

Watford Borough Council

Member Self- Assessment 2018/19

Central Ward

Self-Assessment of: Councillor Stephen Bolton

1. Year elected:

2014

2. 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

3. Roles in the Council:

Cabinet member (without portfolio) to review aspects of the council constitution and committee structures; Council; Licensing Committee; Standards Committee; Major Projects Board; Constitution Working Party; Member Development Group; Central Neighbourhood Forum; 'Get Active' Steering Group Chair

4. Membership of outside bodies:

Council oversight of Wellspring Church; Groundwork Hertfordshire Advisory Panel

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

GDPR
Development Management Committee training
Licensing Committee training

Safeguarding/Human trafficking and slavery
BID briefing
Small Sites
Disability Awareness
Watford 2020

6. Attendance Record:

97%

Your work with Constituents and in the Community.

Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council:

- As part of the Central Ward team, I have supported various projects and groups through the Neighbourhood Locality Budget.
- I have dealt with a variety of concerns expressed by residents, including anti-social behaviour, planning developments, parking issues, street cleaning and neighbour disputes. I have also regularly reported incidents of fly-tipping. So this has involved dealing with the Council, the Police and other service providers.
- I have dealt with housing associations including Watford Community Housing, Genesis Housing, and L&Q to get issues resolved.
- I have had contact with local businesses, Watford BID, and helped to support the process towards the town being re-awarded a Purple Flag. I also attended the awards ceremony on behalf of the Council/BID.
- I have attended and supported various events in the town, including Big Events on the Parade.
- I have shown my concern for park and leisure facilities. I have regularly reported issues affecting local parks. I supported events at both Central and Woodside Leisure Centres as new facilities were launched.
- I have kept in contact with residents through e-mail, leaflets, face to face, and using social media. Meetings have been held with residents at residential homes, as well as wider Neighbourhood Forums. I have also worked with resident groups including Queens Community Action Group and Watford Fields Residents Association.
- I have worked with and supported local charities including New Hope, Home-Start and Watford Foodbank.
- I have attended various training sessions to continue develop my knowledge, so that I can be an effective councillor.
- Planning and development has been a high-profile matter in Central Ward, and time has been spent with residents, and I have spoken at Development

Management Committee. I also attended the Planning Policy Advisory Group on occasions.

- Part of my remit in my Cabinet role was to look at the ‘scrutiny’ arrangements to ensure that they are effective in looking at how the Council is administered, and so various changes were made as a result.

Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY

7. Providing vision

As part of the Cabinet for the year, I was able to give input to the vision for the town, and to look at how the Council continues to provide good local services at a time of budget constraint and reduction in central government funding. I was able to provide comment and ideas on plans around transport, infrastructure, technology, property, housing and leisure. I also attended a regional LGA event to gain thoughts and ideas on local authority strategy.

8. Managing Performance

Monitoring and managing the performance of the Council formed part of my Cabinet role. My specific remit was to review the constitution and committees to ensure that they are fit for purpose and effective. As a result various changes were made including the removal of some committees, and the introduction of others to look at important areas of activity in a changing world, both economically and environmentally.

Objective(s) for 2019/20

- Continue to support and inform residents, and look at how residents can be better engaged
- Help to develop a new residents association
- Develop a Friends of Waterfields Park group
- Continue to develop my knowledge and experience