

**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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New councillors will already have received a link to last year's Annual Council report. This demonstrates how the self-assessment information is collated and presented.

9.Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress

Note; it is entirely an individual member's choice as to how many objectives they wish to set, there is no upper or lower limit.

## **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.