

# Councillor Annual Report 2019/20

Name: Maria Joannou Councillor for Bulwell ward.

## 1. Introduction.

I was elected as a Councillor for Bulwell ward in May 2019. I stood for councillor in Bulwell as, in my work capacity as an Occupational Therapist, I have covered the Bulwell area for many years. This has enabled me to gain a good understanding of the difficulties and problems encountered by the residents of Bulwell, as well as appreciating the strength and resilience of the community.

As a councillor I am very interested in building stronger, more cohesive communities. One thing that Covid 19 has shown us, is how important our communities are and that in a time of national crisis we all pull together for the common good. I am aware that some communities in Bulwell feel they have been left behind and neglected. As a result I am keen to develop community projects and consult with residents on a regular basis, to find out what they feel they need in their communities. Below are some of the projects I have been involved in. Progress of these projects and some regular councillor duties has been halted by Covid 19. They will be resumed as soon as it is safe to do so.

## 2. Council Involvement

I am a member of the following Committees:

- Health Scrutiny
- Overview and Scrutiny committee,
- Children and Young People Scrutiny committee,
- Corporate Parenting Board,
- Planning Committee,

Other responsibilities:

- Vice chair of Bestwood, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Area committee, this meets 4 times a year. Community representatives attend this meeting, to discuss reports from officers in different departments, on issues that directly affect their ward. They are encouraged to raise questions and concerns from their communities, as well put forward their ideas from the groups they represent.
- Member of Hanley and Gellestrop Alms Houses Group.

I attend the following meetings:

- Full council meetings, bi-monthly.
- Bulwell Neighbourhood Action Team: In this meeting council officers and partner agencies meet with Councillors monthly, to identify concerns and prioritise issues, and work in partnership to resolve these problems.
- Area Capital fund meetings. Meet 4 times a year, to allocate money for capital projects such as carriageways, footpaths and pavements. There's a fund for public realm works such as, provision of cameras to combat antisocial

behaviour and flytipping. This fund was also used to purchase the Christmas lights for 2019.

- Bulwell Arts Steering group: to organise delivery of the Arts festival (5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July) meets monthly or bi-monthly.
- Monthly Bulwell Councillors' meetings, with council officers updating on projects in Bulwell.
  - i. Energy projects: Minewater heating of 60 homes in Crabtree. Feasibility study completed.
  - ii. Bio-diversity: Planting wildlife meadows and promoting green issues in Bulwell, in partnership with primary school.
  - iii. Facilities manager re community centres. Exploring ways in which we can maximise use of our valuable Community Centres in Bulwell.
  - iv. Meet with council officers who address issues around Bulwell town centre, for example promoting the use of the market and increasing number of stall holders. As well as improving the facade of buildings in the market place.

### **3. Community Involvement**

- I attend the Crabtree Tenant Association bi-monthly meeting and I am on the Crabtree Community Centre Management Committee.
- I attend the HART (Hoewood Area Residents and Tenants) meeting on a monthly basis.
- Planting wildlife meadows with the local schools and Registered Tenant Associations (RTA), aiming to educate children on green issues, as well as improving the local environment. Through liaising with Crabtree and Hempshill Hall Primary schools, I have been able to bring them on board with this project. I was due to visit Snapewood School but this was cancelled due to Covid 19 lockdown.
- One of our pledges is to reduce Anti Social Behaviour ASB in Bulwell. I believe the most effective way of doing this is by channelling their energies of young people into worthwhile pursuits. I have supported the Youth Networking Forum, which had a very successful meeting in October 2019, bringing together all youth service providers in Bulwell. This helped to identify, which groups work well, their location and gaps in the service. We were due to meet again the same week as lockdown took place. I am working with different Youth service providers i.e. Ridewise, to set up new activities in the community for children and young people. These initiatives will help to give young people the skills and confidence to embark onto further education and/or work.
- Reducing litter by working alongside schools to encourage them to litter pick on a regular basis.
- We had a very successful litter pick in Crabtree estate in October 2019. Our key workers Street Scene, CPO's and the police attended along with members of the community and local children. I have recruited Clean Champions, in some parts of Bulwell but I am keen to have them in all areas of Bulwell to tackle litter and flytipping in their community.

- During lockdown I attended and supported the delivery of socially distanced Zumba sessions in Crabtree and Bulwell Hall. These sessions have been funded by This Girl Can and Evolve Nottingham CIC. I am keen to see this initiative extended to all parts of Bulwell as these has been a very successful, with huge community involvement. Over 60 women have signed up for online Zumba classes at home and 45 woman have completed an on line survey on their health and wellbeing, in Crabtree alone. Given that Bulwell has one of the worst health outcomes in the city, this Zumba class has gone someway to changing people's perception of exercise. These sessions were inclusive of wheelchair users, women, men and children. We obtained further funding from Nottingham City Homes to deliver Zumba classes and children's play sessions, in August in the Crabtree estate, which were very well attended. I negotiated with Food Share for the provision of food for the grab bags we gave to the children as part of the holiday hunger initiative. I use social media to promote and publicise all these activities and other events in Bulwell.
- I have championed the youth work of BBC Sports Personality of the Year, Unsung Hero 2019, Kieren Thompson, founder of Helping Kids Achieve; in the outreach work he has been doing with young people, during lockdown to prevent antisocial behaviour. I have arranged 2 meetings with myself, Kieren and CPO's to work collaboratively to combat ASB.

#### **4. Ward Work and Achievements**

##### **Councillor Surgeries:**

**Location: Bulwell Riverside Library.**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month 10 am – 11am
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm.

##### **Case work;**

I am regularly contacted by Bulwell residents regarding any concerns they have. The bulk of the case work I receive involves anti social behaviour including neighbour disputes, flytipping, housing repairs and rehousing particularly relating to Nottingham City Homes and parking issues.

##### **Ward Walks**

These take place once a month at different locations in Bulwell, and are attended by Councillors, CPOs, the Police, Neighbourhood Development Officers and Nottingham City Homes and residents.

Examples of work that has resulted from the Ward Walks include:

Crabtree Estate. June 21<sup>st</sup> 2019

- Flytipping is a long standing problem in Bulwell and throughout the City. Following a ward walk I arranged for the flytipping to be collected from the site

of the old garages, now demolished, off Hoefield Road. 50 tonnes of fly tipping was collected by Street Scene over 2 days. With the excellent support of a local Clean Champion, no further flytipping has taken place on this site. I have had various meetings with Council Officers and Nottingham City Homes on how we can best develop this site for the local community. I am waiting for various quotes on possible uses for this land. Once they have been obtained and if funding is available, a consultation process will take place with the local community.

Snapewood: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

- I have arranged for flytipping to be cleared from Snapewood Nature reserve and I am in the process of identifying who maintains this area, as the fencing around the Nature reserve needs to be repaired and CCTV installed as a deterrent to flytipping. I assisted with clearing the flytipping on one of the 2 days it took to clear five van loads of flytipping. Following this I spent a day walking around Snapewood with the CPOs, identifying flytipping hotspots, where due to their vigilance, this has improved. Letters were sent to all residents, after the flytipping was cleared informing them of the consequences of flytipping.

Hempshill Hall School: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

- The children from Hempshill Hall Primary School requested a Ward Walk with Councillors. This was a very successful allowing our young citizens to highlight problems they see in their community. We were informed that the underpass near the school has no lighting and that the children and residents do not feel safe using it when it is dark. I have asked for a quote for lighting to be installed and have identified funding for this work to be carried out.

## **5. Learning and Development**

### Courses:

I attended The Bernie Grant Leadership Programme, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> September.

“The Bernie Grant initiative has been established to address the under-representation of BAME members as elected Labour politicians, both locally and nationally. It is named in memory of the late pioneering MP and Council Leader, Bernie Grant, who worked hard to encourage a new generation of BAME Labour politicians”

Course content included:

- Identity and Barriers
- Community organising
- Press and Media management
- Public Speaking
- Campaigning

- The Unions and Labour party.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending this course and learnt a great deal, which has helped me in my role as a councillor. It was an inspiring and very thought provoking course which enabled me to share ideas and discuss the work I am doing as a Nottingham City Councillor for Bulwell residents.

## **6. Use of Devolved Budgets**

### **WARD BUDGET:**

1. Crabtree Christmas lunch Christmas party £67 2019 - 2020
2. Bulwell Light switch on Christmas Event £1,333.33 2019 - 2020
3. Music Hub Music sessions £533.33 2019 –2020
4. 87th Brownies Activities £100 2019 -2020
5. Crabtree Christmas Lunch Selection boxes for children £22.10 2019 - 2020
6. Helping Kids Achieve Activities at Riverside £400 2019 - 2020
7. Men in sheds Activities £380 2019 -2020
8. Helping Kids Achieve Youth Work Activities £300 2019 - 2020
9. Festival (unspent because of Covid-19 but committed) £2391 2019 - 2020
10. Bestwood Food bank Lockdown Food £322 2020 - 2021
11. Toy Library Lock down - Nappies £55.55 2020 - 2021
12. Bulwell Academy Lockdown – Community Kitchen £166.66 2020 - 2021
13. Helping kids Achieve Lockdown - outreach Activities (to come out of committed fund) £100 2020 - 2021
14. Pythian Club Lockdown Activities £300 2020- 2021

### **AREA CAPITAL PROGRAM 2019-2020, Highway Maintenance**

#### **Surface treatment of highways**

- Corbens carriageway approved March 2020 £9,749
- Nine Acre Gardens carriageway approved March 2020 £10,383
- Stoney Houghton Gardens carriageway approved March 2020 £8,354

#### **Resurfacing works on carriageway/footpaths**

Bulwell ward carriageway/footpath approved March 2020 £41,423, at locations to be identified across the ward.

#### **Road Safety**

Dogwood Avenue road safety approved March 2020 £380 installation of 20 mph signage at identified locations on Dogwood Gardens.

#### **Footpaths**

Reconstruction of footpath on Hempshill Lane (Lillington Road to NCH parking area) approved January 2020, £4,111.

#### **Bulwell Public Realm schemes**

- Neighbourhood Management Bulwell Market area street lighting approved 2019, £5,552 provision of Christmas lights for Bulwell Market, Main St.
- Brook Close fencing approved January 2020, £1,730 installation of metal knee-rail fencing on Brook Close to address parking issues.
- Bulwell Ward CCTV security camera approved January 2020 £5,500 provision of additional CCTV camera for Bulwell ward.

### **Bulwell Area Capital 2020 - 2021 Programme**

- Bulwell Ward junction protection prioritised, 11/08/20 £12, 500, double yellow lines to improve safety and access at identified locations around Lillington Road, South Snape Close and Langdown Close.
- Traffic Management Low Wood Road road safety prioritised 11/08/20 £25,000 contribution to road safety improvements on Low Wood Road - lead service: Road Safety
- Bacton Avenue area footpaths prioritised 11/08/20 £10,856 residual contribution to slurry seal of adopted footpaths on Bacton Ave, Bacton Gdns, Cawston Gdns, Hemsby Gdns and Dunholme Close

## **7. Challenges**

As outlined in this report, I have been working to meet our Bulwell Ward Pledges as listed below. As you can see there have been successes and progress in addressing some of the issues. However, Covid 19 has exacerbated some of these problems and as such will bring increased challenges.

### **Bulwell Ward Pledges.**

1. Get young people in Bulwell prepared for employment by guaranteeing training, further education or apprenticeships for every 18-24 year old not in employment or education.
2. Support local health initiatives which tackle the high level of preventable ill health in Bulwell.
3. Tackle anti-social behaviour by targeting key areas and engaging with individuals at risk of becoming involved in serious crime, working closely with law and community enforcement
4. Improve neighbourhoods by tackling fly tipping, dog fouling and potholes
5. Promote and publicise local activities and opportunities through social media, newsletters and community hubs so more residents can participate.