

Councillor Annual Report 2016/17 - Basford

Name: Councillors Cat Arnold, Linda Woodings & Alex Norris

We've had a busy and enjoyable year representing citizens in Basford. The ward covers Old Basford, Whitemoor, Heathfield, Highbury Vale, Stockhill and all bits in between!

We've dealt with 437 individual cases on behalf of Basford residents since last year. Common issues are fly-tipping, parking problems, speeding, dog-fouling, cleansing, issues with trees not being cut back and property repairs.

Cllr Alex Norris continued in his role as the Portfolio Holder for Adults & Health and Chairing the Health & Wellbeing Board, but as you know he ended the year by being elected as the MP for Nottingham North, succeeding the retiring Graham Allen. He also got married recently, so congratulations Alex.

Cllr Cat Arnold has chaired the Basford & Bestwood Area Committee and continued as Vice-Chair of the busy Planning Committee. She also wrote and had two more books published this year.

Cllr Linda Woodings continued on the Police & Crime Panel, the Planning Committee and also the Licensing and Regulatory and Appeals Committees. She also carried on her role helping with Communications.

Community Involvement

Outside of our council roles we have continued to be very active.

- Councillor Arnold is an unpaid director of the Museum of Law Trust (Galleries of Justice) and the Nottingham Theatre Trust Limited (Council appointed Director).
- Councillor Norris is involved in the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection.
- Councillor Woodings is an unpaid director of Nottingham City Transport and a magistrate on the Nottinghamshire Bench.

Basford ward report

Tenants' & Residents' Associations (TRAs) - Thank you

We'd like to thank all the people who get involved in TRAs and those who attend Ward Forum meetings at Southwark School. We make sure at least one of us attends every TRA/Ward meeting. We've also done 10 ward walks along with our local partner organisations; Nottingham City Homes (NCH), Nottingham Clean teams, Community Protection Officers (CPOs) and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. We'd especially like to place on record our thanks to our hard-working Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO), Gursharan Nijran.

Please contact us

The reports we get from residents directly, from TRAs, from community forums and from our ward walk appointments is invaluable. Please come along to one of these if you can, and

alert us immediately to any problems or issues in your area. We are here to serve 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.

We have seen real progress in these areas.

We are closely monitoring the situation in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour which has been made more difficult to monitor because of the reporting changes last September. We're pleased our local beat teams have remained unchanged, so they have good knowledge of the area.

Our cleanliness in Basford remains good, with swift action on grot-spots and local community champions who regularly report fly-tipping and other matters to us. This helps us tackle problem areas quickly – thank you for your help in keeping Basford clean.

We hold regular surgeries at Basford Library, from 10.30am to 11.30am on the first and third Saturday of every month (exc. Aug). We've also started a four monthly email newsletter to residents who want to receive this and monthly door-step surgeries, to bring the surgery to you.

This summer we produced and funded a programme of activities for young people of different age ranges.

Vacant and derelict sites are still a thorny issue. We have seen several housing developments on vacant land over the year but we are still to see sufficient progress at the derelict site by Basford Tram Stop and on the old Dyeworks site. These are our key focus.

We're proud to be active and available Councillors. Here are just some specific issues we've dealt with.

Campaign against a planning application by the High School for two astro-turf hockey pitches on the High School playing fields, adjacent to family homes.*

Councillor Woodings is still pursuing this planning application which has been placed on hold for months now, whilst the High School consult with the Environment Agency about how their plans will affect the Day Brook flood plain. We have been assured that a further round of public consultation will take place before any revised plans go forward. Local residents are still determined to oppose any plans that cause noise and light pollution into their family homes.

*Please note: Councillor Arnold is on the planning committee and has no involvement in the community campaign.

Basford United FC

The success of Basford United is fantastic, but visitors to the ground continue to cause issues with parking and littering.

A meeting has been arranged in August to update residents of Greenwich Avenue. However some progress has been made.

- At long last the responsibility for the spare land adjacent to the football pitch has been transferred over to the club so that they can provide extra parking spaces on site.
- Two signs have been put up on the junction of Greenwich Avenue to show that there is no through route and that cars have to exit on Bagnall Road.

We continue to monitor parking problems outside the ground and encourage residents to contact the police if they are blocked in or off their driveways by inconsiderate parking by visitors across dropped kerbs, and to take photographs of this for evidence.

Colson Site

The Colson's site in Basford continues to create a steady stream of concerns from nearby residents. We would encourage people to continue to supply us with this information (if possible with an accompanying photograph) so that we can update the Environment Agency (EA) - the national government organisation that issued Colson with a license to operate on the site. People living near the site still regularly report issues such as dirt on the roads and pavements, noise and dust.

There have been some small improvements.

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

The boundary fence was replaced and painted.

The levels of waste have been kept to the level of the surrounding fence as per the planning permission.

BUT - There was a fire of waste on the road outside and the boundary fence has started to split again. Sadly the smart red paint job has started to be painted over with gaudy branding images again.

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.

Summer Fun Days

We provided funding for summer fun days on Stockhill Park, Brooklyn Park and Vernon Park last year and have approved the funding for 2017 events. All the fun-days in 2016 were very well attended.

Basford Library

We were really pleased with the revamped front of Basford Library. We hope you like it too. We also provided funding for a tea/coffee machine.

Take A Seat launched in Basford

Take A Seat is an Age Friendly Nottingham scheme. The flower sticker in the windows of local shops, business and community premises means that they want to support older people and will offer a chair if someone needs to catch their breath whilst out and about. The scheme was launched at the lovely 'D&D's Coffee Shop' on Bagnall Road, but many other local organisations and businesses have signed up to the scheme.

Hundreds of businesses across Nottingham have signed up to the Take A Seat scheme. They are listed here;

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/take-a-seat/

Jobs

Across Basford and Bestwood (known as Area 2) the Bestwood Partnership co-ordinated Job Clubs and Individual Support that helped 200 citizens prepare for employment.

- Sustainable work secured for 57 jobseekers
- Debt and money advice to 35 residents
- 23 Adult Education courses
- Over 160 sessions for local young people at Henry Mellish, Southglade, Highbury Vale
- Outreach support provided to over 100 young people

150 Job Club sessions provided

- 23 Training / educational opportunities
- 244 individual support sessions provided
- 171 sessions provided for young people
- 3 community centres providing venues
- 10 new partner groups engaged for the future

Parks

Vernon Park Tennis Courts were revamped this year. The park then hosted a Great British Tennis weekend with free coaching. Heavily discounted rates are available to local people who would like to use the courts regularly. Stockhill Park had new fitness machines installed.

Trees

Four very large trees that blocked the narrow pavement were removed from Vernon Road near the Catchem's Corner pub. We continue to try to get trees on privately owned land trimmed back where they are causing difficulties to neighbouring residents.

Roads/Pavement improvements

Bollards outside Southwark School – We've funded new bollards outside the school to stop cars from parking on the pavement. On Brooklyn Bridge we have funded the installation of a fence to stop fly-tippers constantly tipping rubbish down the side of the bridge. On Heatherley Drive/Runton Drive a new pavement surface was laid, paid out of our ward budgets. On Fenton Road the two bus stops had clearways installed to make sure the bus can safely pass down the road without obstruction during the day.

Challenges!

Dropped Kerb on Western Boulevard

Bollards put in place for the new cycle track along the ringroad made it much more difficult for some residents' on Western Boulevard to get their cars onto their driveways. Funding for a dropped kerb was ordered to alleviate the situation, on the advice of the Highways Dept., and a planning application was submitted. Sadly Highways objected to the planning application of the solution they themselves insisted upon. The matter has now been escalated.

Speeding

We are investigating solutions to reports of excessive speeding on Vernon Road and Avenue, and Bagnall Road. Enforcement activity has taken place several times throughout the year. Please let us know if you are experiencing this on your road. Due to signage problems we have agreed funding to paint 20mph roundels on Bagnall Road.

Flood Alleviation scheme for the Day Brook

Plans are being formulated for a revised flood alleviation scheme for the Day Brook.

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:

Basford EIP Book Vouchers £5,195
Residential Music Camp £240
Literacy Club Volunteers £340
Our Ladies Church Hall IT Equipment £350
Vernon Park 2016 Summer Fun Day 2016 £3,500
Highbury Vale 2016 Summer Fun Day £650
Stockhill Park 2016 Summer Fun Day £750
Rosegay Football Programme 2016 £900
Highbury Olympics £500
Highbury Xmas Playscheme and Party £750
Artwork for environmental schemes £675
Stockhill Xmas Event £300
Brownies Trip £150
Jumping Djembes Drumming project £400
New Generation Community Hub £1,500
Basford Library Consultation Event £150
SALTAR 2017 Easter and Summer programme £1,250
Brooklyn Park 2017 Summer Fun Day £650
Vernon Park 2017 Summer Fun Day £3,500