

Councillor Report 2019-20

Councillor Hassan Ahmed, Radford Ward, Nottingham City Council

I came back to Nottingham City Council in the May 2019 elections, representing the newly created Radford ward of Nottingham City Council. I had previously served Nottingham City on two occasions, firstly between 1987 – 1992 in St. Ann’s ward, and secondly between 2007 – 2011 in the Berridge ward. My new tenure representing Radford, is for a diverse inner city and economically a deprived area, consisting of many different multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-racial communities.

As a new Councillor in the area, I felt that the area lacked many services including community facilities, youth facilities and welfare rights services. Although the John Carol Leisure Centre, Mojatu, PATRA, All Souls Church, Marcus Garvey Centre and the Lenton Muslim Centre are some of the lifelines of the Radford community, providing crucial services including swimming and state of the art gym facilities and employment support, anti-social behaviour and cleanliness also pose some serious challenges.

Along with my co-councillor Anne Peach, we held regular ward surgeries every two weeks in the Lenton library, which is another important resource for local residents. The surgeries were suspended from April 2020 because of Covid-19, which had a major impact on all services.

We also conducted regular ward walks along with our Neighbourhood Development Officer and other Council Officers in different parts of the ward.

Additionally, we held coffee mornings in different venues, including Sutton House, the Radford Academy, John Carol Leisure Centre and others, to discuss different local issues and engage with residents.

My best and eye-opening learning came from Year 5 and 6 pupils at the Radford Academy, who under the supervision of their Head Teacher Meeta Dave (and supported by their teachers), conducted a project to look at the issues of cleansing around the Academy and other neighbourhoods. I found their findings and presentation very impressive and enlightening.

Through our small Councillors’ budget, we supported a number of projects including the “Love Canning Circus Community Event”, “Kemet on the Park”, “Curry in the Park”, “A Family Fun event in Radford Recreational ground with music by Kemet”, and “Primary Fun Day”, a primary age group arts workshop with arts and crafts and children’s sport activities, and a number of other projects.

The residents of Independent Street and Clifford Street are being provided with a new Resident’s Parking Scheme, which has been approved. More importantly, people living on Derby Road and surrounding streets are due to benefit from some major improvements supported by the Emergency Active Travel Fund. This will provide them more attractive streets and encourage more walking and cycling. Some restrictions will also be implemented to limit vehicle movement on the intersecting roads between Derby Road and Ilkeston Road.

Life after Covid-19 is going to be more challenging in disadvantaged areas like Radford. We will have to work harder to tackle the issues of increased unemployment, health inequalities, residents’ mental health and wellbeing, and poverty and housing. Finishing on a positive note, I can report that the John Carroll Leisure Centre has opened again and local residents have started using the facilities.