

COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORTS 2017- 2018

Councillor:	Kevin Warnes
Ward:	ShIPLEY
Party:	Green
Date Elected:	May 2004
Basic:	£13,463.16
Special Responsibility:	£7,112.30
Other Allowances:	^

Positions held in 2017 – 2018:

Environment & Waste Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Ch & DCh)
Regeneration & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Alt)
ShIPLEY Area Committee (Alt)

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

- A range of resident and community group meetings across the ward.

My priorities for the past year were (May 2017 to April 2018)

- My main priority is always to ensure that the concerns and wishes of local residents are properly considered and acted on by the Council wherever and whenever this is possible.
- I am also keen to ensure that Bradford Council plays a key leadership role across our District as we make the transition to a low carbon society and economy, and will therefore speak out about the need for much greater environmental sustainability in everything that we do through my membership of full Council and of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

My priorities for the coming year (May 2018 to April 2019) are:

(Please list or describe your priorities or targets as a Councillor for the coming year)

- I will continue to work hard to respond to constituents' concerns as my top priority and, along with my ward Green Party colleague Cllr Martin Love, maintain our intensive programme of street surgeries throughout the year. As I have said in previous years, it is vital that local people feel that they have a democratic voice on Council and local representatives who will stick up for their interests.

- I will continue my representative role on local bodies such as the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group and support the work of the Saltaire Village Society, the Friends of Northcliffe and the Norwood Neighbourhood Association. All of these groups are achieving wonderful advances for their communities and deserve full support from their ward councillors.
- I am looking forward to playing an active role on the Shipley Area Committee in the year ahead, to ensure that the residents of Shipley ward have a Green voice to air their concerns when this area committee makes decisions about planning and traffic and the other local matters that fall under its remit. I particularly want to ensure that the committee maximises help for residents concerned with rat-running and speeding traffic, along with inconsiderate parking.
- I have stepped down from my role as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee (now merged into a new committee that also encompasses Regeneration policy). I will continue, though, to seek to ensure that Bradford Council makes further progress in managing its energy use and its carbon emissions. Specifically, I will seek to ensure that the Council follows through on the carbon reduction commitments made by the Executive Committee in March 2010, in line with the longer-term targets that we now have for a 40% cut in the Council's carbon emissions by 2020. Given the imminence of that fast-approaching date, I will press officers and senior councillors to finalise their follow-on carbon reduction planning for post-2020 to ensure that Bradford plays its part in driving down our carbon pollution in line with national targets.
- Like many residents, I was appalled by the Council decision in mid-2018 to approve the demolition of the Branch Hotel despite the fact that the future design of a new Otley Road/ Bradford Road junction was far from finalised. The future of this junction will be a key issue locally in the months ahead. I will work hard with residents and others to ensure that planning for the new expanded junction closely involves local residents and fully takes on board their many concerns and priorities. It is vital that this project delivers reduced air pollution and maximises safe, sustainable options (walking, cycling, bus travel) for local families.
- Finally, I will do my best to ensure that the budget negotiations that will lead up to next February's budget Council take full account of the needs of ordinary people across the district and delivers real investment in a low carbon future for Bradford. These were our group priorities last year and are vital given the enormous, continuing scale of the cuts that are being imposed on Bradford Council by central government. Along with Cllr Martin Love, I will do my best to ensure that the impact of the next round of spending cuts on ordinary people is mitigated to the maximum extent possible, and that the most vulnerable residents in our community are protected as much as possible. We will do our best to ensure that a needs-based budget is agreed within the tight fiscal and legal constraints that we will once again be forced to accept by the Westminster Parliament.

What I have achieved in the past year (May 2017 to May 2018)
(Please list or describe some of your activities as a Councillor and what you see as your key achievements)

- Along with Cllr Martin Love, former Cllr Hawarun Hussain and Green Party colleagues, I have conducted 'street surgeries' throughout the year across the Shipley ward. As a result, I have helped residents with a very wide range of problems and concerns. This casework has taken hundreds of hours of my time and – as always - has been my main responsibility ever. The Green Group of councillors is fundamentally committed to providing the best possible representation for local people that we possibly can.
- By way of illustration, here is a 'snapshot' of the sort of 'bread and butter' issues that have flowed across my desk in recent months.
- Supported the Norwood Neighbourhood Association as they develop projects in their area and liaised with officers to sort out a range of issues in that area (overgrown weeds, bins being left on pavements, fly-tipping, overgrown hedges, illegal dropped kerbs etc).
- Raised residents concerns with officers about inadequate grass cutting and cracked paving throughout the Higher Coach Road estate.
- Liaised with Higher Coach Road residents and officers on a range of other issues, including nuisance parking, poor lighting and the feasibility of a nature trail running from Roberts Park alongside the river.
- Liaised with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, First Bus and Yorkshire Tiger to try to secure improved bus services for residents living on the Higher Coach Road estate.
- Got the snicket running from Grosvenor Road past the Saltaire Medical Centre cleared of weeds.
- Dealt with a range of anti-social behaviour issues in central Shipley, including graffiti, fly-tipping and bins being left out on pavements by residents.
- Liaised with residents about concerns over emergency services access to Roberts Park, and asked highways officers to consider additional nearby disabled parking provision.
- Got the hedge on the Higher Coach Road trimmed back to improve visibility for bus passengers waiting for their service.
- Liaised with officers to sort out parking and traffic issues in Saltaire.
- Pressed the Council to phase out the use of single-use plastics.
- Liaised with Shell representatives about a range of concerns raised by the Park Grove residents who live near the petrol station on the Bingley Road.

- Coordinated community objections to the proposed demolition of the Branch Hotel and the Oddfellows Arms.
- Liaised with officers to secure additional signage promoting more considerate cycling by users of Hirst Wood.
- Pressed City Connect to upgrade the canal towpath from Shipley.
- Pressed the Council to engage more forcefully with the owner of the derelict garden centre by Hirst Lock to sort this site out for the benefit of the local community.
- Successfully forced Smart Parking to dismantle their operation of the Oastler Road car park after months of mismanagement and resident complaints.
- Liaised with Northern and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority about a reduction in morning peak train services running between Saltaire and Bradford.
- Liaised with the police on a range of local issues, including quad bike nuisance and burglaries.
- Worked with residents to deal with a range of issues caused by a local housing developer.
- Arranged for an infestation of Japanese knotweed to be cut back on Dockfield Terrace.
- As I have done for several years, I have also worked hard on more strategic matters as Chair and (from October 2017) Deputy Chair of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Our committee oversaw a range of environment-related Council responsibilities, completed our detailed scrutiny of floods prevention in the District, undertook a detailed scrutiny review of local biodiversity, and initiated a review of single use plastics.

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).

- I have received a wide range of policy updates throughout the year, either by email or in the form of briefings from officers and partner organisations.