive’**

In this section of the Self - Assessment, the councillor explains how they have worked to fulfil, or contribute to, the Council’s vision and priorities;

**‘Our Vision’**

#### **7. To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

In section 8. I outline how I have helped to create a bold and progressive future for Watford

**‘Our Priorities’**

#### **8. Identify ways to manage the borough’s housing needs**

As housing portfolio holder, this is an area that is very close to my heart. The South East of England is in the middle of a housing crisis. In Watford, we can react locally as best we can but the solution needs to tackle with more determination from a national prospective.

Locally we have taken a great number of initiatives to manage the boroughs housing needs.

- We have created our own housing company to help the council build homes for local residents. Our first scheme will consist of much needed affordable homes and temporary accommodation for homeless households. These new homes should be completed by mid-2018.

- We started a new Strategic Homelessness Forum in Watford which includes representatives from a wide range of voluntary and statutory external partners. The main aim of the Forum is to reduce homelessness and improve services and provision for people and households at risk of or actually homeless within the Watford Borough Council area. Its

key area of work so far has been to look at ways for agencies to work together to make better use of available supported and general needs accommodation for homeless single people locally. It also oversees the government-funded prevention of rough sleeping project.

- I chair the Housing Policy Advisory Group which is a forum for Councillors to discuss strategic housing and housing-related issues relevant to the area covered by Watford Borough Council. Over the last few months, Councillors have received presentations and had the opportunity to comment on various issues including the performance of the Housing Department in delivering its services, the work of the Environmental Health Team, the provision of temporary accommodation in the borough and updates on all the strategic housing-related projects being worked on.
- With so few affordable/social rented homes available locally we reduced the number of applicants on our Housing Register from around 5,000 to under 800. We did this by introducing a residence requirement which means applicants must live in Watford at the time they apply to the Housing Register and must also have lived in Watford for five of the last six years.
- After a successful tendering exercise, we are now working with more contractors than before to help us source affordable private rented homes for both temporary accommodation (TA) for homeless households and for settled accommodation for those already in TA to move into.
- As part of the council's plans to improve TA, we have started work on York House, which is our largest TA hostel and has been in need of extensive modernisation. The work should be completed by this summer.
- We are about to apply for planning consent to build a small amount of TA within the borough using modular construction methods for the first time.
- We have taken part in the creation of the new shared, county-wide Hertfordshire Improvement Agency (HIA). We will be transferring Watford Borough Council's Disabled Facilities Grants service to the HIA in September 2017. I attended various meetings to discuss and agree the practicalities of the transfer. We believe the HIA will provide a more responsive service, enable an increased number of adaptations to properties and allow quicker discharge from hospital for residents.
- We have worked with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to get a better understanding of the privately-owned housing stock in Watford so that we can more easily identify where to concentrate resources for improving these homes. The BRE's report should be ready by the end of May and its findings will feed into the council's new Private Sector Renewal Strategy which will be consulted on later this year.
- After a, thorough review was undertaken last September, I am supporting the Housing Department in working through a continuous improvement plan to put in place for Watford residents the national standard for homelessness prevention and housing options services.

## **9. Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

As I am a member of development management committee I am very aware of the smart growth agenda. We need to take into account traffic congestion and environmental degradation. Smart growth principles are directed at developing sustainable communities that provide a greater range of transportation and housing choices and prioritize infill and

redevelopment in existing communities rather than development of "greenfield"  
I am a great supporter of car clubs.

#### **10. Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

I have overseen the creation of Shared Herts Improvement Agency (DFG's) Watford Borough Councils Disabled Facilities Grants service planned to transfer to County wide scheme in September 2017. Attended various meeting to discuss practicalities of move. By providing a more responsive service we hope to allow more adaptations to properties to allow a quicker discharge from hospital for residents.

#### **11. Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

I have now gone paperless and no longer need hard copies of agendas etc. Within my portfolio area I am promoting the use of more online application forms for residents to enable a more responsive service.

#### **12. Secure our own financial future**

I chair the property investment board where our task is to make our property assets generate a greater financial contribution to the council's balance sheet. As a council, we will have to become financially self-sufficient over the next couple of years as government financial support is ending.

#### **Questions 13. and 14. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

How have you met these further objectives for those councillors in a leadership role?

#### **13. Providing vision**

As a member of Cabinet, I am constantly asked to consider matters of policy which in themselves set the vision for the future of Watford. Before agreeing to such proposals, I challenge and question their effectiveness before agreeing to their implementation. I provide a strategy for the way forward for housing.

In my area, my objective is to ensure that all the shared services are responsive and effective and are in good shape to meet the demands facing them in the future.

#### **14. Managing Performance**

This is absolutely at the heart of everything I do in my portfolio. The work that has been done between me and the senior officers in housing. I have regular meetings with Officers to monitor performance.

Attendance as necessary at scrutiny committees  
Taking up complaints and concerns raised by residents and being willing to challenge questionable performance by the council where necessary.  
Setting out clear housing policy for officers

<b>15. Objective for 2016/17</b>	<b>Update on progress</b>
To oversee the implementation of our new housing joint venture with the Housing Trust.	This has now been set up.

**16. Objective for 2017/18**

To monitor the progress of our first joint building companies project and the completion date of early summer 2018.

## Watford Borough Council

### Member Self- Assessment 2016/17

#### TUDOR Ward

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Darren Walford

#### 1. Year elected:

19/10/2009  
07/05/2012  
09/05/2016

#### 2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:

I have lived in Tudor since 2003.  
I have an interest in serving the community and making improvements at Ward and Borough level.  
Being well known in the Ward I feel people can approach me and speak to me personally.

#### 3. Roles in the Council:

Chairman of the Borough  
Council Functions Committee (Vice Chair)  
Overview and Scrutiny committee  
Watford Borough Council and West Herts Golf Club Joint Consultative Committee

#### 4. Membership of outside bodies:

N/A

#### 5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):

04/12/2008 Induction which included Licensing, DC and Code of Conduct  
14/06/2012 Standards  
26/6/2012 Licensing Act and Taxi  
20/11/2013 Individual Electoral Registration Briefing  
01/03/16 Public Speaking Training  
November 2016 Surface Pro workshop

#### 6. Attendance Record:

87%



## Your work with Constituents and in the Community

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

Improving residents local amenities by taking the appropriate course of action with damaged street furniture, maintenance and upkeep of communal areas and green spaces as well as fly-tipping.

Actively engaging with my colleagues, our County Councillor and residents in relation to issues to do with parking and highway repairs.

Engaging with residents on a range of community events , cleaning and painting of street furniture at Tudor shopping parade.

Litter picks in Tudor areas.

Actively used the Ward locality budget to help local community organisations, groups and charities.

As being Chairman of the Borough in this year I was not always available for some of the case work so was very fortunate to have support from my colleagues who dealt with this on my behalf and I would like to thank them for this.

### Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

#### 7. Providing vision

N/A

#### 8. Managing Performance

N/A

9. Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress

**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

**Enhance the area of Tudor Parade shops which have not yet revamped with planters and seating areas.**

**Meet with the local OWL Watch Liaison Officer, PCSOs and Safe Neighbourhood Teams to build a good relationship with them and our residents so my colleagues and I can keep the residents aware of matters which arise in the Ward.**

**To communicate regularly with residents via social media sites.**

## **Watford BC: Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

### **Q1 – Self assessment of Councillor**

Stephen Cavinder

### **Q2 – Elected representative for**

Woodside

### **Q3 – Year elected to Watford Borough Council (if you have served two separate terms please give your most recent year of election):**

2016

### **Q4 – What were your reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To make a difference in my local community.

### **Q5 – What roles have you undertaken in the Council (such as membership of a committee, task group etc)?**

I have been a member of the following council committees: Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel, Audit Panel, Community Safety Partnership, Member Development. I chaired the Neighbourhood Forum Task Group.

### **Q6 – What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough Council ( such as membership of outside bodies)?**

I am on the board of trustees at Citizens Advice Watford and I am their representative on the Herts Citizens Advice Service (HCAS).

### **Q7 – The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q8 – Priority 1: Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs**

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q9 – Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q10 – Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q11 – Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q12 – Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

Respondent skipped this question

### **Q13 – Are you a Cabinet member?**

No

**Q14 – Providing vision**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q15 – Managing performance**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q16 – Please write in: Objective 1 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q17 – Please write in: Objective 2 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q18 – Please write in: Objective 3 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q19 – Please write in: Objective 4 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q20 – Please write in: Objective 5 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q21 – Please write in: Objective 6 and the progress you have made in achieving it**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q22 – Please write in any other objectives you set and your progress below:**

Respondent skipped this question

**Q23 – Objectives:**

Respondent skipped this question

**Attendance: 87%**

## **Watford BC: Self-assessment 2016/17**

**Karen Collett**

**Elected representative for:**

Woodside Ward

**Elected:**

2016

**Attendance:** 96%

### **Reasons for becoming a Councillor**

It was important for me to represent the local people in my ward to ensure that they have a voice, so that they feel integrated within their own community. Working for the local people is something I see as vital and important. I believe I can make a difference to their lives by working hard, listening to their concerns, views and look for a solution. In addition, I wanted to ensure that Watford remains a town that we are proud of and a place which offers opportunities for all.

### **What roles have you undertaken in the Council?**

I am a member of the Mayor's Cabinet – I hold the position of Portfolio Holder for Community.

Chair Member Development.

Chair of Equalities Working Party.

Vice Chair of Watford Digital Board

Attended Overview and Scrutiny meetings as Portfolio Holder- Watford Palace Theatre, CAB, Shopmobility and W3RT.

### **What roles have you undertaken outside of Watford Borough.**

Council representative on West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee. (Scrutiny)

I attend Leavesden Community Group Meetings once a month.

Local Children's Christmas Party, Quiz evenings and carol singing- run by LCG.

Woodside Scouts AGM.

### **How you have met the Council priorities**

**'All our passion determination and team work, that is what makes Watford bold and progressive'**

**In this section of the self-assessment, please explain how you have worked to fulfil, or contribute to, the Council's vision and priorities:**

**The Council's vision: To create a bold and progressive future for Watford**

**Priority 1:** Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs.

Housing is one of our key priorities and so I attend HPAG on a regular basis.

I attended WCHT Councillor's visit to hear of their long terms plans and aims.

Liaise with WCHT regarding the Boundary Way Development. The Brow Development, Police station site and Lincoln Green Court. Moreover, I attended public meetings and local consultations.

I visit local residents in regard to improving repairs and maintenance to their properties. Visiting the Boundary Way site with my Council colleague to ensure outstanding works are completed.

Supported some planning applications to ensure that we secure affordable housing. Supported a move for a family who needed more space due to disability requirements not being met in their present home.

Supported Origin housing in regard to educating residents on how to improve their flats in the town center by involving the children in a 6 week art project.

Continue to talk, write and discuss housing issues for local residents with WCHT and other housing providers.

Visited Haven Support Centre before their new reopening of their premises- this is where those who are homeless receive intensive support and short term accommodation. I also visited one of New Hopes first Hope homes. These properties are part of implementing independence for those who have found themselves vulnerably housed and those who are homeless. Follow up visit to meet their rough sleeping prevention team.

Furthermore, I supported their Garden Open Day where proceeds are used to support their projects.

Visited the YMCA to discuss their work, discussed housing needs and issues for young people.

## **Priority 2: Champion smart growth and economic prosperity**

As a Cabinet member I review and support the plans of economic development of the town, one of which is the Health Campus, Croxley Rail Link and the Watford Business Park.

I worked closely with key partners, local businesses, police and council to maintain the Purple Flag status which the assessors awarded us in November. This is to ensure we run a safe town and where people can enjoy themselves.

Visited Watford Police Station to look at their control room and discuss community safety within Watford.

Supported our investment in parks and open spaces which paid off as we were awarded 8 Green Flags. I attended the presentation and picked up the award for Alban Wood, which is in my ward and where I regularly clean up once a month. Furthermore, I attended Watford's first Parks Forum where we celebrated our volunteers and Veolia team for ensuring we have wonderful open spaces. This investment supports peoples enjoyment to be at one with nature, places to exercise, and plays a key role in improving health and wellbeing.

Supporting Weekender in the town which was promoted by Watford BID supporting local businesses and stall holders.

Site visit to the Cassiobury Hub to review the progress that has been made and to the grand opening.

I attended the Watford BID Service Excellence Awards at the Watford Colosseum which pays tribute to all sectors of our town who help with our economic growth. I presented the award to the Best Live Music Venue-The Horns.

I attended the Audentior Awards ceremony which recognizes all our voluntary groups' good work. This is one of my favorite events of the year as we have so many heroines and heroes in our town who work consistently to help and support others.

### **Priority 3: Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities**

Working and meeting regularly with W3RT to learn of supported groups within the Watford area.

Met with the YMCA and local youth club to support local projects; answered questions regarding community developments and young person's needs.

Assisted a local resident who was vulnerable to pick up their pension, prescriptions and pay bills.

Met with Youth Connexions to learn about their youth projects and promote their work in the local community.

Worked and met with the local police regarding ASB within my ward.

Met with local residents to ensure mediation took place with their neighbors to resolve differences.

Working on the Watford Get Active steering group on a project with Sport England to improve the health and wellbeing of local people in the Central Ward. Encouraging free and low cost activities from dance, cycling, netball skateboarding and swimming.

Supporting WBCs Environmental Health team and partners with their Safer Streets Project where we provide support, advice and free help. Listening to the views of residents and tenants in Cassio road this has clearly made a huge difference to the people who live there.

The three phases incorporate Love your street, Love yourself and Love your community.

As a Portfolio holder I have promoted the Small Grants Fund on Three Counties radio along with other recipients. This fund is available for the voluntary and community sector in order to benefit those who work and live in Watford. This year our main focus was to encourage more local groups or those setting up new organisations in their communities to apply for monies that will make a difference. This decision was made in order to support the sectors that have been affected by government cuts. I am pleased to announce that due to our advertising and media promotion new groups and smaller bodies have applied and have been successful. In addition, I supported the Voluntary Fair in the town centre to encourage more volunteers to sign up.

I am also the Chair of an Equalities Working Group where I meet staff from all departments of Watford Borough Council to discuss the importance of statutory requirements for data collection, the importance of surveys and why they are necessary. To develop and agree equality objectives for WBC taking into account our changing demographic.

### **Priority 4: Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community**

I am a committee member for the Digital Watford Board whose aim is to create a digital infrastructure that transforms how the council operates but also provides local businesses with competitive advantage and enhances the quality of life for residents.

So far we have increased a wider use of Wi-Fi and launched a Watford App. In addition launched the digital reception area so that customer's queries are dealt with in a more efficient way. Supported the Gone live on council's website with missed bin reporting.

I use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, e-mails and Mailchimp to communicate with my local residents on local issues, town events and news.

Was filmed by College students on the need for more female politicians and the importance of my role within Watford.

#### **Priority 5: Secure our own financial future**

It is important that we show we are a trusted brand and are able to secure our financial future by taking brave steps to meet the difficult challenges ahead which are imposed on us by Central Governments cuts to services. One of those ways is proving we are progressive and open to commercialism. Our Environmental Health and Licensing Consultancy service can help businesses seek advice to new legislation and how to manage risk. We provide a number of services under my Portfolio which are Training, Food Hygiene, Health and Safety and Licensing, Pre-application services and Pest control.

Supporting our wonderful Watford Museum events and celebrating our Heritage Lottery award which will help improve the museums displays and will also fund the refurbishment of the building- this will improve facilities to rival some of the bigger museums and galleries across the country.

I attend Council meetings and briefings which shape and inform our town and agree our budget for the year.

Supporting and welcoming local businesses who chose to come to Watford.

#### **Are you a Cabinet member?**

I am a Cabinet member and my Portfolio is Community.

#### **How have you met these further objectives for those councillors in a leadership role?**

##### **Providing vision**

I became a Cabinet member last June and my first priority was to understand the areas I was responsible for. I spent time with officers within my area and worked alongside them as they carried out their day to day running of their services. This was indeed informative and supported my understanding.

I work closely with my Cabinet colleagues on all matters of business and give information to other members of the Council.

I work with officers on developing policy and I am also engaged in other strategic decision making. I participate in regular meetings with senior leaders to implement the Council's policies and aims.

Helped deliver the program of free play activities for Easter across the borough, taking into account the varied and diverse needs of children between the ages of 5 to 15. A survey was filled in by young people at 2 local schools and Watford residents could take part on our website as to what activities they would like. We listened and so these activities have taken place. Furthermore, to look at the summer program focusing on evaluation data to plan for free events in wards where there is a greater need for a wide range of activities.

To ensure our delivery partners collect registration data, satisfaction surveys and evaluation data.

Opened the new play service at Harebreaks with its new play tower and benches and Harwoods in which incorporates a range of play equipment such as sensory play, towers and zip wire.

To set up a play Audit to make sure we deliver an inclusive play service.



To improve Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Services in Watford for customers with disabilities.

In order to familiarise myself with the Licensing and Environmental Health teams work it was important for me to become more involved and so I attended these areas below.

- The renewal of a Hackney Carriage Plate and new vehicle private hire booking.
- I attended a food hygiene inspection at a local food establishment in the town centre.
- I went out with the environmental team to investigate a report of fly tipping alongside an alley way and went with the officer to bring this to the attention of the person responsible.

To ensure we have a strong policies on regulation and are compliant with for all licensing functions.

I am a firm believer in a family friendly town and ensure that we provide a unique, inclusive and diverse Big Events Program. Most events are free with the exception of the Big Skate and some Wordfest activities. Those free are Big Screen on the Beach, Big dance, Imagine Watford, Watford Palace Theatre and our Museum events.

I also support and am proud of our town's diverse and multi-cultural community by attending the Diwali festival, Black History month, 'Eid celebrations and Chinese New Year events in the high street, Holywell and theatre. Moreover, attending the Hindu Navratri event at Watford Leisure Centre and visiting the Gaudiya Vaishnava temple at Bhaktivedanta Manor to celebrate the traditions and taking in the culture. I also attended the Kerala Community Foundation event at the Holywell Community Centre.

I along with the Mayor attended the Watford Muslim Youth Centre Project to hear of their plans and to meet those involved. Furthermore, I attended Picnic in the Park to bring communities together in memory of Jo Cox.

I attended the wonderful Watford Celebration 2016 event which marked our Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and I was so happy to see such a high attendance bringing together all our cultures and faiths under one roof. Furthermore, I also spoke at the women's Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Peace Conference entitled 'United we stand' on the importance of communities coming together and the need to seek ways to bring about peace and acceptance.

### **Managing performance**

I attend regular meetings with the Head of Service and quarterly reviews to monitor performance.

To challenge policy where necessary and create a dialogue in order to shape our town.

To make sure our services are sustainable and fit for purpose and can we improve on them.

To make sure that our plans and decisions are informed by the views of Watford residents and the local community.

### **Additional Information**

I arranged our local Remembrance Service in Woodside and attended the Civic Remembrance Service in the town centre.

Attended the Lights of Love remembrance outside the Town Hall which is organised by the Peace Hospice.

Took part in the last Starlight Walk with my friend Sandra raising £2,000 for the Peace Hospice.

I attended the Chairman's Quiz to support his two worthy charities.

I attended Herts Inclusive Theatre AGM and performance- Brazil Rocks.

Spoke with the BID to fund Shopmobility- securing £5,000.

Visited Playskill with the Mayor and on another occasion to meet with parents, staff and children. The local charity works with pre-school children with special physical needs.

In this section, please write in the objectives you set yourself for 2016/17 and then provide an update on how successful you feel you have been in achieving each of them.

**My objective** was to engage with local schools in my ward. This was achieved.

As Ward Councilor's we have communicated with all our local schools, with visits to Garston Manor, Frances Combe Academy, Leavesden Green JMI School and Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery. We provided funding to Alban Wood Primary and Nursery to help with their farm community and pond. In addition, we provided funding for our local Cricket club to improve their toilet facilities which are used by club members. Park users and local football teams

**Objectives 1.** I continue to ensure that I do all I can for my local residents in relation to case work. I have worked closely with many officers in order to support this work to seek a solution.

**Objective 2.** I have supported residents in Chapel Close/Leavesden High Rd regarding a planning application. It is important to voice our concerns where there is over development and when unsatisfactory builds are put forward.

### **Setting your objectives for 2017/18**

My objectives are to be

- To learn more and drive policies within my Portfolio.

- Maintain the towns Purple Flag.

- To continue to report and address Highways Issues.

- To continue to promote a diverse and thriving town.

**Watford Borough Council**

**Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

**Woodside Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Glen Saffery

**1. Year elected:**

2017

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To give something back to the town I've been proud to call home all my life. It is an honour to serve Watford in this capacity and to represent its people to the best of my abilities.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

Licensing Committee  
Community safety task group  
Parking strategy task group  
Budget panel

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

N/A

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

Digital Watford training, licensing training (to sit on committee), budget panel/finance training.

**6. Attendance Record:**

65%

## Your work with Constituents and in the Community

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

Our ward contains a large number of Housing Trust properties and this forms the bulk of my work in this area. I have worked with the Trust on issues such as reviewing and replacing faulty boilers, maintaining lands that belong to them, assisting with benefit and rent queries and many other issues as they arise.

My colleagues and I frequently field questions from residents via email, telephone and at residents group meetings. These are a valuable way to connect with residents and representatives of the Trust in the same forum, as confusion can sometimes creep in over the remit of the Trust, Council and other agencies.

We are frequently in touch with local business owners to support their needs, in particular working with local shop owners facing relocation from the Brow shops during their refurbishment.

Supporting local community groups is a particularly fulfilling part of the job. Being welcomed to Watford Town Cricket Club's presentation day recently was a highlight, having approved funding from our locality fund to refurbish the club toilets. We also used this fund to support the Kids Hub toy library, which provides vital services to disabled children and their families, and for a grant to Alban Wood primary.

I have been honoured to lead the Woodside remembrance Sunday ceremony. Meeting with local veterans and members of the community to pay tribute to fallen servicemen and women is very humbling.

I communicate with local residents in various ways, through phone calls, emails, social media and door knocking. This is how I pick up much of the casework I deal with. To give a few examples, this has included calling out Environmental Health officers to deal with contractors burning garden waste. This was the result of a concerned gentleman phoning me for help with the matter, as smoke was billowing over his property and his wife suffered from emphysema. I have also worked to resolve parking complaints, deal with abandoned vehicles and many many other pieces of casework reported to me by residents on doorsteps, by email and by phone.

We keep people apprised of the work we're doing through our newsletters, update emails and the Working for Woodside Facebook group for local residents.

My committee work has enabled me to scrutinise various aspects of the council's work, including property investments, budgeting, licensing and the community safety partnership.

This latter one is particularly important as our area has historic issues with Anti Social behaviour, witnessing a spike in recent times. It's a real honour to meet the challenges of keeping people safe alongside the police and other agencies, and I continue to liaise regularly with council and police officers to tackle this head on. It's a constant battle and an issue that always morphs into new forms but looking after the area is close to my heart and something I am very proud to be involved in. Frequent meetings with the police also enable us to raise issues such as speeding, vehicle crime and other things that arise. We hope to arrange a safer streets day soon to target areas affected by ASB.

Planning & development continues to be a challenge we have to meet – recent work on High Road Leavesden and Linden Lea have seen myself or my colleagues speak at DMC meetings. While the Linden Lea application passed, I am now working with residents and officers to try and address chronic parking shortages on the road. We are some way from a solution, but are working very hard to get there.

**Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

**7. Providing vision**

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**8. Managing Performance**

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<b>9. Objective for 2016/17</b>	<b>Update on progress</b>

**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

Work with residents & stakeholders to address issues in Linden Lea around parking and new development.

Work with police and other agencies to tackle speeding and ASB.

Continue keeping in touch with residents through doorknocking and frequent meetings to address their concerns and represent their views in the town hall on committees etc.

Work with County Council colleagues to address highways concerns.

Work with the Housing Trust to provide clarity of responsibilities to residents and get the best service possible.

Progress my work on Committees and within the Town Hall to make a positive difference to Watford as a whole.