

Councillor Annual Report 2017/18 - Basford

Name: Councillors Cat Arnold, Linda Woodings & Nick Raine

Basford ward covers several different communities; Old Basford, Whitemoor, Heathfield, Highbury Vale, Stockhill and all the bits in between!

We've had an eventful and exciting year representing you in Basford. We've worked on 587 individual pieces of casework for people in Basford over the last year. Regular concerns raised with us were things such as finding suitable homes for people, getting repairs done access to education, keeping the ward area clean, parking issues, issues with trees not being cut back and property repairs.

Councillor Cat Arnold has continued as Vice Chair of the busy Planning Committee. She also wrote and had two more books published this year. Cat is an unpaid director of the Museum of Law Trust (Galleries of Justice) and the Nottingham Theatre Trust Limited (Council appointed Director). She was appointed to the historic position of Sheriff of Nottingham in May 2018.

Councillor Linda Woodings continued on the Police & Crime Commissioner's scrutiny panel, the planning committee and also the licensing and regulatory affairs committee. She also helps the Portfolio Holders for Community Safety and Communications. Councillor Woodings is an unpaid director of Nottingham City Transport and a magistrate on the Nottinghamshire Bench

Councillor Nick Raine was elected in the by-election to replace Alex Norris in October 2017. He works as a trade union official for the National Education Union. Nick hit the ground running picking up lots of casework during the election campaign. Since being elected he's joined the Regulatory and Appeals committee and in 2018 he was elected Chair of Basford & Bestwood Area committee.

Basford ward report

Tenant's & Residents' Associations (TRAs) - Thank you

We're grateful for all the community minded people who run and attend TRAs. We make sure at least one of us attends every TRA/Ward meeting. We also do regular ward walks and doorstep surgeries. We'd especially like to place on record our thanks to our hard-working Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO), Gursharan Nijran, who has just been moved over to a new area.

Please contact us

We pick up lots of issues from our regular surgeries, ward walks and doorstep surgeries. The reports we get from residents directly, from TRAs, Clean Champions and community events is invaluable. Please let us know about any problems or issues in your area. We are here to help you – so please contact us.

Our promises when we were elected in 2015 were;

- Work with the police to continue the reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Work with the local community and other services in order to tackle the ongoing issues of dog mess and fly tipping by encouraging responsible dog ownership and promoting the free bulky waste collection service.

- Produce an 'activities for young people' plan that means there are things for young people to do so that they reach their potential.
- Continue to bring vacant and derelict sites back into use
- Hold surgeries in the ward at regular and convenient times and places, along with ward walks, every month, to bring the surgery to you.

There's has been continuing progress on these issues.

Basford is one of the safer wards in the city but we recognise that there are still problems with crime and anti-social behaviour over the last year which we continue to work with the Police and Community Protection to reduce.

Because we have consistently raised our concerns over the last year, Basford now has an action plan to address the most important issues. Priorities for the coming year will be;

- Rubbish and litter lying around
- Fly-tipping hotspots
- Criminal damage especially to vehicles.
- People using or dealing drugs – you can play your part in addressing this. Please report any such activity anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or 101. Or report online to <https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/do-it-online/report-online>

Our cleanliness in Basford is still good but we are not complacent. We're proud that several members of the community have volunteered to be Clean Champions to keep their local area clear. This helps us tackle problem areas quickly – thank you to everyone who helps keep Basford clean.

We hold regular, well attended surgeries at Basford Library, from 10.30am to 11.30am on the first and third Saturday of every month (exc. Aug). We've continued our regular email newsletter to residents who want to receive this and we do monthly door-step surgeries, to bring the surgery to you. If you want to receive our Basford newsletter electronically please contact us. We send this out three times a year.

Once again we funded a programme of activities for young people of different age ranges, including school holiday activities and family Summer Fun Days in Vernon, Stockhill and Brooklyn Park.

We're continuing to press for progress on developing vacant and derelict sites. We've got new homes built and others are in the planning stage.

We're proud to represent Basford and we've been very active this year. Here are just a few of the issues we've dealt with.

Colson Site

The Colson's site in Basford continues to cause issues for local residents who contact us regularly with concerns about the operation of the site such as dirt on the roads and pavements, noise and air pollution.

There have been more minor improvements on the site.

There have been fewer reports of lorries parking across the pavement outside the site.

The boundary fence was replaced with a sturdy structure and no longer leaks materials onto the footpath.
The yard was finally concreted.
Levels of waste on the site have been lower (they should not exceed the boundary wall).

This progress has been made because of your reports which assisted a successful prosecution by the Environment Agency (EA).

In the Planning application granted by the County Council in 1994 the terms agreed were as follows;

- No waste shall be stored outside the waste storage bays.
- Storage shall not exceed the height of the bays – this being 5m.
- Hours of operation are 7am to 6pm weekdays, 7am to 4pm Saturdays and 9am to 12.30 Sundays.

We will continue to press Colson to operate in ways that minimise disruption to the lives of local people.

Basford United FC

We're delighted that Basford FC has had a fantastic season of success, winning both the Notts Seniors Cup Trophy and the Evo-stik League South Division and promotion. This will mean increased supporters next year, so we hope to ensure that local businesses benefit from this and local residents face as little disruption as possible.

We've worked constructively with the Club to get extra land for parking and we've supplied extra bins on the site. We will be monitoring the parking situation on Greenwich Avenue on big match days to ensure people's cars aren't trapped on their drives.

Basford Library

We continue to support our beautiful and historic Library. We've organised two successful Historic Walk & Talk events starting from the Library. You can also go along on Thursdays and meet Nina our fantastic Therapy Dog – available for stories and walks.

Historic Walk & Talk events

Basford has a rich and varied history and some beautiful and historic buildings. Historic England paid for a researcher to come in and evaluate Basford's industrial and cultural archaeology.

We organised for the researcher, Claire Price, to present her findings to interested local residents and the event in January was massively over-subscribed. Because of this we organised a second event in March which again attracted large numbers.

As a result of this several Basford buildings have been added to the Nottingham Local List of buildings of historical significance. This means that Planning have to give consideration to their importance before allowing any developer to change their appearance.

Jobs

We work with the Bestwood Partnership across Basford and Bestwood. Together we helped deliver:

- Job Clubs and Individual Support, helping over 200 citizens prepare for employment
- Sustainable work secured for over 60 jobseekers (& supported ESF Step into Work for the under 30s)
- Debt and money advice to over 40 residents
- Over 30 Adult Education courses and classes
- Over 160 sessions for local young people at Henry Mellish, Southglade, Highbury Vale
- Outreach to over 200 young people

We have also helped fund

- 150 Job Club sessions
- 30 Training / educational opportunities
- 150 individual support sessions
- 200 sessions for young people
- 3 community centres providing venues
- 10 new partner groups delivering activities & events

Parks and Open Spaces

We continue to protect and support parks, play areas and the River Leen path and green-way. We'll continue to keep them well maintained and used.

Trees

Basford benefits from being a beautiful green ward. That said, we recognise that some trees can cause issues for householders. Trees will be considered for trimming action if they are a Health & Safety priority, or if the tree is causing damage to property. We have no powers to force the trimming or removal of trees on private land, but we will send requests for this work to be done to the relevant party.

Roads/Pavement improvements

We've resurfaced some of our pavements and continue to report potholes where we find them. We would encourage people to do the same.

Still to do!

Speeding

Due to signage problems we agreed funding for 20mph roundels to be painted on Bagnall Road. We are working with the police to ensure regular speed checks take place on many roads including Waterford/Tewkesbury Road, Vernon Avenue, Barlock Road and Heathfield Road.

Devolved Budgets

We have devolved responsibility over a small amount of revenue funding to help local groups. This has been spent in the following way so far this year:

Stockhill Summer Fun Day £600
Older Persons Event £425
Basford Library Coffee Machine £300
Heathfield Summer Programme £1,140
Heathfield Summer Fun Day £600
Boots Linear Netball Club £500

Stockhill Xmas Party £300
Highbury Vale Xmas Sports Scheme and Party £750
Hoodwinked £500
NG Community Hub Residential £750
Highbury Vale Easter Sports Scheme £600

Other local funding agreed.

We have other funds available (which are ring-fenced – i.e. they can't be spent on other things) to spend on improvements to both local transport and the public realm.

Local Transport Plan

Toton Close area improvement £15,000 - Further contribution to joint NCH scheme of environmental improvements on Toton Close (total scheme £90k). Ongoing.

Nottingham Road/Scotland Road road safety £696. Completed.

Bagnall Road safety £1,100 - Additional 20mph sign and road markings to highlight speed limit on Bagnall Road. Completed.

Nottingham Road/Scotland Road road safety £1,664. Install bollards to prevent vehicles illegally driving over the footway to bypass queuing traffic on Nottingham Road. Completed.

Total LTP schemes £18,460

Basford Public Realm Schemes

Brooklyn Bridge area improvement £24,000 - Tree works and new fencing to reduce fly-tipping on the embankments to Brooklyn Bridge. Ongoing.

Rosegay Estate area improvement £2,000 - Clear bushes to open up Selwyn Close path to bus stop and reduce ASB. Ongoing.

Heathfield Road dropped crossings £6,000. Area scheme to prevent anti-social parking and improve road safety. Completed.

Total Public Realm schemes - £32,000