

Councillor Report 2015-16

David Trimble

Introduction

I was first elected in a by-election on 7th October 1993 as the Councillor for Park Ward. I have since represented Dunkirk and Lenton ward since the May 2003 ward boundary changes. The other councillor for the area is Sarah Piper and we work on a wide range of local issues together.

Council Involvement

I am currently the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture which includes libraries, sports, leisure centres, parks and open spaces, allotments, theatre, museums, art, art galleries, and heritage sites and a wide range of community and large city wide events. I am a member of the Executive Board and a Trustee of the Nottingham Castle Trust. I have a leading role getting investment into our parks, modernising libraries, promoting museums, investment in sport, leisure centres, promoting theatres and heritage buildings as well as approving the events programme.

Community Involvement

I regularly attend Nottingham Action Group, Dunkirk and Old Lenton Community Association and QMC Residents. As Councillors we host regular community meetings at Thomas Helwys Church in Lenton and at Dunkirk Community Centre and carry out regular ward walks. I have also played a leading role in supporting the successful Public Inquiry for the ancient Right of Way from Park Rd, Lenton to Nottingham Castle.

Ward Work and Achievements

Our achievements in the ward this year include:

- Securing work for Cycle racks and City Bikes in the ward
- Securing a text alert service to remind students when to put wheelie bins out and take them back in
- Funding an archaeological survey of the remains of Lenton Priory
- Funding the start-up for a Martinmass Fair on the grounds of the former Lenton Priory. We funded this for 2 years and are approving this for a third year in 2016
- Promoting Lenton's social enterprises.
- Many of the area's street trees are nearing the end of their lives and we have replaced many of the limes with a better variety to ensure the treescape for future generations
- Funding numerous voluntary groups to do good work in the ward.
- Working with Student Reps from the University of Nottingham to deal with issues that arise.
- Highlighting the good work students do in the ward

- Campaigning to inform residents about the assistance available for dealing with night-time noise
- Supporting those affected by night-time noise
- Supporting Lenton's fantastic history through Martinmas Fair at the Lenton Priory site.
- Commissioned Trent Peak Archaeology to carry out archaeological digs on the site of the Lenton Priory.
- Supported a number of resident parking schemes and working on more.
- Refurbishment of traditional street names
- Installed planters on Lenton Boulevard and Willoughby Street.
- Supported Picnic in the Park at Lenton Rec. plus the installation of a new outdoor gym.
- We are working on a scheme to improve Priory Park with finance from NET

We hold two surgeries a month:

- The Lenton Centre, second Tuesday of each month, 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Dunkirk Community Centre, fourth Friday each month 7.00pm-8.00pm

Our top priorities include:

- Promoting walking and cycling with the provision of new Cycle racks and City Bikes on the Derby Road
- Supporting the development of the Green Corridor- a traffic-free path connecting Lenton with Radford and the Beeston Canal
- Promoting the need for peace and quiet during bedtime hours and the need for all in the community to support this aim
- Supported the building of new social housing on the site of Lenton High Rise and Church Square.
- Continue to support and promote all our parks as well as the green and open spaces

Learning and Development

I have completed an IDeA Leadership Academy course at Warwick University and completed other 1 day courses in Faster Reading and Effective Public Speaking and a 2 day Sport England funding seminar.

Use of Devolved Budgets

This year, Dunkirk and Lenton ward councillors have continued to support our social enterprises and voluntary associations. We have helped the Lenton Centre become more energy efficient with a grant to insulate windows and doors. We have commissioned a street sign to promote our social enterprises. We gave prizes to our two primary schools for young artists to produce poster campaigns highlighting the

nuisance of dog fouling and broken glass on pavements. We have supported the legal costs of the successful fight to restore the very important public right of way through Lenton Road and Park Road.

Challenges

The main challenges for Nottingham City Council in the coming years are the risks that council services face under the budget cuts from national government. We will need to be aware of how well services will be able to respond to increasing demands, particularly to vulnerable individuals in high-risk areas, such as adult and children's services.

The main challenges facing Dunkirk and Lenton are housing, crime and environmental issues.

We are committed to sustaining a balanced community in which everyone feels welcome. We have a large student population living in the ward, mostly in traditional housing, which landlords bought in vast numbers after university expansion occurred very rapidly. This has led to much poor property maintenance, exploitative conditions for student residents and loss of families and permanent residents. The area has also lost social housing, which was sold off under Right-to-Buy and which has now become privately rented.

Burglary of student houses is another huge challenge with opportunist burglars attracted to the ward from the wider Nottingham area. We continue to meet this challenge by reminding students of the need to keep doors and windows locked and to seek out houses with good security.

This year has finally seen the demolition of the 5 high rise blocks of flats near the Savoy Cinema. Palmer Court with 54 new supported living flats have replaced Newgate Court. New family houses and bungalows are in the process of being built which will be followed by 10 general needs flats near the Savoy Cinema entrance. Plans are also being drawn up for 17 new homes on the Church Square site. We supported many of the former tenants to find new homes and whilst the new homes are much warmer and cheaper to run it has still been a difficult and disruptive time for local residents.

Another challenge is to try and ensure that the two development areas at the former Western Club and on Prospect Place developed with high quality eco housing. The Meadows area benefited from this and I strongly believe it would have an even greater impact in Dunkirk and Lenton.

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