

Councillor Annual Report 2019/20

Name: Councillor Angharad Roberts

1. Introduction

I have been a Labour and Co-operative Councillor for Castle Ward since May 2019. I very much enjoy listening to residents and helping them with any concerns or issues that they may have.

2. Council Involvement

Membership of committees:

- Trusts and Charities (Vice Chair)
- Overview and Scrutiny
- Area Committee (Castle, Hyson Green and Arboretum, Radford)
- Full Council

During the COVID-19 crisis I have acted as Area Lead for Castle, Hyson Green and Arboretum and Radford wards. I also chair the internal Broadmarsh Working Group.

3. Community Involvement

Outside bodies I am involved with in my role as a Councillor:

- Nottingham City Transport (non-executive Director)
- Nottingham Castle Trust (trustee)

4. Ward Work and Achievements

Between June 2019 and February 2020 my co-Councillor and I undertook one surgery each every month. Due to the COVID-19 situation, it has not been possible to hold surgeries since February. With my co-Councillor, I undertake regular ward walks, although again the schedule for these has been heavily impacted due to COVID-19. We send out monthly email updates to residents to let them know the work we are doing on their behalf. We work closely with the Nottingham Park Estate Limited and have met with resident representatives on a range of local issues.

Key achievements in the ward over the last year have been:

- Environmental improvements at Carter Gate
- Planning for new community green space and resident-only parking on Cliff Road
- Further roll-out of new dumpster-style recycling bins in city centre apartment blocks, increasing recovery rates of recyclables from these locations
- Installation of new energy efficient lighting in Park Tunnel
- It was good to be present at the opening of the new Lidl supermarket at Castle Marina in June 2019, bringing new job opportunities and an additional shopping option for people who live nearby and from further afield
- A bin replacement scheme across the city centre
- Approximately 30 new trees planted during the year in the ward
- Taxi strategy implemented to phase out dirty diesel hackney carriages

- Progress at Nottingham Castle, Broadmarsh bus station, car park and new Central Library
- Heritage building restoration progress on Carrington Street and Market Street
- Future High Streets Fund bid submitted with Government to potentially improve Chapel Bar and West End Arcade

5. Learning and Development

After election in May 2019 I undertook a range of training sessions provided as part of the Councillor induction programme. In October, I attended a two-day Local Government Association (LGA) training session about local government finance. I participated in a webinar which formed part of the LGA conference in July 2020. I have participated in a number of events to share experiences and best practice with other Councillors from across the country who belong to my political party. I have spoken confidently on behalf of residents in Council meetings, including at Full Council.

6. Use of Devolved Budgets

We have approved projects to:

- Enhance community green space
- Modify residents' parking provision on Cliff Road / Shortwood Close
- Make environmental improvements to Carter Gate
- Improve litter bin provision in the ward
- Hold community events and assist communication with residents

7. Challenges

At the moment, the greatest challenge in our ward is COVID-19, both in terms of the current public health emergency and the longer term effect on the city centre economy, increasing unemployment rates and broader health impacts, including the negative effect of the COVID crisis on mental health. The collapse of intu poses particularly complex challenges for the Council in terms of plans or potential opportunities for the regeneration of the Broadmarsh site. In the longer term, COVID-19 has also deepened and worsened the Council's financial position, which means that some very challenging decisions will need to be made in the future.