

**Bestwood Annual Report 2017-18**  
**Brian Grocock, David Smith, Georgia Power**

**Introduction**

Councillors Brian Grocock, David Smith and Georgia Power are the elected members of Nottingham City Council representing Bestwood Ward.

We work in collaboration with each other to support residents and are involved in a number of local groups such as Tenants and Residents Associations, Community Centres, schools, churches, the Police and other city services. This involvement gives us the insight and the determination to help us improve our relationship in the community along with other organisations and partners within the Bestwood ward.

**Council Involvement**

Currently we sit on the following committees:

**Councillor Grocock**

- Basford and Bestwood Area Committee (Area 2)
- Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority
- Licensing Committee - Chair
- Regulatory and Appeals Committee - Chair
- Licensing Panel - Chair
- Special Licensing Panel - Chair

**Councillor Smith**

- Basford and Bestwood Area Committee (Area 2)
- Regulatory and Appeals Committee Vice Chair
- Licensing Committee Vice Chair
- Trusts and Charities Committee
- Licensing Panel

**Councillor Power**

- Basford and Bestwood Area Committee
- Health Scrutiny Committee

**Community Involvement, Ward Work and Achievements**

In Bestwood Ward we use a range of mechanisms to engage with local people and to support them to resolve issues through good working relationships with partnership agencies in the area. Examples of such include:

- We hold four Councillor Surgeries with an additional surgery at Southglade Library which sits just on the border. All of these take place once a month. We have recently joined up with the Police to hold a joint surgery to allow for quicker resolving of concerns.
- We undertake monthly Councillor Ward Walks with partner services (e.g. Locality Management, Police, Nottingham City Homes, Community Protection and Street Scene) where residents have the opportunity to raise any neighbourhood issues of concern. At each ward walk we cover between 300 and 400 properties.

- Other membership includes school governors roles and, associate members of Community Associations, as Councillors we regularly attend local community meetings, events and themed problem-solving groups.

### **Use of Devolved Budgets**

We have pooled our devolved ward budgets to maximise spend and allocated to a number of community and partnership projects. These include:

Knights Close Bite Size Fun	£300
Week of action booklet and event	£2,600
Bestwood Christmas Launch	£3,800
Bestwood Dance Group	£1,000
Bestwood's Got Talent 2018	£1,000
New litter bin for Ridge MUGA	£450
Southglade Library - Christmas puppet show	£100
St Margaret's Clitherow School - gardening project	£100
Southglade Primary School - Houses of Parliament	£250
Top Valley Academy - outward bound trip	£600
Southglade Primary School - Litter picking equipment	£620
Aspire Partnership - 'Be Kind' campaign	£1,875

### **Area Capital Funds 2016-2018**

- £22,000 plus £8,525 feasibility study – Construction of layby around Arnold Road shops
- £3000 – Replacement signs/lines outside schools in Bestwood
- £4000 – Six new bus stop cages on Gainsford Crescent
- £714 – Installed pedestrian safety barriers on Bestwood Park Drive West

### **Challenges**

- Reduced public spending
- Financial resilience - Some Bestwood residents have experienced significant impact upon their finances with welfare reform, stagnant wages and rising prices.
- There is an increasing need for welfare advice services, foodbanks and clothing sharing schemes.
- To continue to maintain lower levels of crime and ASB.
- To maintain levels of youth provision
- To engage the hardest to reach long-term unemployed into employment
- To encourage further development on vacant pieces of development land Bestwood Ward

### **Priorities as of February 2015:**

- To reduce anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood priority area. NAT to focus upon
  - Emerging hotspots, diversionary activities and nuisance neighbours.
  - Reduction in deliberate Fire Setting
  - To address domestic violence through prevention & support services
  - To reduce all crime

- To improve the visual appearance of neighbourhoods by tackling hotspot areas
- Review & resolve derelict buildings, land
- To maintain levels of youth provision
- Increase awareness of welfare reform and support services