

Basford Ward Councillors' Annual Report 2021/22

Councillors Linda Woodings, Nick Raine & Salma Mumtaz

The Basford ward covers several different communities; Old Basford, Whitemoor, Cinderhill Heathfield, Highbury Vale, Stockhill and all the bits in between!

We've continued to work hard in Basford, despite difficult conditions due to Covid, but it's been our privilege to represent the people living in Basford ward.

Individual casework

Between us we have dealt with large numbers of individual pieces of casework. These were made up of a wide range of queries, such as Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), fly-tipping, graffiti, issues with neighbours, noise complaints, help with impending homelessness, delayed repairs to council houses, schools' allocations, parking problems, litter, tree problems, pest control and some extremely concerning issues such as safeguarding concerns, immediate threat of homelessness and hunger. We are here to help you, no matter who you voted for, no matter what your issue is. Please contact one of us if you need assistance.

Staying connected to you

We've done regular surgeries and, as we promised before being elected in 2019, we've done additional doorstep surgeries to 'take the surgery to you'. We've knocked on the door of every house in Basford over the last 18 months (having had to stop doing this due to COVID). We've also, when allowed, gone back to regular monthly ward walks, with partners including Community Protection, Public Realm, NCH Housing Patch managers and the Police.

We have attended every meeting of SALTAR (The Stockhill & Ladbrooke Tenants and Residents) group meeting, and we'd like to thank them for the outstanding work they do.

We've supported and helped, both financially and physically, the work of the Friends of Vernon Park and want to thank especially retired park warden, John Caulley, and Simon Birmingham for the wonderful work they do to keep the park nice for everyone. We hope to get the play area improved and plans for this will start in January 2023.

We've supported the 3Gs (Goldcrest Guerrilla Gardeners) group with funding for paint and bulbs.

We've stayed in touch with faith groups and churches in the ward and funded community activities.

Improvements in Basford

Improved flood water storage - Some European Regional Development Funding is available to create more flood water storage on the spare piece of land at the rear of Ventnor Rise. This will enhance the work done in 2021 under the Blue Green Infrastructure project further upstream on the Day Brook which has created a linear park along with more water storage to reduce the level and frequency of flooding to properties in Basford.

Improved cycle paths - The ringroad cycle path has been widened to 4 meters wide along Western Boulevard to create a safe 'shared space' for both cyclists and pedestrians. This has been further enhanced with additional dropped kerbs and bollards to stop queuing traffic

driving along the pavement. The railway bridge has been circumvented by a safer and wider cycle route around St Leo's and we were pleased that this meant additional and better parking for the church as well. Plans have been put in place to extend the cycle lane further along Church Street and up Lincoln Street to join up with the River Leen path. A separate and safe cycle lane will soon be installed along Hucknall Road and the bus lane on the opposite side has been made 24 hours.

Christmas Tree – We funded Basford's first ever Christmas Tree sited opposite Old Basford Primary. A small, COVID safe, lighting up ceremony took place with the school choir singing carols and local community volunteers and faith groups present. Feedback from people was that they loved seeing the tree lit up at night and we intend to try and fund this each and every year, ward budgets allowing.

St Aiden's Christmas Meal - We made a donation from our ward funds to support the St Aiden's Christmas meal event. We are meeting the new vicar next week because she is keen to start supporting the community.

Winter bulbs - We made a bulk purchase of bulbs for the Friends of Vernon Park and also for Old Basford Primary school pupils to take home and plant.

Bar Lane Trees – we have supported the residents of Bar Lane to get a re-stocking order from the Forestry Commission after the cutting down of 70 mature trees in 2021 by the new owners of the Bar Lane Industrial Estate. We are funding some on-street trees and build outs along the pavement of Bar Lane to help replenish some of the lost trees. A restocking notice was eventually issued and this means 365 trees of different species will need to be replanted on site by 30th June 2023. There should be sufficient plans to sustain and monitor the trees for a period of 10 years and should any fail then they would need to be replaced.

British Legion – we supported the British Legion with funding the Remembrance Sunday march from Oakleigh Lodge.

Schools – we have kept in regular contact with all schools in our ward.

Food parcels - Thanks to Salma for once again organising the 100 food parcels for children of Southwark Primary school which we funded. These were provided by Himmah and the contents were some essential provisions but also special treats and chocolates.

Linda visited Old Basford Primary School to read a story to 300 children to raise awareness of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library charity which gives a free book every month to children from the age of 0 – 5 years old to help get them ready for school.

Anti-Idling & Clean Air campaigning - As promised we have continued to do anti-idling campaigns regularly outside all Basford primary schools. The aim is to improve air quality for both children and local residents. We are still investigating a safe way to encourage drivers queuing at the David's Lane crossings to switch off their engines whilst waiting for trains.

Dragons Den - Salma and Linda attended Southwark Primary school so that students for year 5 could present their ideas to us of how they'd like their community to improve. They came

up with ideas such as more trees, more flowers, more bins for litter and measures to slow down speeding cars. Each of these have been done and work is ongoing.

Road safety outside Heathfield Primary - Linda met with the head teacher of Heathfield Primary school (Scotland Road) along with a traffic officer to look at concerns of speeding cars and congestion outside the school. Highways are now coming up with a plan and options to make the area safer.

Basford Street Problem Solving session - At the end of November we met with Neighbourhood teams and Cllr Jay Hayes (Executive Assistant for Community Safety) for a walk around Selwyn Close and the Gayhurst estate. This was to look at regular ASB issues and how we might address them in a more permanent way. That said, there is a definite improvement on these estates and sustained improvement on the Rosegarth estate thanks to our concentration on this part of the ward led by Salma who has managed to increase community involvement and the trust of residents to raise issues with her knowing they will get resolved.

Pythian Club – now have a base at Heathfield Park. Their presence is very welcome and they are putting on much needed activities for young people but they have also set up a Secret Garden project, for which we supplied bulbs, and they plan to put on activities for all different ages at the community centre.

Speed bumps – Vernon Avenue has had speed bumps and 20mph roundels installed to slow traffic down.

Brooklyn Bridge – high fencing has been installed along Brooklyn Bridge to prevent regular fly-tipping down the side.

Cllr Linda Woodings continued as the Housing, Planning & Heritage portfolio holder on the executive. Once again she helped ensure that no homeless children woke up in a B&B on Christmas morning. This is in spite of the unprecedented increase in people being made homeless. Linda also continued on the Police & Crime Commissioner's scrutiny panel and the Licensing and Regulatory and Appeals committees. She attends the Joint Strategic Planning & Transport committee, the Joint Planning Advisory Board and the Local Access Forum. Linda is still a magistrate on the Nottinghamshire Bench and completed 20 years of service in that role in 2021. She is also a run leader with Notts Women Runners Basford group and volunteers every week with Forest Rec junior parkrun.

Cllr Nick Raine is the chair of our Labour Group of councillors and also a member of the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Regulatory and Appeals committee. Nick has kept in regular touch with Basford United Football Club about issues raised by residents living near the ground. Nick continues to be a Trade Union officer for the National Education Union and is a die-hard supporter of Notts County Football Club.

Cllr Salma Mumtaz carried on the fantastic work that led to her being named 'Covid 19 Hero' award at the LGIU and CCLA Councillor Awards in December 2020. She still continues to volunteer weekly at local foodbanks and she's continued being the lead on the improvements to the Rosegarth and Gayhurst Green estates. She is on the Planning committee, the Regulatory & Appeals committee and the Corporate Parenting Board. Salma

continues to work for the NHS at the Queen's Medical Centre. She is also studying for a degree in Politics and History.

Our promises when we were elected in 2019 were;

1. Work to improve air quality in Basford by running clean air and anti-idling campaigns, especially outside schools. DONE. Further dates are planned.
2. Support work to reduce fly-tipping eg increasing the number of investigations and penalties issued and provide more litter bins where they are needed. DONE. Regular litter picking events are being set up with our Clean Champions.
3. Work with the Police to continue to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. DONE.
4. Hold regular surgeries in the ward at convenient times and places, along with ward walks every month, to bring the surgery to you. DONE.
5. Support activities so that young people have things to do that help them reach their full potential. DONE.