

COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020

Councillor:	Caroline Firth
Ward:	Keighley East
Party:	Labour
Date Elected:	May 2018
Basic:	£13,463.16
Special Responsibility:	£9,503.07
Other Allowances:	N/A

Positions held in 2019 – 2020:

- Executive Assistant – Regeneration, Planning and Transport (member for climate emergency)
- Education Appeals Panel
- Keighley Area Committee (Alt)
- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Alt)
- West Yorkshire Floods Partnership (Alt)

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

- Airedale General Hospital (Governor)
- Friend of Big Local Keighley
- Kelford Special School (Chair of governors)
- Long Lee Village Hall Committee (Member)
- Hainworth Wood Community Centre Committee (Member)
- Plastic Free Keighley (Steering Group Member)
- Plastic Free East Morton (Steering Group Member)
- Plastic Free Riddlesden (Steering Group Member)
- Keighley Town of Sanctuary
- Women of Keighley

My priorities for the past year (May 2019 to April 2020) were:

- Help people to solve problems.
- Be an advocate and voice for the people in Keighley East.
- Link people in the community to one another so they are able to work together.
- Alert the necessary department to reports of Council services not running smoothly.

My priorities for the coming year (May 2020 to April 2021) are:

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

- Continue to support anyone who calls me for advice or help.
- Support the community as we tackle Covid-19, and as we recover from it.
- Continue to support schools to tackle speeding, problem parking, idling, children not wearing seatbelts etc. during drop-off and pick-up times.
- Support community centre committees and custodians of other key spaces.
- Help the community to keep the area as tidy as possible.
- Alert community groups to relevant funding and grants, which they have been pinpointed as a key priority.

What I have achieved in the past year (May 2019 to May 2020)

(Please list or describe some of your activities as a Councillor and what you see as your key achievements)

- Helped to improve the lives of individuals who contacted me with issues that were causing them distress, concerns or harm in some way.
- Leafleted the whole ward to let them know where to get help during the Covid-19 crisis.
- Supported the local food banks.
- Held Airedale General Hospital Non-Executive Directors to account on a range of issues that affect families from Keighley East and surrounding areas.
- Been an active and vocal member of Keighley East Ward Partnership Team, sharing information and ideas with the Ward Officer, Police, Youth Service, Housing Associations, Fire Service and Council Wardens etc.
- Supported several community clean-ups.
- Supported Aire Valley Against Incineration in its work.
- Supported East Morton Institute trustees with a leasing issue.
- Joined the Keighley Town of Sanctuary steering group
- Held regular surgeries.
- Approachable and available by phone, email, text, WhatsApp, video conferencing, Facebook and Twitter.
- Founded The Clean Streets of Keighley East

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).

- Bradford Environment Forum
- Dementia Friendly refresher
- Flood Prevention briefings from the Environment Agency
- Education Appeals
- Young Carers Awareness Day
- Carers Rights Day
- Health briefing, Keighley Central Hall
- Climate emergency conferences
- International Women's Day
- Mosque and church open days
- Moss Carr development public meetings
- Honour-based abuse workshop
- Electric vehicle strategy briefings
- Working with the media masterclass
- Comms Camp conference
- Surface water workshop
- Making videos training
- Schools funding public meeting
- Northern Gas Networks briefing
- City transformation briefing