



# **Watford Borough Council Members' Performance Scheme**

**2012/13**

**End of Year  
Self Assessments**

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## **Introduction**

The Council introduced a Member Performance Scheme in February 2008. Part of the scheme required councillors to complete a self assessment at the end of each Municipal Year providing evidence of their activities and demonstrating how these contributed to the Council's objectives:

1. Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage.
2. Enhance the town's clean and green environment
3. Enhance the town's sustainability
4. Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential.
5. Supporting individuals and the community.
6. Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council
7. Influence and partnership delivery.

30 councillors have completed self assessments representing 11 of the 12 wards. The assessments are summarised in this document.

## **CALLOWLAND WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Ian Brandon, Ann Lovejoy and Steve Rackett.**

Councillors Brandon has completed a self assessment.

### **COUNCILLOR IAN BRANDON**

**Year elected:** 2012

**Ward:** Callowland

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** Improving the local area and working for the local community.

**Roles in the Council:** Member of Licensing Committee, Audit Committee, Planning Advisory Group and Major Projects Board. Scrutiny task group member for Disabled Parking Bays and Voluntary Commissioning.

**Membership of outside bodies:** County Councillor for Callowland Leggatts Division on Hertfordshire County Council. County Council member on Highways Forum/Highways Joint Member Panel.

**Training & Development undertaken:** Mandatory training - Councillor induction, Development Control, Licensing.  
Additional training has included EMROs and LNLs.

#### **Attendance Record**

- Expected at 29 meetings. Attended 27 meetings. Percentage = 93%

#### **How he has met Council Objectives**

##### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Supported communities when dealing with planning applications.

##### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Supported communities when dealing with licensing applications.

##### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Supported residents in housing benefit claims and school admission appeals.
- Attended residents' association meetings at Courtlands Residents Association, Railway Terrace Residents' Association, Hazeltree Residents' Association and Callowland Action Group.
- Attended both on site and Town Hall meetings with residents and officers regarding local issues.
- Held residents' surgeries.

- Agreed neighbourhood forum budget on gating throughout Callowland.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Reported highway faults on a continuing basis

**Securing an efficient value for money council**

- Questioned and scrutinised executive decisions including those on the Mayor's report.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Continue to support the local community and local residents

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## **CENTRAL WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Lizz Ayre, Helen Lynch and Rabi Martins**

Councillors Lynch and Martins have completed self assessments. Councillor Ayre was only elected in November 2012..

### **COUNCILLOR LYNCH**

**Year elected:** 2010

**Ward:** Central

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** To represent residents to give them a fair outcome that benefits their daily lives and enhances the community well being

**Roles in the Council:** Market Working Group, Housing Advisory Group

**Membership of outside bodies:** Chairman of Queens Community Action Group

**Training & Development undertaken:** Licensing Masterclass, Planning Enforcement Training, Benefits training, Housing training.

**General:** Also attended a Youth Council meeting in the Chamber at the Town Hall. This involved about 25 young people (aged around 17) who are interested in politics and want to make a difference to the lives of young people in Watford. As a result, I am working with 2 of the young people on a Table Tennis youth project on Radlett Road estate.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 10 meetings. Attended 10 meetings.  
Percentage = 100%

### **How she has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Organised Queens Road Summer Market for 2<sup>nd</sup> year (6 arts and crafts markets supported by volunteers over the summer).
- Working with police and Liam Fitzgerald to reduce Anti Social Behaviour in Central Ward
- Working with police, Watford New Hope Trust and Liam Fitzgerald to reduce street drinking in Market Street
- Produced the Red Carpet Fashion Show with Radlett Road Residents' Association with 20 local children (and Mayor) modelling customised clothes from local charity shops
- Set up quarterly meetings with Neighbourhood Police Sergeant and fellow Councillors to discuss and set priority targets for Police officers
- Lobbied for and represented young people at planning hearing for installation of Multi Use Games Area on Radlett Road playing field.
- Assisted 3 homeless people (1 female, 2 males) to gain accommodation and sense of well being and purpose.

- Represented local community at Licensing hearing to ensure conditions were imposed on Great Poland Deli in order to sell off-sales
- Helped organise and attended the Halloween and Christmas children's parties on Radlett Road estate
- Supported local residents to set up Estcourt Residents' Association, helping them with selecting the committee and attended meetings. Worked with the group in conjunction with parks department to launch a residents' competition to design the refurbishment of a pocket park.
- Worked with Queens Road traders Association and Planning department to install 20 minute free parking bays to support existing traders and attract new businesses.
- Work with Central Community Fund panel to identify potential applicants who, by volunteering their services, will enhance the sense of community in Central ward. For example a local skate boarding instructor offering up to 20 young people free skate boarding lessons (with all equipment included.)

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Worked with Environmental Health to promote "YUK" campaign in key areas and to educate residents on the need to report incidents and timings for follow-up investigation.
- Worked with Tesco's to improve the landscape and take greater responsibility for litter and the River Colne.
- Worked with Parks department on the River Colne regeneration project including the siting of outdoor Gym equipment and working with artist to identify themes for 6 new sculptures to be sited along the river route and adjacent car park.
- Working with private landlords of Houses in Multiple Occupation & flats and Environmental Health officers to find solutions for refuse problems affecting neighbours. I am doing this by actively educating residents about collections and recycling and ensuring landlords are strict with their residents and have correct procedures in place to secure conformity.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Working with Planning department to provide improved parking enforcement in key areas to improve the quality of life of residents: Radlett Road estate, Link Road, Smith Street.
- Working with landlords in Queens Road to gain tenants for empty retail units. Working with local businesses in Queens Road/ Market Street to support them with marketing initiatives to reduce risks of closure.
- Promoting local businesses to residents and reminding them that without community support there is a risk of them closing and that there is a link between derelict areas and high levels of Anti social Behaviour.
- Working with Planning Department to ensure new signage serves the local businesses to gain maximum footfall. I.e. the monolith sign outside Watford Junction Station and way marking strategy to include Queens Road.
- Work with residents on Smith Street to seek a solution to increased number of vehicles parking in road following the opening of the Metro Quarter restaurant development. Instigating electronic signage to Church car park, providing additional bays, improving street lighting in bays adjacent to the street so that residents feel safe walking home from there in the evening.

- Supporting residents in Westland Road etc with over ranking whilst the rank at the Junction Station is closed. Looking at a long term solution by identifying a larger space as a permanent rank.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

As above and:

- Identifying ways to promote Market Street & Queens Road with improved signage. Also identify issues and look at ways to address them through traders working as a team and gaining funding.
- Working closely with officers to ensure that the Market relocation is extremely positive and will enhance the offering rather than be a detrimental move. Attended a site visit day with officers, traders and management company to see other successful markets in London to glean ideas e.g. Spitalfields and Greenwich. Promoting the relocation on 3 Counties radio as a very positive initiative.
- Working with independent business owners to liaise with officers if they get into arrears with business rates and referring them to VAO web site for business rate review. Helping businesses with marketing plans/ business plans to optimise profits and identify alternative revenue streams.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Gaining accommodation for 3 homeless people through working with the Housing Department, private & commercial landlords and offering support and advice to individuals.
- Offering support and advice to business owners and residents with debt issues and the threat of Bailiff intervention.
- Offering support to tenants in arrears with court proceedings pending.
- Support with benefit issues.
- Giving information and support to victims of Anti Social Behaviour and crime. Managing resident's perception of crime and offering reassurance.
- Giving posters and offering information to those residents who have issues with dog fouling on their pavements.
- Reporting pot holes, road defects, signage damage.
- Attending regular coffee mornings at 4 different Retirement flats to offer support and advice to elderly residents
- Holding regular Neighbourhood Forum meetings with fellow councillors on key issues effecting communities e.g. Croxley Rail link, street lamp nightly switch off. Also inviting residents to Neighbourhood Forum meetings with the Mayor as Guest speaker to present on proposals for investment in the town.
- Holding meetings with residents, planners and prospective developers/ business owners to seek answers to residents concerns re development plans e.g. Great Poland Deli, Multi Use Games Area, 104a Queens Road.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Explaining cuts and extent of services available from Watford Borough Council
- Managing residents expectations of services and encouraging greater personal responsibility for refuse etc

- Encouraging voluntary work to improve residents' chances of employment, enabling them to become financially independent and no longer on benefits.
- Engaging with officers to seek the most cost effective solution to residents' issues.
- I am member of the Housing Advisory Group and we are assessing housing needs in Watford and whether the supply is satisfactory. Also assessing banding and implications of bedroom tax etc.
- I work closely with Environmental Health enforcement officers to report fly tipping, licensing infringements, litter and dog mess hot spots to ensure prompt response times.
- Feeding back to the group any concerns with Customer Service Centre waiting times and housing benefit response times, following firsthand experience with residents.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I work closely with the community empowerment officer at Watford Community Housing Trust to ensure the optimum service to residents on Radlett Road Estate.
- I refer casework to the local labour County councillor and work closely to ensure a positive outcome.
- Attending Anti Social Behaviour meetings where appropriate to identify issues and seek solutions through partnership working.
- Chairing QCAG & attending Radlett Road Residents' Association meetings and helping to set up Estcourt Residents' Association to gain insight into issues in community and seek assistance from police/ officers where necessary.
- Regular meetings with PCSOs, PCs, Anti Social Behaviour officer and liaison officer.
- Working with Watford New Hope Trust to tackle homelessness, Anti Social Behaviour and lifestyle issues.

### **SMART Target for 2011/12**

- Set up second Queens Road Summer Market starting June 16<sup>th</sup> and running every fortnight until end of August. Improve footfall on last year and gain funding to secure robust marketing campaign.
- Tackle phobia about speaking at Full Council meeting and make myself ask more questions where appropriate.
- Identify a resident in Market Street/ Percy Road/ Francis Road who may like to work with Councillors to set up a residents' association and forge closer links with community.

### **Update on Progress**

- The second Queens Road Market went well, although footfall remained much the same. Better quality of produce sold on stalls which generally improved the offering.
- No resident identified in Market Street etc, although Vito, the owner of the Italian deli, is keen to support a residents' association.
- Still not tackled public speaking phobia at Full Council meetings.



**Objective for 2013/14**

- Work on public speaking/ question-asking in Chamber
- Rekindle Water Lane residents' group and pursue relationship with Tesco's to improve this area.
- Identify a minimum of two volunteers to apply to Central Community Fund who may wish to provide clubs for elderly e.g. reminiscence group, especially if this were to integrate young and old.
- Have 5 new businesses installed in Queens Road by Apr 2014
- Organise Queens Road Summer Market for a third year and recruit more volunteers to bring fresh ideas, gain additional funding to promote it more effectively. Initially find a suitable venue to store the stalls etc, otherwise we won't be able to proceed at all.

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**COUNCILLOR MARTINS**

**Year elected:** 1994

**Ward:** Central

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** To extend my capacity to serve the community, improve the town , work with businesses on economic development

**Roles in the Council:** Audit Committee, Budget Panel, Community Safety Partnership Task Group, Council, Development Control Committee (Chair), Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Planning Policy Advisory Group, The Way Ahead for Council Services Task Group

**Membership of outside bodies:** Watford Community Church

**Training & Development undertaken:** Development Control Induction, Planning Summer School, Localism Bill Briefing, Section 106 Training, Introduction to Community Safety Partnership, Conservation Areas Workshop

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 42 meetings. Attended 34 meetings.  
Percentage = 81%

**How he has met Council Objectives**

**Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Contributed to the discussions and decisions relating to protecting and relocating Watford Market in light of the emerging plans for Charter Place
- Served as a member of the Planning Advisory Group and contributed to the recently adopted Core Strategy. In particular, successfully argued for greater protection of the character of our conservation areas such as Escourt Road

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Worked with local residents groups to identify areas where more trees could be planted, notably in Queens Road and Escourt Road
- Also in consultation with Parks Department and local residents of Shaftesbury Road arranged for a rethink and redesign of the proposals for Waterfields Park. As a consequence the fields have become more accessible to a wider range of users
- Organised cutting back the strip of grass on the corner of Queens Road and Radlett Road. This made the area more inviting
- After years of campaigning finally got the Council to agree to redesign the Escourt Road Pocket Park. The results achieved were due in no small measure to the engagement of the Escourt Road Residents' Association with ward councillors

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Used my role as chair of Development Control Committee to ensure that major developments in the town incorporated measures which made for sustainable built environment
- Consulted ward residents in Percy Road and Francis Road and responded to their request for controlling traffic in the area by the introduction of 20 MPH Zones
- These were also introduced in Watford Fields to protect the safety of school children

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Working with fellow ward Borough and County Councillors secured time-limited free parking for shoppers in Queens Road
- Supported the Queens Road trade association
- Now that the Metro Quarter has opened I secured extended opening hours for Church Car Park. This should assist the local businesses and also reduce the extent to which residents in the Smith Street area are inconvenienced through visitors parking on the streets

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Continued to take up issues on behalf of residents with Watford Community Housing Trust
- Regularly engaged with residents across the ward by undertaking regular street surgeries along with fellow ward councillors
- Held a number of Neighbourhood Forum Meetings to provide residents with an opportunity to raise issues of concern with the Police, Council Officers, the Mayor and Ward councillors
- Continued to administer the Central Community Fund and encourage / fund local volunteers engage on community projects of benefit to a range of residents

**Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Not directly involved in any particular initiative. However, I attended monthly group meetings and contributed to discussions where key issues were discussed by Mayor and Portfolio Holders

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Chaired the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Committee and engaged with different partners including the Police, Probation Service and the Council Community Safety Unit
- Also held regular meetings with the Police to review / agree priorities for Central Ward

**Objective for 2012/13**

- Improve the quality of the street scene including better lighting, reduced fly tipping, improved and relevant signage, improved green spaces

**Update on progress**

- The level of fly tipping in the ward has reduced a little. More importantly, residents report any incidents of fly tipping to councillors very quickly allowing us to get them cleared before they become a problem
- Because we “patrol” the streets regularly, incidents of broken street signs in Central Watford have all but disappeared

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Maintain a high level of engagement with local residents and businesses to ensure that Central Watford remains a safe and pleasant place for residents, businesses and visitors

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## **HOLYWELL WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Nigel Bell, Jackie Connal and Matt Turmaine**

All three councillors have completed self assessments

### **COUNCILLOR BELL**

**Year elected:** 2007

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I wanted to make a difference to the lives of residents in my local area with regard to anti-social behaviour, Highways issues and education policy as the father of 2 children. As a Member of the Labour Party I wanted to put forward Labour policies that could help the most vulnerable and least well-off in my local area and across Watford.

**Roles in the Council:** became Leader of Labour Group in May 2012; Member of Development Control, Major Projects Board, Market Working Group, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Member of the Housing Policy Advisory Group

**Membership of outside bodies:** . I am a member of the Advisory Board of the Westfield Children's Centre.

**Training & Development undertaken:** As a Borough and County Councillor for West Watford I attended a briefing from Highways and Borough Officers on Croxley Rail Link related issues, I attended a briefing to all Councillors on major projects in the Borough including the Health Campus, Charter Place and Ascot Road, Morrison's and Croxley Rail link. I attended a meeting at the Watford Football Club regarding Farm Terrace allotments' future and the Health Campus. I attended a briefing to all Councillors by a legal expert on possible changes to Licensing in the Town  
I attended a briefing on issues relating to Domestic Violence and the Women's Centre in Watford.

**General:** As Leader of the Labour Group I arranged for briefings to the Labour Group on future changes to the Council's structure by the Managing Director. Also arranged a briefing on the Health Campus and Charter Place and Ascot Road to the Labour Group by the Managing Director.  
Separately: a briefing to the Labour Group by the Chief Inspector on Policing in Watford.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 33 meetings. Attended 29 meetings.  
Percentage = 88%

## **How he has met Council Objectives**

### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- As usual I attended the Annual Remembrance service. I supported and voted for a 20MPH Zone throughout Watford in a motion to Full Council that was passed unanimously
- I attended the Watford Live events.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- I have continued throughout the year to be a member of the Council's Development Control Committee.
- I have made comments at most Development Control meetings
- I take the membership of DC very seriously as it has such far reaching and important implications for the Town.
- As a Borough and County Councillor for West Watford I have campaigned throughout the year on behalf of the 'Farm Terrace' allotment holders, believing their historic site should be preserved along with a modernised Hospital and Health Campus.
- I have questioned County Officers about County issues in Watford as a County Councillor, arguing for better road repairs. I have also taken up many issues of residents' complaints about potholes and other Highways maintenance issues, such as streetlights..
- I have been able to use most of my Highway Locality budget to have much-needed repairs to footways in my West Watford division.
- I have continued to campaign against the County administration's policy of turning streetlights off at midnight after more casework on this throughout the year.
- I have continued taking up various issues of parking concern by residents regarding enforcement in my division working with the Parking Shop and Highways Officers and I also helped residents in Whippendell Road take their petition to a Full Council meeting and urged the administration to include that part of Whippendell Road in the full Controlled Parking Zone area.
- I gave part of my Highway locality funds towards signage from the Town Centre to the Football club to improve directions for patrons of the Club and other residents.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- As a West Watford Councillor, I have asked questions throughout the Council year regarding the Health Campus, and put down a motion at full Council criticising the Liberal-Democrat plans to get rid of the Farm Terrace allotments. I was the lead signature in 'Calling-In' the Cabinet decision on this.
- I have asked questions of Officers on the implications for the Town on the future of Charter Place and the financial arrangements of the plans..
- Again as the County Councillor for West Watford I spoke at the County Council's Education Cabinet panel in favour of the proposed new primary school in Ascot Road. I was particularly pleased about this as I have fought for years for a new primary school in West Watford.
- I declared that interest when it came to the meeting of the Borough Council's Development Control committee and left the room.

- I welcomed the Ascot Road 'Morrisons' planning application as a way of increasing employment and growth in West Watford..

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- As a member of the Market Working Group I have questioned the Officers responsible for the proposed new market and issues around funding.
- I have raised in questions and debated in Council regarding the proposals by the Mayor and her administration to spend £4.5million on the Parade area and whether it is value for money.
- In looking at the 'Core strategy' in Council I asked why there was not proper regeneration of St Albans Road.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I have attended the Holywell Action Group set up by Watford Council Housing Trust to inform and influence actions by the Trust for Holywell residents and taken up issues that were raised at the meeting..
- My main casework remains Housing issues as always and I have continued to have contact with the Borough Council Housing Officers on behalf of residents as well as Officers of the Housing Trust. This is by phone, email and meetings.
- I have attended a meeting with other Councillors at the Housing Trust to raise concerns about the raising of service charges and other residents' complaints against the Trust.
- I attended a meeting at the Summer Place sheltered scheme in my Holywell ward at which many complaints were raised against the Trust.,
- I was pleased that after my intervention with the Trust Officers these issues were resolved.
- As a member of Chessbrook Education support centre as a County Councillor, I have continued to take an interest in children who are educated outside their school and vulnerable.
- As a member of the County Council's Children's services panel, I have taken a keen interest in the 'looked after children' and children's safeguarding services.
- I have organised meetings for parents with children on the 'autistic spectrum' and have attended and taken up their issues and funded a support briefing in Watford for parents of children with autism to help them access help from my County Council locality funding. .
- Throughout the year I have delivered Labour leaflets explaining Labour policy in being able to oppose the Liberal-Democrat administration as well as putting down motions and opposing the Mayor's policies and questioning her at Full Council and writing letters to the Watford Observer.
- I was the lead signature and led the questioning on the Call-In of the Cabinet decision on Farm Terrace allotments.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- This year as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel I have again raised the issue of Revenues and Benefits department and their performance on Housing benefit asking questions of officers.

- I attended the 'Shared Services Joint Committee' with Three Rivers and was allowed to speak. I raised issues about the extra money being asked for from Watford to pay private consultants to clear the backlog of claims.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I have met my local Police and Police Community Support Officer throughout the year taking up residents' enquiries on crime and anti-social behaviour.
- I have taken up issues of anti-social behaviour with the Police and worked to help residents combat this, in one case giving a police statement .
- I have also continued to e-mail and have contact with the Office of Watford's MP regarding residents' enquiries and casework.
- I have had contact and communication with the Labour Party nationally and with the Labour Party Local Government Association for advice and help and welcomed the shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls, to Watford in February.
- I continue to not only work to promote the Labour Party policies as a local Councillor but also to work with all Councillors of whatever party for the good of the Town and try to give help and advice where I can.

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- My target was to explore ways to help those most in need in Holywell ward and the best way to communicate our views as local Councillors to local residents, either through forums or surgeries or 'other' ways.

### **Update on progress**

- I have continued throughout the year with the help of the other 2 Labour Councillors in Holywell - Jackie Connal and Matt Turmaine to produce informative leaflets and to canvas residents to find out their views and how we can help them. We donated money from the Neighbourhood forum to Holywell Community Centre for their August Bank Holiday 'fun day' and also funding to the Westfield children's centre to help prepare for a new childcare facility and money towards Watford Hospital Radio.

### **Objective for 2013/14**

- To continue to do my best as Labour Group Leader to oppose in a constructive way the Liberal-Democrat administration and stand up for the less well-off and the vulnerable in the Town, especially to help those affected by the coalition Government's welfare reforms..

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## **COUNCILLOR TURMAINE**

**Year elected:** 2012

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I passionately believe in the process of political engagement with my community. I became a councillor in order to represent

my community and actively engage with the governance of our town and to help ensure the policies enacted in Watford grow the town, appropriately provide for my constituents and ensure that the diverse cultures in our community exist harmoniously together.

I am a Labour councillor and as such, I believe in social justice, in ensuring that opportunities to improve our lives are for the many, not the few, that we are stronger when we pull together as a community and that we offer a hand to those who have stumbled along the way. Further, to ensure that we get the best service levels as well as value for money for those provided and that this service provision is looked at in the round.

**Roles in the Council:** I am a backbench member of the Opposition in Council. I am a representative on the Members' Development, Council Functions and Appointments Committees.

### **Training & Development undertaken:**

- Welcome to being a councillor
- Licensing training
- Council standards training
- Councillor induction day training (revised date)
- Licensing training refresh
- Equalities training

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 11 meetings. Attended 10 meetings.  
Percentage = 91%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

I attended the following events for this criteria:

- The launch event of Studio 2 at Watford Hospital Radio
- The Hertfordshire County Fair
- The Watford Museum Tea Rooms
- The Watford Fire Station Open Day
- The Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning at Cheslyn House
- The Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial
- The opening of the Street Snooker facility in Holywell Ward

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

I have undertaken the following activities in relation to this criteria:

- Attended the allotment holders' meeting (Farm Terrace) at the Vicarage Road football ground
- Attended the Farm Terrace group meeting at the Town Hall to call for Health Campus and Allotment space
- Attended the Summer Place jumble sale to sell goods for re-use in Watford



- Flagged fly tipping with the council officers
- Undertaken case work relating to environmental issues at the flood plane in Holywell Ward
- Reported potholes to Highways
- Campaigned for street lighting to be maintained for safety
- Campaigned for park space in my Ward

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

I have undertaken the following activities in relation to this criteria:

- Attended the Farm Terrace Allotments Open Day
- Campaigned for appropriate development in the West Watford area and Holywell Ward specifically
- Attended the Council's Member Development Committee, helping ensure that councillors are appropriately trained to fulfil the requirements of their role

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

I have undertaken the following activities in relation to economic prosperity and development:

- Participated in the debate around development of the town centre and Charter Place specifically
- Actively engaged in various Council meetings around economic development and plans oriented around the Core Strategy
- Asked questions regarding activity around economic development and Council activity designed to promote it
- Attended briefings with the CE and development stakeholders around Morrisons and the proposed primary school development in Holywell Ward
- Campaigned around the development of the town
- Asked questions regarding the economic power of residents based on Coalition government policy and its impact on people in Watford
- Attended briefing session on the Council budget and expenditure/revenue raising

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

I have undertaken the following in support of this criteria:

- Attended Celebration event at the Colosseum
- Attended cultural events, e.g. at The Pump House, Watford Palace Theatre, cinema
- Toured the Watford New Hope Trust hostel facilities
- Raised charity funds on the Watford New Hope Trust 16 mile sponsored walk
- Attended Watford Community Housing Trust focus group session on older pensioners' accommodation requirements
- Attended the Holywell Action Group / Watford Community Housing Trust meetings in my Ward
- Attended the Watford Christmas carol concert
- Represented constituents in community based casework
- Attended Charter Place community showcase event

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

I have engaged in securing an efficient, value for money Council through the following activities:

- Attended briefing meetings with the CE on developments within Watford, e.g. Ascot Road Post Office site redevelopment, Charter Place, Market Space redevelopment, the Health Campus, privatisation of Council services
- Engaged with developers around Ascot Road redevelopment plans
- Asked questions (written and oral) in appropriate Council meetings to ensure that relevant questions are raised regarding value for money
- Raised issues and Motions regarding the economic impact of Coalition government policy on Council activity
- Raised questions around financial issues relating to Council activity and budgeting
- Questioned development plans specifically in West Watford and in relation to Core Strategy
- Attended Highways liaison briefing

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

I have undertaken the following to endeavour to fulfil my Councillor responsibilities regarding influence and partnership delivery:

- Attended relevant training in order to be 'up to speed' as a new Councillor
- Met with CE and Council Officers to understand and question decisions and relationship to policy
- Maintained a good attendance record at committee meetings and Full Council meetings in order to fulfil requirement to scrutinise
- Represented constituents through appropriate questioning and issue raising
- Behaved in accordance with the required conduct of Councillors at all times in engagement with Council Officers
- Actively engaged in Council meetings and activity to promote openness and maintained an appropriate culture of examination to ensure that decisions are questioned robustly
- Engaged with community and represented constituents

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- To represent my constituents and fulfil the role of elected Councillor to an effective degree and develop required skills to build on base line work.

### **Update on progress**

- I believe I have demonstrated a good level of achievement in the past year as a Councillor.
- As a group of Holywell Councillors, we have used our Councillor Community Budget appropriately - Holywell Community Centre, Westfield Children's Centre and Watford Hospital Radio.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To develop my skills and experience as a Councillor and to continue to represent my constituents in their casework and needs, to continue to engage with the Council officers for the benefit of the town and community.

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**COUNCILLOR CONNAL**

**Year elected:** 2010

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** To be more involved in the community. To help those who do not know where to turn other than their local Councillor. To try and ensure that Watford remains the wonderful town it is for many more years. To talk to people who just need to share their lives and experiences.

**Roles in the Council:** Licensing Committee, Member Development Group,

**Training & Development undertaken:** Licensing (taxis), Standards, RTPI Conference, Major Projects Briefing, Equalities, Housing, Licensing Master class, Domestic Violence briefing

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 15 meetings. Attended 12 meetings.  
Percentage = 80%

**How she has met Council Objectives**

**Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- I attend as many Watford Museum meetings, Art exhibitions and special events as possible.
- I also visit The Little Gallery Tearoom at the Museum to buy from local artisans and enjoy tea and home-baked cakes!
- I continue to tell as many people as possible that our wonderful Museum is there for them and should not be missed.
- Sit on as many Licensing Sub Committees as possible to hear applications.
- Still continue supporting Watford Fairtrade Steering Group meetings and this year took part in a Fairtrade Fashion show which was great fun.
- Attend the annual Remembrance Service and Audentior Awards and this year I was at the Dragon's Apprentice Challenge Awards
- Attend local School Fetes and open days and am always grateful for being made so welcome.

**Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Report assorted litter problems.
- About four times a year tour Holywell Ward with my fellow Holywell Councillors and a representative of Watford Community Housing Trust so

that we can draw attention to assorted environment and safety problems that they should also be aware of.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- This year many residents have had damp problems as well as flooding and extension difficulties.
- I am always grateful to Sanctuary Housing Trust and Watford Community Housing Trust for their assistance when these difficulties arise.
- I continue to attend as many Residents' meetings as possible and am very grateful to Holywell Community Centre for all their help.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Recently been introduced to a group called 'Timebank' which enables people to exchange 'hours' for work rather than 'money' for work. They meet at Holywell Com. Centre. [timebank@mywatford.net](mailto:timebank@mywatford.net)

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I am still a member of many different groups in Watford and am able to help more and more people as time goes by.
- I have now made contact with all three schools in Holywell and they are all superb. I do hope they continue to invite me to some of the many annual events they hold for family and friends.
- I continue to visit some residents individually who are not well and I attend Café West's coffee mornings as they are attended by assorted community groups and individuals who keep me informed of local difficulties etc.
- Still a member of Watford Interfaith group meeting.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I continue to try and attend as much training as is possible. All courses are a great help.
- I also continue to attend some meetings as an Observer, particularly Cabinet meetings.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- Contact with Chamber of Commerce at an event in High Street and made lots of contact with different Businesses etc.
- Involvement with three local schools, the most recent being St. Anthony's who also made me very welcome.
- Working with Housing Trust when needed
- Still in contact with Richard Howett MEP

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- To make contact with local schools

**Update on progress**

- I have now made contact with all schools so very pleased and really hope it continues.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Watford Community Housing Trust Task Group agreed and in place

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## **LEGGATTS WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Stephen Johnson, Asif Khan and Anne Joynes.**

All three councillors have completed a self assessment.

### **COUNCILLOR JOHNSON**

**Year elected:** 2009

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I became a Councillor because I wanted to serve the communities of Leggatts Ward 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

**Roles in the Council:** Constitution Working Party, Development Control Committee, Planning Policy Advisory Group, Housing Policy Advisory Group.

**Training & Development undertaken:** Major Projects Briefing, Domestic Violence briefing.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 26 meetings. Attended 21 meetings.  
Percentage = 81%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Involved in various North Watford Park clean up days and planting days organised by Ridge Residents' Group. Planted bulbs and put up bird and bat boxes
- Working with Parks department to improve signage
- Involved with the two new Residents' Associations in the Ward.
- Continued with involvement with cleanup days and planting days at North Watford Playing Fields.
- Laid wreath at Open Air Remembrance Sunday Service at the Town Hall.

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Member of Development Control Committee
- Speaker at Development Control Committee.
- Member of Planning Advisory Group
- Familiarity with Local Development Plan and other planning policies.
- Advising residents on the planning process
- Reporting and following up on highways issues
- Long term involvement in planning issues.
- Working with Groundwork to improve local woodland area.
- Various meetings with residents on the long term planning concerns for our town

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- A member of the Watford Community Housing Trusts Policy Committee.
- Member of Planning Advisory Group
- Member of the Housing Policy Advisory Group.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Consulting with local traders and businesses. Representing their views to the Council.
- Member of Planning Advisory Group which also concentrates on the economic wellbeing of the Town. Group has potential for doing good work.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Supporting Residents' Associations and other local groups.
- General casework and taking up issues on residents' behalf
- Circulating newsletters.
- Attending community events
- Involvement in local schools.
- Representing residents' views at council meetings
- Reporting issues to HCC on behalf of residents. HCC are not very responsive, particularly Highways. Have had good responses from Andy Smith.
- Lobbying the local MP and other organisations.
- Regular contact through email, phone etc.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Attending appropriate training
- Awareness of Constitution and Code of Conduct
- Researching and keeping up to date on local government issues - mostly through own political party.
- Regulatory committee (Development Control Committee)
- Hard to keep up with changes in planning. Regular planning policy information needed

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- Contact with the Police, Herts County, Fire Service and other agencies – good relationship with local police and has quarterly objective meetings
- Involvement with local schools. Has contact with 3 local schools
- Working with the Housing Trust.
- Involvement in national issues through political party

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- To call the administration to account at Full Council.

**Update on progress**

- Spending more time on research - as a result I am better prepared. Must spend more time on delivery of speeches. Still too rushed.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To work towards making an impact on the housing situation including through membership of the WCHT Task Group.

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**COUNCILLOR JOYNES**

**Year elected:** 2012

**Roles in the Council:** Development and Control; Voluntary Commissioning Task Group; Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel, Licensing briefing by Philip Kolvin, QC, Planning Policy Advisory Group, Briefing for Domestic Violence Forum, Domestic Abuse Forum

**Training & Development undertaken:** Development and Control; Licensing; National Policy Planning Framework training day on Localism at Hatfield; Standards training; New Councillor event run by LGA

**General** Attended local tenants' and residents' association meetings: Callowland, Courtlands, Leggatts and Foxhill. Monthly coffee mornings at Hollytree House.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 30 meetings. Attended 27 meetings.  
Percentage = 90%

**How she has met Council Objectives**

**Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Supported residents in Callowland with their objection to the renewed extended licence for KFC in St. Albans Road. Litter is a problem as is Anti Social Behaviour in St. Albans Road; disturbing for residents as KFC is open until 3am

**Supporting individuals and the community**

- Assisted Housing Trust tenants ; filled in forms for benefit claims.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To work effectively with residents' associations to enable them to effect the improvements required in their communities.



## **COUNCILLOR KHAN**

**Year elected:** 2011

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** 1) To be a voice for local residents 2) To ensure the best services for local residents 3) To mitigate the impact of the cuts on the most vulnerable in our society.

**Roles in the Council:** Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Chair of Housing Trust Scrutiny task group. Member of Audit Committee, Budget Panel, Community Safety Partnership Task Group, Three Rivers and Watford Shared Services Joint Committee.

**Training & Development undertaken:** Planning enforcement

**General** This has been my second year as a councillor and, like the first year, it has been quite an experience. Again, I have maintained a high record of attending meetings for the sake of local residents, as this will help residents in the Leggatts ward. I have worked very hard with my co-councillors to ensure that residents in my ward are represented. 100% attendance at meetings for the sake of local residents' interests and have attended extra meetings as I have felt they are important for Leggatts ward residents. As a member of the Labour Party, I wanted to ensure that, in this era of cuts and austerity, the principles of fairness, social justice and equality are adhered to when I am representing local residents, especially the most vulnerable in our town. I will always stand up for Watford.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 37 meetings. Attended 36 meetings.  
Percentage = 97%.

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

Since being elected as a councillor for Leggatts ward, I have worked tirelessly for my local residents, in improving its health and enhancing its rich heritage. Some examples of this have included:

- Attended the Watford Live event
- Trying to ensure the war memorial in Christchurch is upgraded and maintained before the centenary of WWI
- Proposed a motion at full council, which had unanimous backing, to give an option to families of fallen service personnel to name streets after them.
- Asked questions in Full Council of the Mayor on crime rate within the Town Centre and Albert Road.
- Supported Herons football club with a donation to set up 'Tots football' for children, helping children remain healthy.
- Helped Beechfield Children's Centre with a donation for improvements to its playground.
- I've attended the local fun-days in Goodwood park.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

I have been working diligently with local residents to improve the wards cleanliness and maintain the green environment that characterises it:

- I have actively taken part in consultation about parks and green places across the Leggatts ward.
- I am part of the working group looking at the on-going improvements to North Watford Playing Fields.
- Helped to garner opinion from young people and local residents on the improvements to Callowland Park.
- Took part in tree planting in North Watford Playing Fields especially the Nara woods with local residents' association.
- Litter picking in North Watford Playing fields and roads across the Leggatts ward.
- Raised with the council issues to do with dog mess, litter, overgrown trees across the Leggatts ward.
- Attended meetings and took up concerns regarding the allotments, particularly the Callowland Allotments with the council.
- Dealt with potholes, road surfacing, dangerous pavements, trees, overgrown shrubbery, street name plates throughout the ward.
- Helping to deal with parking issues in parts of the ward with the help of the local police, the parking shop and local residents.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

In my second year on the Council, I have helped with enhancing the town's sustainability by:

- Given advice to local residents on planning issues.
- I am aware of the Local Development Plan and other policies which are used to judge on planning issues.
- I have regularly attended the Joint Highways committee and spoken up on issues impacting my ward as well as Watford generally, for example road resurfacing, ensuring roads such as North Western Avenue have speed restrictions.
- Spoken about concerns of over development.
- Took part in the Jubilee celebrations with local residents.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I am an active and vocal member of the Audit Committee – which scrutinises part of the Council's finances.
- I have attended the Budget committee, Cabinet and also the Full Council speaking on various issues related to economic prosperity of the Town.
- I have engaged with local traders in my ward and garnered their opinions on what the local council do to help them.
- Established links with local businesses to get them to participate in their corporate responsibilities within the ward.
- Helped local students with gaining IT apprenticeships.
- Spoken with shop owners on St Albans Road to get their views on how to reinvigorate the area.
- Proposed for a scrutiny of the Watford Housing Trust service delivery.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

I believe I have effectively supported individuals and the community throughout my second year as a ward councillor. Here are some of the examples of my work in supporting individuals and the community:

- Individual case work – received via phone, email, through canvassing, surveys, letters and ward walks.
- Attended Residents meetings throughout the year :- Callowland, Foxhill, Courtland's Residents Association and Hazel Tree Road residents association.
- Supported the Herons Football team with equipment.
- Supported the First and Second North Watford Scouts with donations to buy equipment.
- Effectively taken on concerns of local residents of the Leggatts ward and ensuring that they are represented whether to the council, the police or Watford Housing Trust.
- Regular ward surgeries throughout the year.
- Regular ward walks and canvassing throughout the year.
- Updating local residents with regular delivery of the Leggatts Rose, the Labour Party leaflet, distributed throughout the ward during the year.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money Council**

I have sought to ensure an efficient, effective and value for money Council. Here are some of the examples of what I did:

- Proposed an amendment to the remuneration panel recommendation calling for a cut to councillors allowances by 10% and the special responsibility allowance, including the Mayor's salary by 20%.
- I have taken to voluntarily giving part of my allowance to a local charity.
- Spoken to Cabinet, Audit and Budget committees on issues related to efficient, effective and value for money for the council.
- I have spoken in the Audit committee about the use of consultants.
- I have questioned the Council's investment portfolio at the Audit committee.
- I have raised concerns about the IT infrastructure of the council.
- Issues of outsourcing and keeping services in-house have been debated. Ensuring the best for Watford tax payers.
- Constantly sought updates on the council tax benefit backlog seeking that it is reduced as soon as possible.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

In my first year as councillor, I have worked very hard to develop partnerships that will help my local residents:

- Work with local schools – I am a governor at local school
- Work with local police in dealing with concerns within the ward.
- Work with local voluntary groups and empowering them to take up issues.
- Work with local residents' associations.
- Work with local fire authority to ensure residents are safe in their homes.

- With the various communities to engage more actively in the democratic political process.
- Engage with young people to encourage them to participate in local politics.
- Work with community leaders to achieve the best for Watford.
- Effective member of the Joint Services committee with Three Rivers Council,
- Worked with fellow ward councillors from different political parties for the betterment of the Leggatts ward.

**Objective for 2013/14**

None specified

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## **MERIDEN WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Jan Brown, Sue Greenslade and Karen Hastrick.**

All three councillors have completed self assessments

**Meriden** is described as a ward with a cross section of society with few incidences of public nuisance or crime

### **COUNCILLOR J BROWN**

**Year elected:** 1998 – 2002 and 2003

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I was a police officer in Watford for 17 years and becoming a councillor was a natural progression

**Roles in the Council:** Licensing 2003 Act Committee Chair and Licensing Committee Chair. Chairman of the Council 2008-2009

**Membership of outside bodies:** Unpaid Director of the LeMarie Centre for Charities; Friend of Watford Museum; Committee Member of Rainbow Toy Library; ex-Mayors' Association

**Training & Development undertaken in past year:** Updates of the licensing Act

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 18 meetings. Attended 15 meetings.  
Percentage = 83%

### **How she has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Working with Watford Football Club's Charitable Trust which has taken over the lease of Meriden Community Centre in order to ensure the Centre is a focus for all age groups and varied activities. I am a member of the Watford Drawing and Painting Club which meets at Meriden Community Centre.
- I am an unpaid director of the LeMarie Centre for Charities – running the building on behalf of Watford Borough Council. The Centre houses several small charities who work to enhance the lives of local people.
- As Chair of the Licensing committee, I work with both the police and other agencies to promote a vibrant and safe night time environment.
- I am a Friend of Meriden Park which carries out litter picks, bulb and tree planting and which has recently established a small nature reserve.

#### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Litter picks in Meriden Park as above. Deal with complaints about rubbish and graffiti. Encourage local residents to recycle and provide a link between Environmental Health and local people.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Ensuring that residents get the best deal possible from developers with regard to Section 106 money; thus they are compensated in kind for the areas that are more heavily developed.
- Also, working on the night time economy in Watford to strike a balance between much needed employment and a safe night time economy for all age groups to enjoy.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- As the Chair of the Licensing Committee, I have been able to influence obtaining the best working environment that we are able to provide for local taxi drivers and private hire operators. Together with our partners locally, we are investigating the possibility of bringing in new government legislation in order to make the night time environment safer for those who wish to visit. We encourage in particular new restaurants, which in turn, brings in older people to the town at night.
- I attend regular meetings of the Meriden Residents' Association and liaise frequently with Watford Community Housing Trust.
- I am an unpaid director of the LeMarie Centre, which houses many small charities, thus ensuring that they are able to carry out their functions locally in the smoothest possible manner.
- Liaising with Watford Football Club's Charitable Trust in the future of Meriden Community Centre.
- A Friend of Meriden Park, thus securing the future of the area for future generations.
- Liaising with Berrygrove Children's Centre and funding various small projects for them from the Meriden Neighbourhood Project Money.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Working with my group – the ruling administration – to get the best possible deal for local people. I have attended training courses where necessary.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- Again, as Chair of the Licensing Committee, I work with the police and NHS, together with other partners to make sure the town centre at night is as safe as it can possibly be. We have regular meetings to ensure that we are delivering the best possible environment.
- I also work with Watford Community Housing Trust to ensure that residents are happy with their homes and environment.
- Again, working with the Meriden Residents' Association and Watford Community Housing Trust on local issues

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- Administrating the neighbourhood project money for Meriden, ensuring that all the money is spent on causes for the community.

**Update on progress**

- We have spent all our project money on local causes providing new audio and visual equipment for the charities housed in the LeMarie Centre and also, for a new garden at Berrygrove Children's Centre.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Again, I shall be continuing to administer the councillors' neighbourhood project money on community causes in Meriden Ward.

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**COUNCILLOR HASTRICK**

**Year elected:** 2006

**County Councillor for Meriden Tudor County Division**

**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.

**Roles in the Council:** Constitution Working Party, Council, Licensing (2003 Act) Committee, Licensing Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Membership Development Group

**Membership of outside bodies:** Watford Citizens Advice Bureau Trustee Board (special responsibility H&S), Member of Berrygrove Children's Centre Advisory Board, Herts Highways – Joint Member Panel (now known as Highways Liaison), WCHT Board Member

**Training & Development undertaken in past year:** 'Members as Community Activists' (HCC) Code of Conduct Training (both WBC & HCC), Licensing training/briefing, Housing Briefing on changes, Herts Environment Sustainability Conference, Equalities Training, Law Commission re Taxi Licensing, Benefits Training, Planning Enforcement Training

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 23 meetings. Attended 20 meetings. Percentage = 87%

**How she has met Council Objectives**

**Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Meriden Fishing Club – Having helped set this youth group up by allocating funding from Locality Funds I have continued to attend monthly committee meetings. Site visits with officials from Veolia Water and Environmental Agency in order to discuss cleaning up the relevant area of River Colne in an environmentally sympathetic manner and prompt funding and support.

Meetings with WCHT and Groundwork to further develop River Colne site and funding.

- Funding WFC Football Trust project for Youth in Meriden
- Attendance at civic events such as Remembrance Ceremony at Town Hall, Audentior Awards

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Friends of Meriden Park continues to meet for tree planting and litter picking events
- Meriden Fishing Club (as above)
- Checking and reporting on litter and rubbish levels

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Reporting on highway issues and raising concerns i.e. potholes, pavement hazards, re-surfacing problems.
- Raising issues with Highways Agency

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Supporting Watford Football Trust as they take over the running of Meriden Community Centre and their planned expansion to appeal to a wider audience and user groups
- Consulting with local businesses and residents over their concerns in the area.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Meriden RA fortnightly meetings and Community Cafe as well as community events
- RAKE (Residents Association for Kytes Estate) - instrumental in helping to set up residents' association, attending monthly meetings as committee member, drumming up support on the estate, programming and helping with events to enhance community feeling. Attending meetings to represent RAKE to the Housing Association. Advising and supporting the Chairman
- Raising concerns with Watford Community Housing Trust on behalf of residents (resulting in taking on Board Membership)
- Town Hall Remembrance Ceremony
- Resolving housing problems on behalf of residents, both with the Council and with WCHT.
- Responding to residents' personal concerns and problems and taking these forward
- Acting to resolve road hazards with Herts Highways
- Keeping in touch with regular newsletters. Publicising contact details and have set up a Facebook page for the area
- Membership of Scrutiny & Overview Committee, Constitution Working Party, Regulatory Committee (Licensing)
- Providing funding from HCC Locality Budget for various groups and charities
- Working with WBC Councillors in both Meriden and Tudor and taking up County issues on their behalf



**Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Taking part in Licensing Sub Committee hearings
- Supporting WBC at meetings regarding Meriden Community Centre takeover by WFC Football Trust

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Through Licensing Committee membership.
- Regular meetings with Police and local PCSO – developing Neighbourhood Watch in local area
- Working with Watford Community Housing Trust on individual resident's issues.
- Also supporting Watford Football Trust in taking over the running of Meriden Community Centre from WBC

**Objective for 2012/13**

- Supporting Kytes Residents Association (RAKE) and Meriden Residents' Association
- Continuing support and organisation for Friends of Meriden Park

**Update on progress**

- Yes these targets have been met and by their nature are ongoing

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Looking into possible support for re-starting Friends of Garston Park group

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**COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE**

**Year elected:** 2003

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I want to help the communities of The Meriden by representing their interests at the council.

**Roles in the Council:** Budget Panel, Chief Officer Pay Panel, Council, Management of Disabled Parking Bays Task Group, Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel, Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Membership of outside bodies:** Member of the Hertfordshire Environment Group

**General:** Due to family matters I have not been able to get quite as much involved as I would have liked this year but I feel I have been a good help to residents, which if first and foremost why I became a councillor.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 28 meetings. Attended 24 meetings.  
Percentage = 86%

**How she has met Council Objectives**

**Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- I have reported incidences of fly-tipping or other environmental crimes to the Mayor

**Enhance the town's sustainability**

- I share information on recycling when I am talking to residents and include relevant news in my Lib Dem local newspaper

**Supporting individuals and the community**

- Much of my work is done through face to face contact with residents, who often come to my home to talk to me and ask me for advice. A lot of my contact also comes as a result of our Meriden Lib Dem newsletter – often residents come to me for advice after this, and I usually talk to the Mayor if I do not know how to help them.
- I have assisted residents in my ward with regard to issues on housing and have taken up queries on their behalf with Watford Community Housing Trust. Similarly I have taken up issues with Herts County Council such as pot holes on the streets in my ward. And I represent the interests of Watford's disabled community to the council.
- I also attend community events that take place in my ward on behalf of my residents, the Council and the Liberal Democrat party.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- I am regularly consulted by other Lib Dem group members for advice and direction on disability issues

**Objective for 2012/13**

- None specified

**Objective for 2013/14**

- None specified

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## **NASCOT WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Jeanette Aron, Mark Watkin and Mark Hofman**

All three councillors have completed self assessments

**Nascot** is described as having residents from a wide range of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. It is also a wonderfully mixed ward containing a conservation area largely comprising terraced houses, flats, large detached houses, and a small estate of social housing including dedicated properties for the police. The people, properties and prime position make it an attractive place to live. It has one Catholic Primary School, a County run Infant School with a nursery, and a County run Junior School, a number of playgroups, churches and a synagogue. Located on the edge of the town centre it is close to the shops, the Junction station and at its western edge marks the entry point into the town from the M25.

## **COUNCILLOR ARON**

**Year elected:** 2011

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** to take a more active role in supporting our community when residents are faced with difficult issues or concerns

**Roles in the Council:** Budget Panel, Overview and Scrutiny, Housing Policy Advisory Group, Community Safety Task Group and Constitutional Working Party

**Membership of outside bodies:** Governor at a local primary school till July 2012, long standing volunteer with charities based in the Gambia and volunteer at own synagogue NPLS

**Training & Development undertaken in last year:** Licensing training, Housing Benefits Training, attended Briefing on Domestic Violence, Chair of the New Commissioning Framework Task Group, Standards Training

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 31 meetings. Attended 27 meetings.  
Percentage = 87%

### **How she has met Council Objectives**

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- On-going support of the Ridge Lane Residents Association with their clean-up and bulb planting weekends at North Watford Playing Fields. Meet with the RRA, fellow Councillors, Parks Department and Groundwork to help achieve aims of the groups involved to establish woodland trail and maintenance of The Dell.

#### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- By supporting Watford's Major Projects

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- By supporting Watford's Major Projects

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Worked with residents and the planning officer to obtain Article 4 Direction on land at Lebanon Close
- Attend coffee mornings at local sheltered accommodation
- Provided support and help for the CRA & RRA when required
- Organised Neighbourhood Forums and worked with WBC Officers in meetings with residents with parking issues throughout the ward or on Park improvement consultations.
- Worked with local schools with the aim of community and children's safety through parking scheme's or with Emergency Evacuations in conjunction with the local Community Police
- Have worked with fellow councillors in helping to give our younger residents a voice through Watford Youth Council and Youth Connexions
- Abseiled down Munden View for the Peace Hospice
- Have attended Nascot Grange & NWPF official openings of their play areas, helped support the CRA fun day, attended the Family Day at the Watford Fire Station
- Have attended the AGM's of the CRA, NRA and RRA and Watford Women's Centre
- Helped support and meet with residents when objecting to planning applications in their vicinity
- Worked with residents on issues relating to Anti Social Behaviour with support from officers from WBC

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- On Budget Panel Committee

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- A parent governor at a local school till end of July 2012
- Regular meetings with our Community Police Officers at Shady Lane to address any concerns they or residents have in relation to Community Safety
- Working with WBC Officers in all departments to provide satisfactory solutions to any queries raised by residents.
- Helping to support our WBC officers in their endeavours to provide an excellent service for all our residents
- Continue working as a team with my fellow councillors, our wonderful residents' associations and all the volunteers that work to achieve so much locally

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- To continue to work with and help support the residents of Nascot Ward and the partnerships that enable my work as a councillor to support that need

**Update on progress**

- Have accomplished many satisfactory results for our residents this year and will continue to be a support and help when required

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Continue in the same vein as this year

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**COUNCILLOR WATKIN**

**Year elected:** 2006

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** My principal reason is 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

**Roles in the Council:** Portfolio Holder for Shared Services; Chair of Functions Committee; member of Budget Panel, Development Control Committee, and the Planning Policy Advisory Group.

Also **County Councillor for the Nascot/Park Division** and am the Shadow Cabinet spokesperson on Education & Skills and Children's Services.

**Membership of outside bodies:** Trustee of the Multi Cultural Community Centre, and on the Management Committee of the Chessbrook Educational Support Centre; a Member of the Friends of Little Cassiobury, The Friends of Cassiobury Park and The Friends of Watford Museum.

**Training & Development undertaken in past year:** I have attended Council run courses on Benefits, Community Action, Development Control, changes in Licensing and the new Standards system. I have completed the Local Government Association Leadership Academy (3 weekends), and a course on Speed Reading. I have attended externally provided conferences on Reforming the Housing Benefit System; Redesigning Local Services: Policy in Practice; and a number of events organised by the Local Government Association.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 38 meetings. Attended 33 meetings. Percentage = 87%

**How he has met Council Objectives**

**Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- I have been actively involved in finding a use for the wonderful Little Cassiobury, possibly as a heritage museum or an arts centre.

- I am a member of the Friends of Cassiobury Park and have participated in their working parties tackling conservation issues in the Park.
- I have worked to enhance the facilities of both the parks in my Ward as these are vital to the development of a healthy lifestyle for all our community.
- Have been involved, through my County Councillor role in a number of pieces of scrutiny of the local Health Trusts.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- I have worked to have more litter bins installed where they are needed in my ward and have tackled issues of fly tipping and graffiti whenever they arise.
- Have helped in clean up days in both Goodwood Recreation Ground and North Watford Playing Fields organised by local Residents' Associations.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- I am a member and regular attendee of the Development Control Committee.
- I have been a member of the Planning Policy Advisory Group since its inception and am therefore exceedingly familiar with the Local Development Framework and other planning policies.
- I have spoken at residents' meetings and issued street letters on development and other issues in my ward.
- I regularly report Highways issues using the online reporting tool on the HCC website.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- In my role as a member of the Cabinet I am constantly participating in discussions concerning ways of enhancing the economic prosperity and potential of Watford, particularly discussions on the redevelopment of the Health Campus, the introduction of the Croxley Rail Link, the improvements to Watford Junction Station, the renovation of Charter Place and the improvement of the social realm at the top of the town.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I have regularly attend the public meetings of the three Residents' Associations in my ward and have supported projects from all three whenever required with either money from my HCC Locality Budget or from the WBC Neighbourhood Forum budget.
- We held two Neighbourhood Forum public meetings in Nascot this year which have been well attended with over 90 attendees. Nascot councillors have also funded a number of projects as requested by local residents.
- I have had a regular flow of casework, largely geared to planning and parking issues which I have processed and addressed in a timely and effective manner.
- I regularly distribute newsletters across my ward.
- I have attended a number of community events in my ward, most notably the Courtlands Residents' Fun Day as well as events organised by my local schools.
- When required I represent my residents' views at council meetings.
- As a County Councillor I regularly take up case work issues with HCC.

- My day to day contact with officers and residents is through email and the phone, but I prefer personal meetings when a matter is more complex.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- As a member of the Cabinet this is a fundamental part of my role. I have worked with officers on reviews of the Benefits Section where there has been a pressing need to reduce delays in processing claims, by enhancing productivity and by taking a more radical approach to the use of outside suppliers assisting the council in this work.
- I have attended appropriate training to keep me abreast of the changing environment facing my portfolio responsibilities and the wider council. I also research issues on the Internet and receive a number of publications on Local Government Issues.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- In the context of Shared Services which is one of the most fundamental partnerships that the council operates, I have concentrated on improving performance, and strengthening the governance of the services.
- In my Ward I have been and am assisting in ensuring that funds are invested in both the Goodwood Recreation Ground and the North Watford Playing Fields to achieve maximum benefits for residents.
- I have worked closely with our neighbourhood police team, lead by PC Kevan Ball, and, as required, had contact with Herts County, the Fire Service and other agencies
- I have worked with all my major local Residents' Associations on a wide range of issues including the Courtlands Residents' Association in addressing parking issues around Holy Rood Primary School, the Ridge Residents with their work on North Watford Playing Fields and the Nascot Residents with their plan to introduce 20 MPH schemes in the ward.

### **Providing Vision**

- As a member of Cabinet we are constantly asked to consider matters of policy which in themselves set the vision for the future of Watford. 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.
- I want to encourage the concept that Watford's services will be strong enough and successful enough that other authorities will look to employ us as their provider when the circumstances are appropriate.

### **Managing Performance**

- I have completely re-jigged the key performance indicators for the four departments in shared services which had not been reviewed since the services were established over 4 years ago. I have worked particularly closely with the Chief Financial Officer for 3 Rivers over the bad but improving performance of the Revenues and Benefits Department. I work closely with the Chief Financial Officer for Watford on the budgeting strategy and financial management of the council.

**Objective for 2012/13**

- To reconstruct the shared services relationship between 3 Rivers Council and Watford Borough Council

**Update on progress**

- Not completely. I took over my portfolio in June 2012 and realised that certain fundamental issues regarding the quality of performance and political oversight could be improved by creating a provider client relationship. This has now been agreed in principal by both Cabinets and is in the process of being established.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- 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.

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**COUNCILLOR HOFMAN**

**Year elected:** 2012

**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.

**Roles in the Council:** Overview and Scrutiny, Licensing, Housing Policy Advisory Group and Membership Development Committee

**Training & Development undertaken:** New Members Induction, Overview and Scrutiny Training, Licensing Training, Standards Training, WCHT Briefing, Law Commission Briefing on Taxi Reform, National Planning Framework, Equalities Training, Herts Housing and Planning Conference, Licensing Masterclass, Budget Training.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 21 meetings. Attended 18 meetings.  
Percentage = 86%



## **How he has met Council Objectives**

### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Ensured new parks for children are opened on time and supported the recent introduction of street information signs which encourage walking, reduction in pollution and congestion in the town.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Reported instances of litter and supported the work of Groundwork to help enhance the appearance of our parks. Suggested future improvements to local infrastructure which improve the image of the town and wellbeing of residents.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Support the towns Major Projects

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Supported the town's Major Projects, met with representatives of Watford and West Herts Chamber of Commerce and Industry, regularly attended meetings of the Chamber's Creative Technologies Cluster Group and promoted export-led growth amongst local businesses.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Nascot is home to three active residents' associations. I have supported their activities through the use of our WBC forum budget, attended their meetings, functions and met with the groups' leaders and members whenever needed.
- I supported residents concerns regarding Watford Community Housing Trust's response to Anti social Behaviour.
- I attend to residents' casework and support my fellow Nascot councillors with their work on behalf of local constituents; this is usually concerned with planning issues, parking, schools and potholes.
- I provide information to residents via our frequent newsletters.
- In the last year I helped organise two residents' forums and liaised with local Police to ensure they have a regular opportunity to hear the issues our constituents may have.
- Attended Watford Women's Centre AGM.
- Attended the CRA fun day and the Watford Youth Council meeting at the Town Hall to hear the opinions of young people.
- Helped organise a meeting with local residents and WBC officers to discuss their parking concerns, attended by around 25 people.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Member of the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Worked with my fellow councillors to ensure residents' concerns are addressed. We have a mature relationship with the wards residents' associations with whom we work closely to resolve issues.
- I also work with the neighbourhood Police Officers and WBC Officers to address instances of Anti Social Behaviour and parking problems.

**Objective for 2012/13**

- Become an effective, visible, accessible local Councillor and develop my knowledge of council functions.

**Update on progress**

- This has been my first year as an elected representative; I have spent the last year trying to meet as many constituents as possible and at the same time sit on four Council committees. My other objectives were to learn about the Council's work through regular training and development sessions

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To continue my development as a local councillor and build my knowledge of local government.

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## **OXHEY WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Shirena Counter, Iain Sharpe and Peter Taylor.**

All three councillors have completed self assessments.

**Oxhey** is described as being located to the south of the town centre, between the River Colne and the borough boundary with Bushey (and in part with Three Rivers District council). It is divided between two separate areas on either side of the west coast mainline railway. It has a diverse mixture of housing types, including a large area of late-nineteenth/early twentieth century terraced housing in Oxhey village, and a considerable amount of inter-war housing. It is predominantly owner-occupied housing, but does include the Rookery estate, comprising around 400 homes owned by Watford Community Housing Trust. Oxhey includes the Watford Heath Conservation Area. Many hundreds of people commute every day from Bushey Station, which despite its name is in Oxhey, using the fast service to London Euston.

### **COUNCILLOR COUNTER**

**Year elected:** 2002

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I wanted to influence what happened in my local area. Was also persuaded that it was a good idea and didn't take up huge amounts of time!

**Roles in the Council:** Chairman for 2012/13, Outsourced Services scrutiny, Council Functions Committee

**Membership of outside bodies:** Ashfield School Foundation

**Training & Development undertaken:** Equalities, Benefits training

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 12 meetings. Attended 12 meetings.  
Percentage = 100%

### **How she has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Represented residents of Lower Paddock Road at Development Control to speak against a development that was particularly unpopular
- In my capacity as Chairman, have set up a 100 Club to benefit the Chairman's Charities.
- Participated in a wide range of events as Chairman representing WBC, including Holocaust Memorial day, Remembrance service, presenting a cheque on behalf of bereaved families to the Royal British Legion, visits to DRUM, Sealions, school assemblies and the High Sheriff's service in St Albans Abbey. Also involved in judging the Hertfordshire young people of the year awards

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- In my role as Chairman of the Council, I chose the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust as one of my charities and spoke at their Annual Members' day about how WBC supports wildlife.
- I have chaired 2 meetings with residents, councillors, representatives of the Health Campus, Hertfordshire Highways and Specialist design consultants to press for a rethink of the design of the access road which bisects Oxhey Park. As a result, the road has been redesigned so that it is narrower and can run as close to the edge of the park near the embankment as possible. This will have a major impact on the park.
- Organised a walk-around of Paddock Road allotments to discuss a number of concerns and as a result, arranged for 3 skips for allotment holders (at Oxhey Grange and Paddock Road) to clear their rubbish.
- Facilitated the introduction of an additional bin to encourage dog walkers to dispose of their dog waste (this had become a significant problem since the removal of specific Dog Poo Bins)

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Work with Oxhey Village Environment Group and the architect for the former Massey Waste Transfer site has continued and the design is due to be submitted to Development Control in 2013. We have negotiated a more suitable access for residents' cars from Aldenham Road and the design also includes a public car park with 70 spaces to alleviate the parking issues within the area.
- Chaired a Neighbourhood Forum discussing the proposals to make parts of Oxhey a conservation area.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I have continued to meet London Midland representatives to press for improved timetabling of trains to and from Bushey station during evenings and weekends. Whilst there has been some improvement, the service is still not acceptable at non peak times.
- I organised a meeting with representatives of London Midland and London Overground to discuss parking and access problems at the back of Bushey Station.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I have had a number of meetings with Oxhey Village Environment Group to discuss the possibility of piloting a Considerate Parking Scheme. Planning and implementation of this pilot will continue next year.
- During the year, I have also supported a number of residents with issues such as road markings and other minor highways issues and advice on planning/enforcement
- Following a petition received from residents, I have led on a parking consultation for a 1 hour Controlled parking Zone in Kingsfield & Cedar Roads. This included a public meeting last May and managing the expectations of individuals who were both for and against. I also drafted a Frequently Asked Questions document in support of the consultation document, to ensure as much impartial information as possible was provided

to residents, so they could make an informed decision. The response rate to the consultation was outstanding at 73% but overall more residents voted against implementing a scheme.

- Opened the Oxhey Village Environment Group fayre in June 12 and attended the group's AGM in March 13
- Met with residents of the Larches to discuss the possibility of implementing a Controlled Parking Zone – this work is currently underway

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I have been a member of the Outsourced Services Scrutiny committee which has reviewed the performance of external contracts such as the Leisure Centres and Parking Services.
- Member of Functions Committee

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- Work with London Midland and London Overground (see above) to improve timetabling and resolve parking issues.
- Regular liaison with County Council officers on road markings (e.g. Keep Clear signs) and other road related issues
- Liaised with HCC to expedite resolution of a legal issue that arose in connection with implementing short stay parking bays in Oxhey

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- To determine unequivocally whether or not a car share scheme would be viable in Oxhey ward and if it is, to work towards a pilot scheme
- To pilot a considerate parking scheme in selected roads and evaluate its success.

### **Update on progress**

- Due to a lack of time (partly because I was Chairman this year, and partly because of other ward issues which have been priorities and taken up a lot of time) I have been unable to meet this target

### **Objective for 2013/14**

- To facilitate/support the development of a biodiversity plan for Watford and work with the Head of Parks & Open spaces to bid for money to run a project similar to the Wild Stevenage project.
- To work with the HMWT and Health Campus team to ensure that a Wildlife corridor is planned into the design of the Health Campus Access Road, enabling wildlife to safely move across the road

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## **COUNCILLOR SHARPE**

**Year elected:** 1991

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I wanted to make a contribution to ensuring 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.

**Roles in the Council:** Portfolio Holder for Planning, Legal and Property Services, Cabinet, Council, Development Control Committee, Hertfordshire Highways Joint Member Panel, Major Projects Board (Chair), Market Working Group, Planning Policy Advisory Group (Chair), Chair of Highways Forum; Watford Borough Council and West Herts Golf Club Joint Committee, Leader of Liberal Democrat Group

**Membership of outside bodies:** LGA – Urban Commission, Local Transport Plan, Traffic Management Act Adjudication Joint Committee

**Training & Development undertaken:** Planning enforcement training (WBC); Royal Town Planning Institute Politicians in Planning (full-day conference, November 2012); Liberal Democrat Group Away-day (training in engaging with local residents); Various training events at Liberal Democrat party conferences.

**General:** : I work very closely with my fellow ward councillors, Shirena Counter and Peter Taylor, county councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and Mayor Dorothy Thornhill. Much of what follows reflects issues on which we have worked jointly. Also, many issues I deal with are raised with me by local residents and involve action by council officers. In highlighting that these are part of my work I fully acknowledge that I will often be only one of a number of people involved in these activities and achievements.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 41 meetings. Attended 38 meetings.  
Percentage = 93%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- On heritage - as cabinet member for planning I have chaired the planning advisory group which has overseen the development of planning policy, the most significant achievement this year being the approval of the Local Plan Core Strategy following an examination in public. This has included proposing (based on officer research) the designation of two new conservation areas at MacDonnell Gardens and Oxhey village, along with other new policy documents such as the Shopfronts Guide, and supporting heritage projects such as the restoration of tombs in St Mary's Churchyard. With colleagues, I am actively promoting proposals to reduce street clutter in conservation areas etc.

- I have attended various community events, including the carol service, the Audentior Awards, the Mayor's reception for business.
- On health -I have continued to champion improvements to parks in Oxhey and across the town, providing open space for people to enjoy.
- As Chair of the Major Projects Board I am responsible for providing member scrutiny and overview of the health campus project.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Reported problems of litter, fly-tipping, broken potholes and pavements where these arise.
- Contributed to the Council policy of maintaining weekly refuse collections.
- As a member of the Cabinet, contributed to process of considering whether to outsource the council's refuse and street cleaning services in the interests of improved service and reduced costs (decision pending at time of writing)
- Supported programme of improvements to parks, using Section 106 funds arising from the planning and development process, including proposals to enhance Oxhey Park
- Continuing to campaign for improvements to rail services facilities for passengers at Bushey Station.
- Encouraging planning policies (through the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, which I oversee as a Cabinet member) that protect green space and encourage a high-quality local environment.
- Working with officers and ward councillors on local transport and traffic issues, from improved pedestrian signage in the town, to parking schemes and public transport.
- Working with residents, council officers, ward colleagues etc. to put forward a more satisfactory route for the access road to the health campus to reduce its impact on Oxhey Park.
- I have played a leading role in bringing forward policies for the enhancement of The Parade area of the town centre to improve the environment and economic prosperity of the area.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- My Cabinet responsibilities involve transport and this year has seen much activity especially on parking issues where we are carrying out a survey of the existing controlled parking zone, have extended controlled parking in Cassiobury, and have or are in the process of consulting residents about whether to change parking arrangements in Oxhey and Callowland wards.
- The new Local Plan Core Strategy has sustainability, particularly regarding Watford's residential neighbourhoods, at its heart.
- I am a member of the Development Control Committee, one of the two regulatory committees of the council. This requires being familiar with the local development plan and other relevant policies and using my judgment to determine the merits of individual planning applications.
- There is always a degree of tension between the need for new development and the desire to protect the character of the town. As a member of this committee, I have to apply the informed judgement of a lay person, guided by the professional opinions of planning officers as expressed in their committee reports.
- I am a vocal member of the committee and have on occasion successfully argued for the committee to reach a different decision from that of the officers – usually to reject applications that are recommended for approval. At the

same time, it is sometimes necessary to take difficult and unpopular decisions – usually to approve applications that are in line with planning policy, but controversial in the local community.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- As Chair of the Major Projects Board I have been overseeing progress on key projects that include working in partnership: the Charter Place redevelopment and the Health Campus. These are long-term projects that will take several years to deliver.
- I have contributed extensively to the often controversial debates about the health campus scheme, speaking on this in Cabinet meetings and defending the Cabinet's position at a scrutiny hearing. This has involved extensive discussion with council officers and fellow councillors and writing letters to the Watford Observer. The aim is to bring forward a scheme that creates new jobs and homes and a new hospital for the town.
- With Cabinet colleagues, I am promoting plans for the redevelopment of Charter Place shopping centre and the relocation of Watford Market.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- It is intrinsic to the role of a councillor to be a champion for individuals and communities that we represent.
- I regularly take up individual issues, from highway fault reporting to concerns over planning issues that have been raised with me by local people.
- In addition I work with local voluntary groups such as the Oxhey Village Environment Group and Friends of Oxhey Park to make sure the Council is aware of their views and have attended events such as parks clean-ups and the 'wassailing' at Oxhey Community Orchard.
- Through our local neighbourhood budget we have supported local community groups with small grants to assist their activities.
- We have held two well-attended neighbourhood forum meetings; one covering parking issues for part of the ward and the other a presentation from the Mayor covering economic development and planning across Watford.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- As a Cabinet member I have contributed to the Service Prioritisation process which is designed to achieve savings required by reduction in government funding, while protecting core frontline services which people value.
- We continue to seek and find ways of providing services more efficiently – this year the key project has been the potential outsourcing of council refuse, street cleaning and parks services.
- The budget of the majority Lib Dem group, of which I am leader, approved another freeze in council tax, and in Members' allowances. Throughout the budget process I challenge and debate the recommendations of officers to arrive at a budget that meets the priorities of the Council.
- More widely, being a councillor requires regular liaison with a range of external bodies as issues arise: this includes police, Watford Community Housing Trust, local voluntary organisations, County Council etc.



### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- These are reflected in comments above regarding the Major Projects Board and working with local groups.

### **Providing Vision**

- In my role as majority group leader, I have been involved in developing Council policies and priorities, for example in terms of our approach to planning, to protecting and improving green spaces and defining our approach to service provision (e.g. judging things according to what will provide the best service rather than favouring either in-house or private sector provision.)
- I have attended and contributed to a recent meeting involving the Council and partner organisations

### **Managing Performance**

- It is fundamental to the role of all councillors that we scrutinise and if necessary challenge the decisions and actions of Council managers and officers – effectively holding the Council to account on behalf of the people who elected us.
- In my regular meetings with heads of service and other officers, I provide such challenge, outlining the priorities of the administration and acting as an advocate for the local community.
- The best example of this is in working on the Council's planning policies. I chair the Planning Advisory Group which monitors progress and gives policy guidance to officers. I have tried to communicate the preferred choices of Members, to make sure that the documents produced reflect this so that this leads to planning policies that will meet the aspirations of Watford residents.
- I also attend regular Quarterly Review meetings with heads of service within my portfolio to monitor the performance of departments. This is part of the Council's performance management process and provides an opportunity for scrutiny by a councillor of the department's performance against its agreed service plan and performance indicator.

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- Ensure further improvements to Oxhey Park in line with the programme of parks improvements.
- Ensure we stick to the timetable for agreeing the Local Development framework documents (particularly in light of the government's new planning framework).
- Continue to press for improved rail services from Bushey Station.
- Contribute as a Cabinet member to the ongoing challenges of providing quality services at a time of austerity.

### **Update on progress**

- A plan of improvements has been agreed for Oxhey Park and will be carried out this year. Minor improvements have taken place at Oxhey Green, including new litter bins and benches.

- The Local Plan Core Strategy has been adopted following an examination in public.
- Additional services have been provided following the construction of a new platform.
- Unlike many councils, Watford has frozen its council tax again without significant cuts to services.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Maintain progress on Part 2 of the Local Plan
- Ensure we stick to the timetable for agreeing the Local Plan Part 2 in line with the recently agreed Local Development Scheme.
- Propose more policy motions on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group at Full Council meetings.
- Ensure that whatever new arrangements are agreed for street cleaning, parks and refuse services continue to meet the aspirations of local residents, while delivering financial savings.
- Promote the project for reducing street clutter in Oxhey.

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**COUNCILLOR TAYLOR**

**Year elected:** 2012

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I wanted to help make sure that Watford, and especially Oxhey, remains a great place to live in. 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.

**Roles in the Council:** Audit Committee and Budget Panel

**Training & Development undertaken:** Planning enforcement training (WBC), Budget Scrutiny training session (St Albans), various induction training sessions (WBC), Equalities training (WBC), Benefits Training (WBC), Housing Service Briefing (WBC), Standards Training (WBC), Licensing Training (WBC), Taxi Licensing Training

**General** I work very closely with my fellow ward councillors, Shirena Counter and Iain Sharpe, County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and Mayor Dorothy Thornhill. Much of what follows reflects issues on which we have worked jointly.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 19 meetings. Attended 17 meetings.  
Percentage = 89%

## **How he has met Council Objectives**

### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- I have attended various community events, including the Audentior Awards and Oxhey Village Environment Group events such as their Remembrance Service on Watford Heath.
- I have supported planned improvements to parks in Oxhey
- I represented residents of Lower Paddock Road at Development Control to speak against a development that was particularly unpopular.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Reported many problems of litter, fly-tipping and potholes.
- Reported problems associated with Mayfair Bungalow (off Oxhey Lane) to WBC Environmental Health. They made a formal objection to planning application to have this site's designation changed from the storage to the "recycling of non-hazardous waste".
- Continuing to campaign for improvements to rail services facilities for passengers as Bushey Station.
- Have worked with residents, councillors, representatives of the Health Campus, Hertfordshire Highways and Specialist design consultants to press for a rethink of the design of the access road which bisects Oxhey Park. As a result, the road has been redesigned so that it is narrower and can run as close to the edge of the park near the embankment as possible. This will have a major impact on the park.
- Attended the Oxhey village Environment Group AGM in March 13
- Met with residents of the Larches to discuss the possibility of implementing a Controlled Parking Zone – this work is currently under way

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Involved in the consultation of residents about whether to change parking arrangements in Kingsfield and Cedar Roads.
- Participated in a Neighbourhood Forum discussing the proposals to make parts of Oxhey a conservation area.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Worked with head of local HSBC branch to regarding fly-tipping

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- A key role of a councillor is to be a champion for the individuals and communities that we represent. I regularly take up individual issues, from highway fault reporting, to overhanging vegetation and concerns over planning issues that have been raised with me by local people. In addition I work with local voluntary groups such as the Oxhey Village Environment Group and Friends of Oxhey Park to make sure the Council is aware of their views and have attended events such as parks clean-ups

- Through our local neighbourhood budget we have supported local community groups with small grants to assist their activities. For instance, providing skips at local allotment sites.
- We have held two well-attended neighbourhood forum meetings, one covering parking issues for part of the ward and the other a presentation from the Mayor covering economic development and planning across Watford.
- Worked with residents of Longcroft to secure significant improvements of their properties (replacement of Soffit Boards).

**Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- The budget of the majority Lib Dem group, of which I am a member, approved another freeze in council tax, and in members' allowances.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Being a councillor requires regular liaison with a range of external bodies as issues arise: this includes police, Watford Community Housing Trust, local voluntary organisations, county council etc.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Work closely with local groups (OVEG, FOAF, FOOP) in allocation of ward budget.
- Promote the project for reducing street clutter in Oxhey.
- Improve systems for contacting local residents electronically.

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## **PARK WARD**

**Ward Councillors: George Derbyshire, Peter Jeffree and Malcolm Meerabux**

All three councillors have completed self assessments.

**Park** is described as having Cassiobury Park as its heart. The ward has three distinct neighbourhoods: The largest of the three on the north-east side of the Park comprises the Cassiobury Estate, plus the west side of Hempstead Road and the Glen Way/Stanbury Avenue/ Beechpark Way area. The second neighbourhood is on the south side of the Park and is known as the Cassiobury Triangle. It is bounded by Rickmansworth Road, Gade Avenue and Cassiobury Park Avenue. It includes the relatively recent development predominantly flatted development of Cassio Metro. The third part of the ward is bounded by Park Avenue, the south-east side of Rickmansworth Road the north-west side of Mildred Avenue and the Cassio Bridge roundabout.

The Cassiobury Estate and the Cassiobury Triangle retain the look and feel of 1920s Metroland, having been developed in the 1920s/1930s with the arrival of the Metropolitan line railway and its terminal station in Cassiobury Park Avenue.

The Ward is residential in character with most of the dwellings being family houses, except for the more recent Cassio Metro development. The tenure of the housing is predominantly owner-occupied. The proportion of social housing in the ward is low.

## **COUNCILLOR DERBYSHIRE**

**Year elected:** 2004

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I became a councillor because of an interest in politics and at a time in my life when it is possible for me to devote the required time to the role. I felt that the knowledge and experience I had gained in my professional life before retirement could be usefully used in representing the residents of Park Ward on the Council.

**Roles in the Council:** Budget Panel, Chief Officer Pay Panel (Chair), Council, Development Control Committee (Chair), Licensing (2003 Act) Committee, Licensing Committee, Licensing Sub Committees, Planning Policy Advisory Group, Three Rivers and Watford Shared Services Joint Committee

**Membership of outside bodies:** Watford Palace Theatre

**Training & Development undertaken:** Standards training, RTPi Councillors conference, Housing briefing, Benefits training, Equalities training, Licensing master-class

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 50 meetings. Attended 48 meetings.  
Percentage = 96%

## **How he has met Council Objectives**

### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Took part in consultants briefing/feedback session on proposed Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Cassiobury Park.
- Attendance at Audentior Awards.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Subscribing member of the Friends of Cassiobury Park.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Member of Development Control Committee since 2004
- Member of Planning Advisory Group.
- I keep myself up to date with developments in planning by attending any training on offer and by private research.
- Subject to the need as a member of the Development Control Committee not to pre-judge any planning applications, I regularly advise residents on planning issues.
- I report defects in road and pavements via the Herts CC web-site.
- I am an active member of the Licensing Committee and regularly sit on and chair its sub-committees considering application for licences under the Licensing Act 2003.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Leading campaign with fellow Lib Dem councillor Peter Jeffree for retention of passenger service at the Cassiobury Met. Attended and spoke at London Travel Watch public hearing into the proposed station closure, and at the Public Enquiry into the Croxley Rail Link.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I liaise regularly with officers of the Cassiobury Residents Association and the Cassiobury Triangle Residents Association and attend their AGMs and other meetings if called.
- I act as a subscription collector for The Cassiobury Residents Association of which, as a resident of the Cassiobury Estate, I am a member.
- Dealing with issues raised by residents either on the telephone or by mail and email is a regular feature of my life as a councillor. If necessary I call round to their homes to discuss their issues with them.
- The Liberal Democrat councillors in Park Ward produce and deliver a regular newsletter "Cassiobury Focus" to all residents in the ward.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I attend all appropriate training arranged by the Council for councillors.
- I am aware of and abide by the Council's Constitution and code of conduct.

- I regularly read the “First” magazine published by the LGA. I also undertake internet research of development of Government policy, particular in the fields of planning and benefits.
- See above for membership of relevant committees. I play an active role in the work of the Budget Panel, as well as the Licensing Committee and Development Control.
- I contact officers about issues raised with my by residents as necessary.
- I attend Cabinet as necessary whenever there is a matter under discussion affecting Park ward in particular.
- See above for chair/vice chair appointments.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Maintain contact with the ward PC and PCSO.
- See above for membership of other bodies.

**Objective for 2012/13**

- Complete further extensions to the partial Cassiobury Estate CPZ.

**Update on progress**

- Extensions now complete and in operation.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Aim for inclusion into Cassiobury Controlled Parking Zone of the remaining few sections still outside its scope.
- Succeed in campaign to keep Watford Met station and its passenger service open.

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**COUNCILLOR JEFFREE**

**Year elected:** 2011

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** To become more engaged in local Ward issues and contribute to the future development of Park Ward and Watford as a whole

**Roles in the Council:** Licensing (2003 Act) Committee, Vice Chair Licensing Committee, Licensing Sub Committees, Vice Chair Major Projects Board, Market Working Group and project sub group, Secretary, Liberal Democrat Council Group, member of the Budget committee.

Membership of outside bodies: Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust

**Training & Development undertaken:** Licensing – taxis and private hire, Equalities training, Domestic Violence briefing, Benefits training, Standards training

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 35 meetings. Attended 34 meetings.  
Percentage = 97%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- I have continued my engagement with the major developments planned for the town through my role as Vice Chair of the Major Projects Board, notably the Health Campus, the new Market and the Charter Place redevelopment. I have also given input to the proposals for improvement to the Top of the Town and the proposals for improvements to Cassiobury Park.
- I am an active member of the Friends of Little Cassiobury, the aims of which are to restore, protect and find a community use for this important listed building. In that role I have prepared a 'Prospectus' which sets out the aims of the Friends, their ideas for a future use of Little Cassiobury and an outline of the costs of delivering the project.
- I am a member of the Friends of Cassiobury Park.
- I have acted as a substitute member of the Development Control Committee and in that role actively oppose developments which in my view detract from the town's heritage.
- I am an active member of the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust which aims to protect buildings at risk throughout the County
- I took part in local 2 Sky Rides which aim to encourage more cycling in the Borough.

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- As noted above I am engaged in the proposals for improvements to Cassiobury Park and am a Friend of Cassiobury Park. I support the proposals for enhancing the 'Top of the Town'

#### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Through my engagement with Major Projects Board and Development Control I have aimed to influence proposals which are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.
- I am a supporter of the 20's Plenty campaign which aims to reduce the impact of powered traffic on our roads and encourage more sustainable transport modes – particularly cycling and walking.

#### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Through the Major Projects Board I am engaged with projects which will deliver significant economic benefits for the residents of Watford.
- I have voiced my support for the Croxley Rail Link at the public meeting and the public enquiry, whilst opposing the closure of the Watford Met Station, which I regard as an important amenity for the residents of Park Ward.
- I have actively supported the development of Watford's markets and in particular the fortnightly Saturday markets in Queens Road, which aim to help economic regeneration of that part of town.



### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Over the year I have responded to and supported local residents wishing to oppose inappropriate developments or activities which would adversely affect them.
- I have helped resolve issues around parking for individuals affected by the recent Controlled Parking Zone proposals in Park Ward.
- I have attended both of the residents' association AGMs for my ward and supported them on issues such as speeding and road safety.
- I ensure local residents are kept informed through regular distribution of newsletters and keeping our local website up to date ([www.cassioburylibdems.org.uk](http://www.cassioburylibdems.org.uk)) and have created the new Liberal Democrat website ([www.watfordlibdems.org](http://www.watfordlibdems.org))

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I am a member of the Budget committee and in that role see one of my duties is to ensure the Council offers efficient and value for money services.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I am active on a range of committees and bodies and seek to influence policy where I can for the benefit of the community. I have engaged with my local schools over the potential adverse effects of their planned expansion and also the impact of Controlled Parking Zone expansion on them.
- As noted earlier I represent Watford on the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust.
- I have actively influenced TFL and the DoT in relation to their policy of closing Watford Met. Station as part of the Croxley Rail Link project, through the Public Meeting and Public Enquiry process.
- I have been influential in Herts CC's preparation of plans to improve the safety of the Cassiobury Roundabout for the increasing number of children attending the nearby Cassiobury Schools.
- I am working with the Community Police to set up a Community Speed Watch scheme aiming to reduce maximum speeds of traffic on the main roads around Park Ward.

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- Achieve a reversal in the proposal to close Watford Met Station through representations at public enquiries and mobilising public opinion
- Deliver the Controlled Parking Zone expansion and safer parking and crossing points at Cassiobury shops
- Continue to lobby for 20mph speed limits in residential areas to be adopted as policy by Herts County Council
- Continue to develop my knowledge, experience and training to help become a more effective local councillor

**Update on progress**

- Representations made, I now await the verdict of the Public Enquiry and the decision of the Mayor of London on the future of Watford Met
- Final adjustments are being made to the recent Controlled Parking Zone extension. Plans have been prepared by HCC for improved parking and road safety at Cassiobury Shops; I expect these to be implemented later this year
- I have continued to lobby HCC on this topic and understand they are going to review their policies later this year.
- I have taken on more responsibility this year as vice chair of two committees and continue to develop my knowledge and skills

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Achieve a reversal in the proposal to close Watford Met Station through representations at public enquiries and mobilising public opinion – public enquiry verdict awaited
- Deliver the Controlled Parking Zone expansion and safer parking and crossing points at Cassiobury shops
- Continue to lobby for 20mph speed limits in residential areas to be adopted as policy by Herts County Council
- Continue to develop my knowledge, experience and training to help become a more effective local councillor
- Ensure the delivery of improved parking and pedestrian safety at Cassiobury Shops
- Ensure that any remaining minor parking issues relating to the Controlled Parking Zone scheme are implemented
- Continue to lobby for a change in policy regarding speed limits by Herts County Council
- Work with the Community Police to introduce a Community Speed Watch scheme for Park Ward
- Continue to monitor inappropriate development on the estate

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**COUNCILLOR MEERABUX**

**Year elected:** 2010

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** (1) To be an advocate for residents (2) Ensure that WBC policies and actions have a positive impact on residents (3) Use my experience, skills and knowledge to help build cohesive and informed communities.

**Roles in the Council:** (Committees/ special responsibilities etc) Community Safety Partnership Task Group, Licensing Committee, Major Projects Board, Market Working Group, Licensing Sub Committee. Attended – Cabinet Committee, Budget Panel, Audit Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Development Control Committee.

**Membership of outside bodies:** Watford Harriers, Watford Philharmonic, Watford Symphony, Watford African Caribbean Society, Watford Fair Trade, Watford

Inter Faith Association, St Lukes, Friends of Watford Palace Theatre, Friends of Cassiobury Park, Friend of Little Cassiobury, Cassiobury Tennis Club, Cassiobury Residents' Association, Governor Nascot Wood School, Volunteer at Peace Hospice.

**Training & Development undertaken:** Licensing induction, Standards, RTPI Conference, Licensing Act and Taxis, Localism in practice, Housing briefing, Planning for prosperity, people and places, benefits, Major Projects Briefing, Understanding the changing role of local government, Housing training, RIPA Conference 2012 - Delivering local planning, Licensing Master class, Setting the scene for Community Planning in Hertfordshire.

**General:** This year has been most interesting sitting on Licensing Panels when licences, especially in relation to the sale of alcohol, are being reviewed and listening to the different angles i.e. residents, the police, WBC officials, legal representatives and the licence holder. I continue to take more than a passing interest in planning and how it impacts on the infrastructure and services especially education and parking e.g. Rounton, Cala Homes, Rembrandt House. Major developments e.g. the Health Campus, Charter Place Redevelopment, the relocated market, the Croxley Rail Link, the Met station, the Watford Junction redevelopment, Ascot Rd etc have really proved challenging and I'm keen to see that there is more consistency in our design / street landscape especially shop fronts. Pleased to see that much stronger efforts are now being made to protect the character of neighbourhoods and reduce street clutter. I'm pleased to be part of the process to ensure that the systems are working positively for residents.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 30 meetings. Attended 28 meetings.  
Percentage = 93%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Active committee member of Friends of Little Cassiobury
- Friend of Watford Museum
- Member of WBC Major Projects Board involved with several big developments – the Health Campus, Croxley Rail Link, Watford Junction redevelopment, supported the maintenance of Watford Met station, Ascot Rd, school / Morrisons in West Watford, the relocation of the market
- Very involved with a wide range of licence hearing reviews.
- Ensuring that events such as the coming Inland Waterways Festival National Event leave a positive legacy.

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- An active member of Friends of Cassiobury Park which has involved litter picking, working in the nature reserve, clearing weeds that are choking the flow of water, hedge laying.
- Attended meetings with allotment holders and have supported them in their efforts to keep the allotments at Farm Terrace.

- Helped to maintain the flower beds at the Peace Hospice through gardening and agreeing that part of the Councillor Locality Fund can be earmarked for this work.
- Supported residents in writing submissions against the pressure of 'increasing terracing' in Park Ward
- Expressed concern about the possible loss of mature trees as the top end of the town centre is remodelled.
- Involved in ensuring that the HLF plans for Cassiobury Park do not negatively impact on the green environment.
- Have expressed the need to include cyclist lanes in major projects.
- Raised questions as to whether the bin collection service with its 'one-size-fits-all' could be adjusted to clear the bins off the pavements in especially busy terraced streets like Cassio Rd.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Participation in Major Projects Board and Development Control Committee meetings enables me to look very closely at both the short and long term economic and environmental impacts.
- Flagged the need for a more balanced night time economy.
- Supported the keeping of the Met Station as a way of reducing pressure on main roads e.g. Rickmansworth Rd.
- Recognised that a remodelled market could play a role in offering a different retail experience.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Supported the retention of the market in a central location.
- Made representations to retain the Met Station.
- Active member of the Major Projects Board which is overseeing e.g. the Health Campus, the Charter Place Re development.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Regular volunteer at Peace Hospice Events e.g. Strictly Come Dancing at the Colosseum, Push for Peace Assault Course in Cassiobury Park, VIP welcomer at the Royal Gala Performance, Marshall at the Pedal for Peace and Ladies Midnight Walk. Gardener for the flower beds.
- Supporter of Watford Harriers events e.g. lead cyclist - the hare - at the half marathon fun races and cross country events.
- Bucket shaker for the Watford Lions at the Abbots Langley Carnival
- In my capacity as a school governor I've attended and helped at many events at Nascot Wood Junior School e.g. the Christmas and Summer Fairs, school concerts as well as curriculum visits

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Raised questions on the cuts to the voluntary organisations.
- Questioned some of the cuts to WBC departments e.g. the parks team that maintain the flower beds.
- Interrogated the way the allotments are financially managed and monitored.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Participated in a wide range of committees especially Overview and Scrutiny task groups e.g. Hospital Parking and the Licence Committee work on reviewing alcohol licences.
- Supported the retention of the Met Station.
- Raised questions on behalf of allotment holders.
- Working to preserve Little Cassiobury.
- Supporting events in Cassiobury Park organised by the Peace Hospice, FCOP, Watford Harriers.
- Listened to residents and acted on their concerns over parking plans.

**Objective for 2012/13**

- Participate in Policy and Scrutiny Task Groups.

**Update on progress**

- Suggested topics for Overview and Scrutiny Task groups.
- Regular member of Task Groups.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To assist residents in their representations.

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## **STANBOROUGH WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Keith Crout, Derek Scudder and Tim Williams.**

All three councillors have completed self assessments.

### **Key Stanborough Issues in 2012/13**

#### **Proposed Closure of Fern Way Playground**

There was a proposal from the Town Hall to close the Playground area behind Fern Way. Whilst initially it appeared that the position could not be altered, by lobbying from local Councillors, residents and Kingswood Residents' Association the decision to close this Play Area was successfully reversed and the area will have significant investment in 2013/2014.

#### **Withdrawal of No.8 Bus Services from Kingswood/Leavesden Green**

The No.8 Bus Service was withdrawn with minimal notice by Arriva in April'12, and despite presenting a petition to Arriva their position remained unaltered. Local Councillors, led by County Councillor Derek Scudder, explored ways to re-establish a Bus Route to serve Kingswood/Leavesden Green. After much effort route W18 is now in place on a trial basis from 1<sup>st</sup> April (three journeys a day on Tuesdays and Thursdays only).

#### **Rebuilding of Leavesden Green Community Centre**

Working with Watford Community Housing Trust, Council Officers, user Groups of the Centre and local residents to ensure that the rebuilding/refurbishment of Leavesden Green Community Centre goes smoothly, that all needs/requirements are met as much as possible, and that the short term displacement/disruption is kept to a minimum.

#### **Alcohol License for Vue Cinema**

There was an application from Vue Cinema to serve alcohol until 2.00 a.m. every morning. Working with Vue, however, local residents and licensing officers the application was successfully amended to maximum of 12 midnight and with other restrictions such as only served to ticket paying customers, and only two drinks per ticket.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Liaison with Housing Associations, local Police, and the Anti-Social Behaviour officer at the Council about various neighbour issues in regards to anti-social behaviour. A great shame but this issue does appear to have dramatically increased over recent years.

Other Local Issues – traffic calming, yellow lines, state of pavements, bins left on the street, litter, dog mess, overgrown hedges, and development control/planning concerns.

### **Local Achievements in 2012/13**

- Council to stop proposed closure of Fern Way Playground, and now to invest in it during 2013.
- Re-establishment of bus service to Kingswood/Leavesden Green after removal by Arriva of No.8 service
- Improvements to Woodside Playing Fields and Albans Wood
- New multi use games area at Leavesden Green
- Amendment of Vue's alcohol licence
- A405 steps and barriers finally repaired
- Yellow Lines in place for Lavinia Avenue & Lamb Close
- Highway improvements for Leggatts Rise & Ross Cesecent
- Agreement for refurbishment of Leavesden Green Community Centre – started March 2013
- Watford Foodbank setup from Leavesden Green

### **COUNCILLOR CROUT**

**Year elected:** 1999

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** Having been a local newspaper reporter for 25 years I recognised a need to get involved and to try and improve things for the people of Watford

**Roles in the Council:** Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Community Services, member of the Licensing Committee.

**Membership of outside bodies:** Council representative on Watford Together, the Strategic Health Partnership and the Cassiobury Park Stakeholders Forum.

**Training & Development undertaken:** Licensing training - to keep updated.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 26 meetings. Attended 23 meetings.  
Percentage = 88%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- I keep in touch with local residents via newsletters, surveys and facebook.
- I contribute regular fiction and non fiction articles to the Kingswood Res. Association. newsletter.
- I regularly attend our two local residents' associations to keep abreast of developing issues and to take up any areas of concern as necessary.
- I regularly sit on Licensing Sub Committees to hear applications. Concerns from the police and local residents are examined and acted upon where possible. If we cannot help we explain why.
- I make visits to local events such as school fetes and open days in my ward and in other areas of the borough.

- I play an active role in the forging of new initiatives. E.G. Town centre development workshops.
- I submit articles to local publications.
- We hold neighbourhood meetings to keep residents informed and to hear any concerns they have.
- I play an active role in the development of policy at group and Portfolio Holder meetings and keep my colleagues abreast of issues.
- I contribute to the letters pages in local newspapers to ensure the people I represent know where I stand on locals issues.
- I am heavily involved in the HLF funding bid for the development of Cassiobury Park.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- I am now the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Community Services and work with the Mayor, other Cabinet members and officers to develop our programme.
- This programme will include the maintenance and development of parks and open spaces, the HLF support to enhance Cassiobury Park, developing value for money initiatives, supporting the arts, promoting events, monitoring the success of our leisure centre and the Colosseum.
- I go on site visits with officers to see new initiatives and identify any improvements that can be made.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- I work with officers to monitor the success of the two leisure centres and our entertainment venues to ensure they are successful and promote a wide ranging programme of activities.
- I take up residents' concerns about any of our outsourced facilities to ensure they continue to be appreciated and supported.
- I take up residents' concerns about planning issues.
- I report and follow up on highways issues
- I keep an eye on developments in the town such as Charter Place and the market.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I play my part as a member of the Mayor's Cabinet in welcoming but also challenging new projects and initiatives.
- I convey any concerns that people may have about the development of the town.
- Together with officers I examine ways in which our facilities could be enhanced, better managed, provide value for money or develop revenue streams.
- Together with my section head I agree the distribution of monies from the small grants fund.
- I have worked with other councillors to develop a new commissioning framework so that we can continue to help the voluntary sector.
- This year I have been helping to develop new criteria for the small grants fund to encourage more take up from local groups and voluntary organisations.



### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I keep in touch with local residents via newsletters and surveys.
- I contribute a regular column to the Kingswood Residents' Association Newsletter.
- I regularly sit on Licensing Sub Committees to hear applications. Concerns from the police and local residents are examined and acted upon where possible. If we cannot help we explain why.
- I make visits to local events such as school fetes and open days in my ward.
- We hold neighbourhood meetings to keep residents informed and to hear any concerns they have.
- I play an active role in the development of policy at group meetings and keep my colleagues abreast of issues.
- I contribute to the letters pages in local newspapers to ensure the people I represent know where I stand on locals issues.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I have been heavily involved in the Council's project to see if outsourcing could deliver worthwhile financial savings while maintaining quality of service.
- Serving on Licensing Sub committees and the Standards Committee has given me a good understanding of the committee process.
- I make a good contribution to the running of such committees and encourage others to have an input.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I regularly meet representatives of community groups to keep abreast of emerging issues and examine where the authority might be able to help.
- Together with the Head of Community Services I take decisions on funding to support the voluntary sector via our small grants fund. I then ensure that these grants are publicised to make the public aware and encourage further applications.
- I deal with the local media and get publicity for my work.
- I keep an eye on the local media via the Watford Observer and its website.
- I also keep an eye on national developments via trade and local government publications.
- I meet with the Housing Trust to tackle ward issues as they arise.

### **Providing Vision**

- During the year I meet regularly with my Cabinet colleagues and officers to formulate policy.
- I meet representatives of outside bodies and charities to promote the Council's objectives and ensure that I am kept abreast of their emerging issues.
- Via newsletters and facebook I keep in touch with the electorate to ensure that they know what we are doing and why we are doing it.

**Managing Performance**

- I meet regularly with officers to monitor performance and keep an eye on the budgets.
- Where possible I try to meet as many members of staff as possible to demonstrate that their work is valued and listen to any concerns they may have.
- I encourage the public and fellow councillors to contact me e.g. Performance at the two leisure centres.
- I have quarterly reviews to monitor progress of our action plans.
- I keep an eye on articles and letters in the local paper to see that there are no issues I need to address.

**Objective for 2012/13**

- No target was set

**Objective for 2013/14**

- No target is being set

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**COUNCILLOR D SCUDDER**

**Year elected:** 1994

**Roles in the Council:** Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet, Council, Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003), Licensing Sub Committee, Watford Borough Council and West Herts Golf Club Joint Committee

**Membership of outside bodies:** Watford Workshops, Watford CAB, Bedford Morrison & Cordery Almshouses, United Sustainable Energy Agency, Herts Sustainability Forum

**Training & Development undertaken:** licensing training, housing briefing, benefits training, major projects briefing

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 26 meetings. Attended 26 meetings.  
Percentage = 100%

**How he has met Council Objectives**

**Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- I attend civic events such as the Remembrance Day ceremony and Community Reception

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- The major thrust of my portfolio within the Cabinet is to improve the environment of the town, both in terms of physical cleanliness and in improving recycling rates.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- My portfolio role includes the promotion of measures designed to reduce the carbon footprint of Watford. This includes both the Council itself and energy savings for residents.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I continue to be a member of the Licensing Committee of the Council. In this role, apart from the usual committee meetings, I have sat on several Licensing Sub Committees, chairing one of them. These deal with licensing applications and reviews for various premises around the town when representations are made by interested parties objecting to granting of, or changes to, licences.
- As a Cabinet member I attend Cabinet meetings and also meet regularly with members of the senior management team of the Council.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I maintain regular contact and work with the residents' associations in my ward
- I attend committee meetings of the Leavesden Green Residents' Association and also public meetings which they hold from time to time. I have worked closely with the Watford Community Housing Trust and residents in planning for the redevelopment of the Leavesden Green Community Centre.
- The Kingswood Residents' Association is a very well established group and I attend its AGM and work with the committee on local issues on a regular basis.
- I have helped residents with many issues, many of which are to do with road and pavement repairs, but also personal issues and development control problems.
- With my fellow ward Councillors I produce and distribute a regular local newsletter for Stanborough residents.
- I endeavour to respond in a timely manner to any communications I receive from constituents and residents of other parts of the town, whether in my role as a Cabinet member or as a ward Councillor.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- As a Cabinet member I attend Cabinet meetings and also meet regularly with members of the senior management team of the Council.
- As a Cabinet member I am not permitted to sit on any of the scrutiny committees of the Council. However, I attend the regular joint meetings between the executive and the chairs and vice chairs of the scrutiny committees in which work programmes and other issues are discussed.

- I speak frequently at Council meetings and at meetings at which members of the public are present.
- I believe I have a good working relationship with Council Officers.
- I attend many of the training opportunities offered by the Council and encourage others to do so as well.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I am a member of a number of outside bodies as shown earlier in this document. Additionally I represent the Council on the Herts Waste Partnership, which is a county-wide partnership.
- On occasions I deputise for the Mayor on outside bodies including the recently constituted Police and Crime panel.
- From time to time I am asked to give radio interviews concerning aspects of my work as a Cabinet member, as this is a fairly high profile role. The local press will contact me on occasions to discuss particular issues

### **Providing Vision**

- I work closely with my Cabinet colleagues and the officers within my area of responsibility in formulating and developing policy. I am also heavily engaged in other strategic decision making within the council on matters outside my portfolio.
- I have a good understanding of local government finance and take a very active role in developing the Council's annual budget.
- I am always available to give advice and information to other members of the Council.
- My primary role in forums outside the Council is environmental matters and I believe the Council's voice is heard and respected. The recent formation of a Green Deal Community Interest Company by the United Sustainable Energy Agency is something in which I played a key role.

### **Managing Performance**

- The Cabinet members meet regularly to exchange information. The collegiate approach we adopt serves the Council well.
- I have monthly meetings with the Head of Environmental Services at which we discuss issues of the day and also work on longer term policy and financial matters. One of the members of the second tier of management in the department usually attends part of these meetings to enable a more in-depth look at a particular issue.
- I take part in the quarterly reviews of the department which the Corporate Director also attends.

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- The LGCC needs to be redeveloped. Obtaining funding and planning permission for this.

**Update on progress**

- This objective has been fully met. Work has just begun on a £750K redevelopment of the community centre.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Ensuring that the redesign of the Council's front-facing services proceeds smoothly and that service quality is either maintained or improved.

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**COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS**

**Year elected:** 2012 (previously represented Park Ward on Watford Borough Council between the years 1995 – 2006)

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I became a Councillor at the age of twenty-two 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 my paramount reason to stand as a local Councillor in the ward that I live in.

**Roles in the Council:** Development Control Committee, Planning & Advisory Committee and Constitution Working Party

**Training & Development undertaken:** Standards, New Member Induction (follow up ) Licensing Act and taxis, Benefits, Major Projects Briefing, Equalities, Housing Licensing Master Class, Domestic Violence Briefing, Planning Enforcement.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 20 meetings. Attended 20 meetings.  
Percentage = 100%

**General:** Away from the Council I am employed as a contract Credit Manager, and am a member of Friends of Woodside, Friends of Cassiobury Park, Friends of Watford Museum, Leavesden Children's Centre, Watford Mayors' Association, Hunstanton Civic Society, Everyone Leisure Centre : Woodside, and a Fellow of the Institute of Credit Management. I am a governor of my old school (St Joan of Arc, Rickmansworth) and have been since 1988.

I live in Stanborough Ward, am married with two children, both attending local schools and both attending many sporting/activity clubs around the local area (eg Watford Youth Football Club, Dolphina Gymnastics, Cubs etc)

## **How he has met Council Objectives**

### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Member of various local Groups such as Friends of Woodside, Friends of Cassiobury and Friends of Watford Museum
- Attends various local events such as School Fetes, Open Days and charity days.
- Attends Civic Events such as Chairman-making, Audentior Awards, Carol Service, etc
- Attends the Remembrance Services both in Leavesden and also at the Town Hall
- Member of the Development Control Committee, and the Planning & Advisory Committee

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- Regularly litter picks in his locality, and also attends the monthly litter picks with Friends of Woodside
- Regularly logs onto Herts County website with regard to fault reporting in his locality, but often (if in his capability) goes out and does it himself i.e. cut back bushes if causing obstruction etc)
- Working with the County Councillor to re-establish a bus service for Kingswood/Leavesden Green

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Member of the Development Control Committee, and Planning & Advisory Committee, and this has a direct impact of the Town's sustainability in both the short term and long term.
- Advises local residents with regard to both Planning & Licensing applications.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Liaised with local businesses
- Supported and advised residents with regard to both planning and licensing applications.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- The No.1 priority – a local Councillor needs to be a champion for his residents, and the local communities in the Ward; The prime reason he became a Councillor
- Regularly takes up many and varied issues on behalf of residents
- Attends the monthly committee meeting of Kingswood Residents' Association
- Meets regularly with the User Groups of Leavesden Green Community Centre
- Member of local community groups such as Friends of Woodside
- Writes a monthly article for Kingswood News
- Keeps in touch with residents via Newsletters

- Gives quick responses to residents who contact him
- Attends many local events such as School Fetes, Community Days, and Opening Days

**Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Follows the quarterly Finance Digests issued by the Finance Team for up-to-date position
- Reads Budget Panel and Audit Committee reports.
- Attended Group Meeting to go through proposed Budget for the Council

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Regular contact with the police with regard to local neighbourhood issues
- Member and regular attendee of Leavesden Children's Centre – has two young children
- Works with Watford Community Housing Trust on various matters including the rebuilding/refurbishment of Leavesden Green Community Centre
- Liaises with County Council on various Ward related matters including Highways
- Follows and reads local media – online and on paper

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Refurbishment of Fern Way Play Area
- Stabilise a permanent Bus Service for Kingswood/Leavesden Green
- Smooth transition and successful Rebuilding/Refurbishment of Leavesden Green Community Centre
- Anti-Social Behaviour – better communications with Neighbourhood Police Team
- Continue to improve our parks and open spaces
- Keep up the campaign for more and better road & footway repairs from our County Council (e.g. refreshing white lines throughout ward)
- Continue to work with residents and residents' groups on getting improvements to the area

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## **TUDOR WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Kelly McLeod, Lindsey Scudder and Darren Walford**

All three councillors have completed self assessments.

**Tudor** is described as a relatively affluent ward with a few Housing Trust flats; the local primary school has been judged as Outstanding by OFSTED

### **COUNCILLOR MCLEOD**

**Year elected:** 2007

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I became a councillor because I wanted to make a difference within my community and to make a contribution to the decisions being made within Watford.

**Roles in the Council:** Community Safety Partnership Task Group, Council Functions Committee, Major Projects Board, Housing Policy Advisory Group

**Membership of outside bodies:** Groundwork Hertfordshire Panel, Watford Community Housing Trust Community Fund Panel

**Training & Development undertaken:** Licensing – Taxi, Development Control Training.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 14 meetings. Attended 11 meetings.  
Percentage = 79%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- I have supported the Friends of Knutsford Playing Fields by attending as many monthly activity days as possible. I also support The Green Gym by attending and emailing park rangers to ensure that the work that the Friends group undertake is linked into the strategy and plans of the Colne River Park.
- As Governor of Knutsford Junior and Infants School, I also attend the school for the Summer fair and as many of the other social activities that the school may hold for the children as often as I can.

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- I have litter picked and cleared riverbanks while participating with the local Friends of Knutsford Playing Fields. I liaise with Council staff for street clean/rubbish clearance. I report potholes and pavement trip hazards as found or informed by residents to Hertfordshire County Highways.



### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- I have attended the Housing Policy Advisory Panel and participated in dialogues concerning Watford Council Officers and upcoming changes to benefits, social housing provision, and housing policy.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I promote and support the park developments and the arts development that help to make Watford a lovely place to work and live in. I have liaised with both the local police officer and our local PCSO at residents' meetings, email, telephone conversations and at local events.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I have given advice and directed residents and businesses to the appropriate Council officers about licensing applications and functions. I have advised residents on how to make representations to the Planning Committee. I attend as often as possible the Tudor Residents' Association Meetings, yet now that this has closed down due to lack of residential involvement, I will now make quarterly visits to Harwood Court residential home and telephone/email our local Police Officer about any concerns or queries that I may have or receive from residents.
- I am a Governor at Knutsford Junior and Infants School. I am a member of the Inclusion and Curriculum Committee. I attend school and meetings as often as possible.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Participating in Council meetings and bringing my residents' concerns to the attention of Officers and the Mayor and her Cabinet. I have been briefed about the major projects about to commence within Watford while on the Major Projects Board and visited various sites concerning potential developers.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I represent the Council on the Hertfordshire Groundworks UK panel; have been appointed to Watford Community Housing Trust – Better Community Fund panel.
- During both of these panels. I have visited and scrutinised the work that these organisations undertake and try to ensure that they work for the benefit of our residents and our communities

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- Publicise results more so that people can feel confident to approach me for help and information.

### **Update on progress**

- Not reported

**Objective for 2013/14**

- Try to get my residents to participate in either the Residents' Association or the Friends of Knutsford Park so that both can become sustainable .

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**COUNCILLOR L SCUDDER**

**Year elected:** 2003

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** to have some influence on what happens in the community and, hopefully, to improve it

**Roles in the Council:** Council (Chairman), Licensing (2003 Act) Committee, Licensing Committee, Licensing Sub Committees, Member Development Group (Chair)

**Membership of outside bodies:** North Watford Youth and Community Centre

**Training & Development undertaken:** Licensing Training, Licensing – Taxis and Private Hire

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 14 meetings. Attended 14 meetings.  
Percentage = 100%

**How she has met Council Objectives**

**Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Have encouraged and supported (by attendance at functions and hopefully, by financial contributions from Neighbourhood Forum fund) the local Rugby Club and surrounding park area.

**Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- See above. Friends of Knutsford Park is a thriving community group who have improved the river and surrounding area enormously. I have attended consultation meetings on the work to be done. The addition of an outdoor gym facility, trim trail and improved playground equipment will be a huge benefit to the environment. The rugby club pitch is about to undergo relaying with a matched grant from the RFA and Council help.

**Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Have attended training where available. Dealing with residents' casework over refuse collection, dog fouling etc. Attendance at park clean ups.

**Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- Liaison with local businesses, attendance at Licensing committees, supporting residents in local licensing hearings.
- Advising on planning process in liaison with planning officers and enforcement officers.

**Supporting individuals and the community**

- Have actively supported local organisations such as the Rugby club.
- Have facilitated use of Community Engagement budget to support local organisations such as youth club and DRUM activities.
- Respond to individual residents through casework, regular newsletters and questionnaires.
- Regular attendance at Residents' Association (now defunct), liaison with local police personnel

**Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- Read budget papers, have attended training on financial issues and annual budget. With fellow ward councillors am very aware of value for money in spending Community Engagement budget.

**Objective for 2012/13**

- Continued success and growth of Tudor Residents' Association

**Update on progress**

- I have attended the majority of meetings and informed Chair of any local issues affecting residents. However, despite councillors' involvement, insufficient resident support was forthcoming to form a workable committee and the TRA has folded.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To see Knutsford Park continue to develop and be well used.

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## **COUNCILLOR WALFORD**

**Year elected:** 2008

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I take great pride in where I live and wanted to put myself forward to represent my local neighbourhood and do something positive for the community in which I live

**Roles in the Council:** I am a member of the Licensing Committee, Functions Committee, Procurement & Contracts Board and Watford Borough Council & West Herts Golf Club Joint Consultative Committee

**Membership of outside bodies:** Friends of Knutsford Park Association

**Training & Development undertaken:** I have undergone the Council's induction programme, and have also been trained on the Council's code of conduct, development control and licensing.

**General:** I was elected in October 2008 and again in May 2012. In my time as a Councillor I have established a very good working relationship with my fellow ward councillors and County Councillor Kareen Hastrick, and am working hard for residents. I believe this year I have a 100% attendance record for all my council meetings.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 15 meetings. Attended 15 meetings.  
Percentage = 100%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- Having lived in the Tudor area since 2003, I have met many people over the years. I feel this has encouraged people to approach me and speak to me personally because they feel as though they already know me well. I have been approached by local residents both in the streets and shops on a number of occasions with various issues they may have regarding the area and this is where I feel I get most casework from.
- I continue to attend the Tudor Residents' Association meetings as ward councillor and share the responsibility of running the local neighbourhood forum with my ward representatives.
- As my daughter attended Knutsford School I had been approached by Governors of the School to become a parent Governor but she has now left to start senior school. One of our Councillors Kelly McLeod is already a Governor at the school but I have been advised there is a Governor's post at Parkgate school which I am interested in. I feel this would benefit the community having two Councillors at different schools.
- Residents know they can contact me through email, phone or by stopping me in the street and they regularly do so. I also share news through the Lib Dem newsletters and through residents' association meetings and neighbourhood forums.

**Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I am a member of the Licensing Committee and Functions Committee.
- I have yet to be involved in scrutiny. I understand the process, however, and will be sure to represent the views of my residents to Cabinet should the need arise.
- I have undergone training on the Council's Code of Conduct as part of my induction to the Council, and have also been trained on licensing and development control issues.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- I work with council officers both at borough and county level, as well as other outside organisations, when dealing with casework on behalf of residents. Some recent casework examples have included dealing with issues surrounding the back pay of pensions, the removal of graffiti from the cycle path sculpture and mine and my fellow councillors' ongoing discussions with a private company about the height of their trees, which is causing upset to the resident that lives opposite.

**Objective for 2012/13**

None specified

**Objective for 2013/14**

None specified

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## **WOODSIDE WARD**

**Ward Councillors: Ian Brown, Alan Burtenshaw and Karen Collett**

**Woodside** ward is described as sitting at the northern end of the Borough bordering Three Rivers DC. It has a mixture of private and Watford Community Housing Trust properties including three distinct housing estates and three sheltered housing schemes. It also has Woodside Playing Fields as one of the town's 'jewels' in which is located the athletics stadium and a recently refurbished leisure centre.

All three councillors have completed self assessments.

### **COUNCILLOR I BROWN**

**Year elected:** 1983 - 2003, 2004

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** To help residents in the community with their problems and to be able to take part in the running of Watford

**Roles in the Council:** Audit Committee (Chair), Licensing Committee, Council

**Membership of outside bodies:** West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee, Director of Watford Charity Centre Limited

**Training & Development undertaken:** Grant Thornton Seminar

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 23 meetings. Attended 21 meetings.  
Percentage = 91%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Committee member of Friends of Watford Museum. I have attended Art Lectures at the Museum.
- LA Governor at Leavesden Green School
- Member of Watford Mayor's Association.
- Committee Member of the Old Fullerians Association.

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- There are some complaints in the Ward about rubbish and graffiti and I deal with these speedily.
- Help residents' groups to keep the town clean.
- I report the problems arising from people who insist on selling cars from grass verges owned by the Council. The Licensing Officers respond quickly in this respect.

**Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Trying to get potholes filled in as soon as possible (County Council activity )
- I have spoken at Development Control Committee on various planning applications in Woodside.
- I have also advised residents on all sorts of planning matters.

**Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I am a Director of Lemarie Centre Ltd which runs the Lemarie Centre for Charities in North Watford. The Company is organised for the benefit of local charities. This is very satisfying unpaid work.
- I have given advice to local businesses on business plans – my background as an Accountant helps with this

**Supporting individuals and the community**

- A substantial amount of casework – emails, letters and personal contact, as I live in the Ward.
- Regular newsletters.
- Various community events were attended.
- Involvement with Leavesden Children's Centre.

**Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I enjoy being Chair of the Audit Committee. The annual accounts and treasury management are in good shape.
- I am also a Member of the Licensing Committee.
- I am in regular contact with officers on matters concerning residents.

**Influence and partnership delivery**

- Regular contact with the police and the PCSO on matters in the Ward- especially anti-social behaviour issues.
- Meetings with the three residents' associations in the Ward.
- Contact with Watford Community Housing Trust.

**Objective for 2012/13**

- Continued hard work for the residents of Woodside

**Update on progress**

- Achieved

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To ensure the residents of Woodside Ward continue to receive excellent standards of support.

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## **COUNCILLOR COLLETT**

**Year elected:** 2010

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

**Roles in the Council:** Chair of Overview and Scrutiny. Member of Development Group, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

**Membership of outside bodies:** Steering Group for Boundary Way Redevelopment.

**Training & Development undertaken:** Scrutiny training, Standards Training, Licensing Training, Benefits Training, Equality and Diversity Training, Domestic Violence Briefing.

**General:** I am a local resident of Woodside and my mode of travel is as a Pedestrian and bus user. I feel that this is a perfect way to meet local residents and see first-hand the issues that concern all of us in the Community. Woodside is a lovely area and we are fortunate to have many public amenities, such as: Woodside Leisure park and Centre, Alban Wood, Cricket and Bowling Clubs, Playing fields, Schools, Places of Worship and Community Centres.

One of the special things about Woodside is the community spirit and this is evident at the 3 resident meetings I attend each month. There is a thirst for community involvement and so many ideas are being presented which I know will involve all ages and bring everyone closer together so looking after our community and each other.

I have enjoyed my new role as Chair of Scrutiny and I feel that I have a better understanding of how Scrutiny works. Overview and Scrutiny is vitally important for the people of Watford so that they know that we are prepared to seek answers and scrutinise decisions, so making sure that our constituents know we have their best interests at heart. I intend to learn more this year and use that knowledge to the best of my ability.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 18. meetings. Attended 17 meetings.  
Percentage = 94%



## **How she has met Council Objectives**

### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- In 2012 I attended the Act of Dedication/ Remembrance and wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday at the First World War Memorial in Leavesden High Road. This was attended by local residents, Veterans, Cadets and Councillors. I also laid the wreath as Deputy Group Leader at the Town Hall Remembrance Service on behalf of the Liberal Democrats. I attended a performance at the Watford Palace Theatre- 'Equally Divided'
- I attended the opening of Watford's Hospital Radio second studio.
- I attended the Multi-Cultural event at the Colosseum.
- Requested a visit to see Watford's Peace Hospice and to learn about the wonderful work they do. As a Councillor I also ensured they received funding which will help with the cost of providing new electrics for the Lights of Love.
- Attended Carol Service at Christ Church in St Alban's Road.

### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- I attend Woodside Albans Wood clean up throughout the year, along with planting trees and bulbs to improve the woodland. In addition, I attended the Dawn Chorus where we take note of bird species with the help of an RSPB expert.
- For local residents I requested the removal of post and rail fencing in order for them to gain safe access to their homes. Reported overspills of litter in local bins.
- Attended streets inspections in Boundary Way and The Brow - reporting broken post and rail, litter and reported broken pavements.
- Attended the Green Flag award ceremony at Woodside Park.

### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- I have contacted residents and supported them through the planning process. I have provided follow up visits to make sure that they are satisfied with the outcome

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I met with the Manager of the RSPCA Charity shop who wanted to be part of the local business network so he could share ideas and become more involved in Watford's business community. I passed this on to the Mayor of Watford.
- I supported Watford's Market, Mind, Body and Spirit Festival in order to promote local business.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- I attend the 3 local Residents' Group meetings, Leavesden Community Group, Boundary Way Action Group and the Woodside Action Group throughout the year to assist with their concerns and offer support. I also assisted the children's Christmas Party in Leavesden and helped with the Jubilee Celebrations at The Brow.

- I have attended the Olympic Summer Fare at Leavesden Junior School.
- I was also invited to Watford's Community Champion to see one of our residents Hilda Wells receive an award for her decades of service to our local community and to see Anne Cook, Head-teacher of our local Junior School, praised for her community work.
- Attended the Lemarie's Jubilee Festival - 50 years of serving the community. Local residents use the Centre and as a Councillor we also helped by funding an outside roof so that children can play undercover.
- I met with members of the local Youth Club at the Orbital Community Centre, (YMCA) to answer questions on my local work and to hear of their amazing activities. A few months later I was able to use Councillor funding to help with a youth project that would benefit them and the local community.
- I attended the local Music Gym at their Singing and Rock Concert and their grand opening of an additional room for keyboard activities at the Orbital Community Centre. Local children, some with additional needs, thrive in this environment.
- I continue to have a good working relationship with officers at the Watford Community Housing Trust with whom I have regular contact; this is mainly casework based. Their support in answering my queries and resolving resident's problem has been very beneficial to my role as Councillor so promoting good communication in the community.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I continue to attend many training sessions at the Council as they have been of enormous benefit to me in my role as councillor. As new policies come into effect in the coming year I will continue to update my skills and knowledge.
- I continue to research local and national government issues. Furthermore, I bring this information to local residents extracting key information making the literature more reader friendly.
- In my role as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny I was able to meet once again with the Hospital Trust's Eric Fehily, Associate Director of Infrastructure, who was asked to comment on the recommendations that were agreed by the last Committee. Due to many changes at Watford General Hospital at this present time many of the recommendations cannot be taken on board. However, it was agreed to meet later in the year to see if there was a way forward and for Eric to update us on the current situation.

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I have regular contact with our local police officers and have attended meetings at our local police station to pass on local concerns. Recently, I and my fellow ward councillors were able to part fund CCTV cameras for The Church Of The Nazarene who has been experiencing vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The church makes a huge difference to our community and especially supports local young people. I work as a Learning Support Assistant at Francis Combe Academy and so I can liaise with local groups, individuals and the Academy to develop good links within the community. I attend meetings at the Orbital Community Centre now owned by the YMCA and I have a good relationship with the Centre manager and staff. In addition this helps me to be meet other user groups; this then allows me to pass on information on what activities take place and how local residents can get involved

**Objective for 2012/13**

- I intend to be heavily involved with local groups as they plan for the Jubilee celebrations, involving the local Academy so bringing the community together.

**Update on progress**

- I have attended most meetings with our local groups and assisted in setting up Jubilee Celebrations with the Woodside Action Group. I passed on details of Watford's Food Bank to the local Academy. Students raised money for them by bringing in a pound to wear non-uniform for the day.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- To continue to improve on my case work load and manage my time effectively.

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**COUNCILLOR BURTENSHAW**

**Year elected:** 1994

**Reasons for becoming a councillor:** I started out 19 years ago with the intention of trying to improve the area and the town as a whole and this has been my aim. Dealing with local housing, highways and residents' problems has become more difficult in recent years but hopefully the residents appreciate what I've tried to achieve. We might not always agree but being truthful about problems has always been my main aim and to a greater extent most residents appreciate what has been said.

**Roles in the Council:** Audit Committee, Development Control Committee, Major Projects Board and Planning Policy Advisory Group. Also a member of the Green Travel Plan group looking at problems associated with Woodside playing fields.

**Membership of outside bodies:** Friends of Woodside, Friends of Watford Museum. Honorary vice president of Watford Harriers, Honorary Life Member of the Sea Lions Swimming Club. Member of the Kingswood Residents' Association. Member of the Watford/Novgorod Association.

**Training & Development undertaken:** Development Control and Enforcement

**General:** This is my last self assessment as I am retiring fairly shortly and intend to move away from the area to be nearer family members. Having been a councillor for 19 years I've seen a lot of changes to the Council and Watford, some for the better and perhaps some not. I can only hope that whatever I've done and decisions I've made have been with the best intentions for everyone. I've also tried to represent the Council and town to the best of my ability, that is for others to say whether I succeeded or not !! Perhaps this is the time to register my thanks to all the officers I've come in contact with. We've not always agreed but hopefully it has all been done

with good grace. Also my thanks to all the residents and groups that I've come into contact with over the years, it's certainly been an interesting time.

**Attendance Record:** Expected at 23 meetings. Attended 21 meetings.  
Percentage = 91%

### **How he has met Council Objectives**

#### **Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage**

- Along with Ellie, (a past councillor and Chairman), I have attended numerous activities in support of the arts and also as a member of the Past Mayors and Chairmen association. I've supported a number of civic events including Remembrance day and the civic carol concert. Again along with Ellie and fellow councillors Karen Collett and Ian Brown, we continue to hold a short Remembrance day service at the War Memorial next to Dale Court in the High Road. This is always well attended and appreciated by those who attend. I have also been working with officers to get this particular memorial replaced with a new one and it will hopefully be in place by November 2013.

#### **Enhance the town's clean and green environment**

- As reported last year this is one of my main areas of participation !! As one of the founding members of the Friends of Woodside group I, along with Ellie, run monthly events such as rubbish clean-ups, bat locating and appreciation of Alban Wood walks. We are a vital help in maintaining the Green Flag status of Woodside Playing Fields and work closely with officers in the Parks department and as such have built up an excellent relationship. I think it is fair to say that I am passionate in retaining and improving Woodside and its facilities!! I have been heavily involved with getting updated toilet facilities at Woodside playing fields and hopefully these will be done this year. The footpaths, parking provision and roads throughout this site have all now been upgraded making it a safer and much more user friendly facility.

#### **Enhance the town's sustainability**

- Planning has always been one of my main interests and I have been a member of the Development Control committee for many years including eight years as chairman. I have a good knowledge of planning policies and have been a member of the Planning Advisory Group developing the 'new' Local Development Plan. I have also advised many residents on planning matters not only those in Woodside but also the rest of Watford and beyond.
- I have also reported many highways issues mostly with successful outcomes. It is still immensely frustrating having to deal with at times a less than sympathetic County Highways team.
- The control of on-site parking at Woodside playing fields has taken up a lot of time and effort but the result has been good and in the next few months the whole of this area should be covered.

### **Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential**

- I have supported the Health Campus development and also the Warner Bros studios and Harry Potter Tour development within metres of the northern border of Woodside. I have supported the town centre improvements proposals and look forward to an improved pond area. I have also spent time promoting Watford's fantastic cultural improvements such as the refurbished Colosseum and Palace Theatre.

### **Supporting individuals and the community**

- As well as being a member of my own residents' association I, along with fellow councillors, have supported three tenants' and residents' associations in Woodside. We regularly attend their meetings and have supported a number of their projects financially. I have attended a number of local school events such as plays and anniversary parties and also the local children's centre. I also meet regularly with officers of the Watford Community Housing Trust and raise tenants' problems with them when necessary and also the local neighbourhood police team. Along with fellow councillors we circulate regular newsletters and other information items and deal with problems via e-mail and phone.

### **Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council**

- I have attended a number of training and information events, (as stated above) and as a member of the Development Control committee regularly update myself with the ever changing rafts of new legislation. I try to deal with officers in a friendly and efficient manner as I believe this achieves much better outcomes to problems encountered. I also encourage residents to speak to the correct officer when they have queries or problems. Better to empower residents and improve their understanding of how the council works than to constantly do everything for them!!

### **Influence and partnership delivery**

- I frequently talk to the police about problems in Woodside and how we can overcome them although it is at times difficult due to changing personnel. I try to work closely with local schools and Watford Community Housing Trust and we have developed a good and friendly relationship. I have also maintained a friendly relationship with the YMCA team at the Orbital community centre.

### **Objective for 2012/13**

- To ensure that the impending opening of the new Warner Bros studio and Harry Potter Tour in neighbouring Three Rivers does not have a detrimental effect on nearby residents in Woodside

### **Update on progress**

- The studios and tour have now been open for over a year and communications and discussions with the management appear have ensured as little effect on the neighbourhood as possible.

**Objective for 2013/14**

- This is my last assessment as I will be standing down in the near future but my aspirations and hopes for the betterment of Woodside still hold. I may still be in the area to see the end results of some of the projects but if not I'm sure my fellow Woodside councillors will continue to work for the betterment of this area.

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