

COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORTS 2014 - 2015

Councillor: Alex Ross-Shaw

Ward: Windhill & Wrose

Party: Labour

Date Elected: 03/05/12

Basic: £13173.36

Special Responsibility: £2900.64

Other Council Remunerations:

Positions held:

Area Planning Panel (Keighley and Shipley)

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Employee Appeals Panel

Shipley Area Committee

How many neighbourhood forums have you attended? (Please state a number and not all)

4

Other meetings/bodies which you regularly attend: (e.g School governing bodies outside bodies etc)

Bradford District Credit Union Board meetings (Unpaid Director)

Wrose Action Group

Bolton Villas Residents Association

Wrose Parish Council

Bradford Remembering Srebrenica Group (Chair)

Bradford Armed Forces Covenant Partnership (Chair)

My priorities for the past year were (May 2014 to May 2015)

Over the coming year I will continue to make myself accessible to local residents in as many ways as possible, including the use of new technology such as Twitter. I will continue to attend community meetings to assist local residents in resolving their issues and achieving their aims.

I am involved in a number of projects locally that I hope to see significant progress or success with over the coming year. These include converting some unused land into community allotments, involving a wide range of stakeholders such as schools and local charities, and also a large tree planting project to create a Remembrance Wood to honour the Centenary commemorations due to take place later this year.

As a voluntary Champion for the charity Remembering Srebrenica I hope to use the events of Bosnia and Srebrenica in the 1990s to work with local partners, both inside and outside of the Council, in promoting community cohesion and rejecting hatred across the Bradford district.

**My priorities for the coming year (May 2015 to May 2016) are:
(Please list or describe your priorities or targets as a Councillor for the coming year)**

First and foremost I intend to continue to serve my constituents in Windhill & Wrose to the best of my abilities, attending community meetings, keeping them informed of what is going on in their neighbourhood and making myself available on as many mediums as possible.

This year I hope to continue and complete several projects I have started/led on since the last year.

This includes receiving funding for further development of The Big Plant, a memorial woodland project in Windhill & Wrose. More trees are planned for the next planting season and we are looking at ways we can honour local soldiers who died in the war with memorial markers.

I also hope to advance the Wrose Allotments project in conjunction with Wrose Parish Council. We are currently working with Bradford Council on analysing what we need to develop the site after which we will start bidding for funding.

In 2015-16 I aim to increase the number of Little Free Libraries in Windhill as well as across Shipley and Bradford. This will involve working with voluntary groups to acquire funding and encouraging volunteers across the Little Free Library network in Bradford to help each other.

As Chair of the Regional Board of Remembering Srebrenica and the Bradford group I hope to continue raising awareness of the Srebrenica genocide and working in communities to show how learning the lessons of the genocide can fight hatred and intolerance here in Bradford. In July we will be holding a number of events across Bradford including a memorial service on 4 July, which we are currently organising and the 8-3-7-2 football tournament involving schools and youth clubs from across Bradford.

As the Council's Armed Forces Champion I also intend to continue to promote the work of the Armed Forces and represent their views on the Council.

I have been elected as Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny & Overview Committee and hope to provide an effective voice over the coming year in scrutinising the Executive and Council Officers and ensuring the Council is run in an efficient, effective and transparent manner.

**What I have achieved in the past year (May 2014 to May 2015)
(Please list or describe some of your activities as a Councillor and what you see as your key achievements)**

Most of the satisfaction of being a Councillor comes from helping people on a day to day basis, often small things such as getting gullies unblocked or graffiti removed but regularly larger issues personally affecting people's lives. This is the 'bread and butter' of being a Councillor and in helping constituents I always remember they are the people I'm elected to serve first and foremost.

As organiser of The Big Plant project I worked with Bradford Council and Forest of Bradford to get funding for 7,000 trees planted in the community, improving the local environment, biodiversity and air quality. This work will be ongoing over the coming municipal year as we seek to attract funding for the memorial aspects of our project.

I also founded Bradford Little Free Libraries in conjunction with the Little Free Library Project. We have Little Free Libraries in Windhill, Owlet and Bolton Woods as well as Baildon with another one planned in Hirst Wood. This makes Bradford Little Free Libraries the largest collection outside of London in the UK.

As Chair of Bradford Remembering Srebrenica I worked with the main UK charity to help organise a 'Survivor Speaks' event where a survivor of the genocide gave a talk at Bradford University. This was the only such event outside of London and it was a privilege for Bradford to be able to host such a distinguished guest.

What training sessions, seminars, briefings and conferences have you attended to develop your skills and gain knowledge that has helped you to serve the people of the district? (Please list them).

Safeguarding training for councillors – this was about how to spot the signs of sexual exploitation of adults and young people.

I have started an online training module and exam on Child Sexual Exploitation and what steps to take to stop it happening in specific cases.