

STOCKPORT COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORT

1.	Name Hazel Lees
2.	Ward Romiley
3.	Year of Annual Report 2004/05
4.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Married with two grown up children, I have lived in Romiley for 27 years. I was elected a councillor in 1996 and currently I am a member of the Executive with responsibility for Waste Management, Environmental Health & Trading Standards, Agenda 21 & Sustainability.</p>
5.	<p>Borough Issues</p> <p>Amongst the many portfolio covers the two main issues for me over the past year have been recycling and street cleanliness.</p> <p>Last year I reported how we were rolling out two kerbside recycling collections which have proved extremely successful. The recycling rate has increased to nearly 30% - ahead of Government targets. Waste Management received several awards over the year, including a prestigious award for its recycling success. Work is continuing to bring more and more homes into our schemes. I am constantly impressed by the dedication of many of our residents to take the time and trouble to sort out the rubbish.</p> <p>I have formed an Environmental Team which is addressing the complex issues around the cleanliness of our streets. Environmental Health has begun to bring pressure to bear on persistent litter offenders including litter thrown from cars. Considerable work has also been done to tackle fly posting and graffiti. We are working with schools to educate our young people about litter. Environmental Health has trained our street wardens and rangers to be a part of the ever growing team of 'eyes on the streets'.</p> <p>Progress in 'greening' the Council proceeds well across many departments. An example is the introduction of NORMA - an office recycling scheme rolling out in all departments. Waste bins have been removed and office recycling points set up instead. Progress is being made in sustainable development, purchasing and energy - we now use 'green' energy in the Town Hall complex and for our street lighting.</p> <p>I am also committed to maintaining the Council as a Fairtrade Council and enabling the Fairtrade Group in Stockport to become more influential. It is important that we do not lose sight of the inequalities in the world and do what we can to help to improve conditions for other people by trading fairly. I am pleased to say that more and local supermarkets are selling Fair Trade goods.</p>

6. Local Issues

The biggest issue this year for my ward has been the Primary Places Review. This is a review by the LEA into the numbers of empty place in schools. Stockport is a very poorly funded authority by Central Government. Reducing empty places means that more money can be spent of real children in schools. Unfortunately two schools in my ward have been hit by this process and will close this summer. A very distressing process for all concerned as difficult decisions had to be taken and children face disruption as they attend new schools. At the moment the LEA is putting a bid into Government for a brand new school to replace the 100 year old building which is Romiley Primary School. The results of this will be known in summer. All three of the ward councillors have been keeping a keen eye on these issues as they progress.

Another main issue for residents is the proliferation of mobile phone masts. Some people have great concerned about the health issues, which are not supported by Government and are the subject of great debate in the scientific world. Councillors are obliged to stick to the Planning Guidance when judging mast application, which excludes health fears.

As we use our local initiative money to repair pavements in response to local requests, we are slowly seeing an overall improvement. This will be accelerated by the extra investment being put in the budget this year.

Regeneration of Romiley District Centre continues and residents have seen a great difference this last year with a new car park, shop frontage renovation, bigger floral displays and even more Christmas lights. The council is now looking to upgrade smaller shopping areas and local councillors are being supported in their bid to improve the shops at Berrycroft & The Rocks. Many improvements have already taken place.

Housing remains an issue for those people who need homes in our area. Romiley is a very popular place to live and the turn over in our council housing is low. This means that local young people cannot be placed in their own communities. As more elderly people are being supported in their own homes now and not moving into flats, some of our flats are having the age limits reduced to enable younger people to stay in the area.

The Werneth Partnership, composed of councillors and local people, has grown well. It meets every two months and discusses reports and issues relevant to our area such as the Transport Plan, how Social Services deal with the needs of residents and many other issues. Everyone is welcome to attend and take part.

The three local councillors are supporting a group of residents who wish to improve their local park. When they become established, they will be able to work with the council to pull in finance and expertise to make changes that local residents would like to see.

I work closely with the Friends of Cherry Tree Estate and the Community Shop.

All three local councillors work very closely together for residents and we meet regularly to discuss issues and how to tackle them.

7. Details of Attendances

Meeting	Possible/Actual	
Council	6	6
Area Committee	11	11
Executive	12	12
Executive Briefing	10	12
Standards Committee	1	1

Stockport Learning Disability Partnership Board 3 4

Apart from illness and holidays I have attended most scheduled meetings. I have also attended some Scrutiny meetings firstly in order to present reports on issues that I have responsibility for but secondly to update myself on the matters they are investigating. There have been a large number of briefing sessions with directors and senior officers and I visit some establishments each year to note progress and talk to staff. I also attend workshops and other partnerships in order to widen my knowledge of the community and Council.

8. Financial Responsibilities

The overall budget for all the areas covered by my portfolio is about £4 million. As a councillor I also have oversight of all the council; budget of some £300 million. I also share responsibility with my local colleagues for the allocation of the Werneth Area Committee's budget.

9. Outside and Governing Bodies

I chair the local Valuing People Partnership Board. Members of this board are drawn from Health, Social Services, Voluntary bodies, carers, 'users' and Housing. The focus is on services for the learning disabled which cover a wide range of disabilities. This is an extremely rewarding position as we all strive to make services suitable for people and give them more independent lives and part of their communities. I am indebted to the users and carers who play a central role on our board.

I am a School Governor where I am chair of the Finance sub committee. This is a very worthwhile role and gives great insight into modern education and the work of teachers.

I attend meetings of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority which is the body which oversees the disposal of waste for 9 local authorities.

I am a member of The Barrack Hill Trust, a local organisation based in Romiley which gives small grants to local youngsters in College & University.

10. Training Undertaken

I have undertaken various types of training related to my Portfolio in environmental health and waste management. Training has also been undertaken in specific issues such as finance and planning. I have also attended several workshops, again on issues relating to my portfolio.

11. Other Events/Work/Achievements

Life is very busy with Council business as above and ward and resident's business. Any gaps that are left are filled by my family and home life! I do consider it important that Stockport residents are kept up to date with what is happening in the Council so I undertake many publicity events with the media to promote the work within my portfolio.

Sample - Gloucestershire County Council,

ANNUAL COUNCILLOR REPORT 2004 - 2005

COUNCILLOR: JUNE BAMFORD

WARD: HANHAM

Activities (Set out here a brief description of your main activities this year - maximum 250 words)

- **Ward Councillor** —
(What has been your main focus of work within the ward including any community activities or membership of any community bodies where not a council appointee)
- Dealt with around 200 problems from local residents concerning council housing provision, rubbish collections, late-night noise, litter, planning/enforcement issues, traffic issues and environmental concerns.
- Opposed proliferation of telecommunications masts in Hanham.
- Dealt with a number of problems concerning traffic issues. Unfortunately some traffic management schemes in Hanham had been planned before I was elected and they proved to be inappropriate or agreed without adequate consultation with local people. It fell to the new councillors for the ward to liaise with council officers and traffic consultants to address the problems created.
- Dealt with planning issues, represented local people who were opposed inappropriate development in their area.
- At the request of local residents the Hanham local cllrs requested and attended with council officer a site visit to look at the state of the footpath at Hanham Business Park and the general state of the Woods.
- Held meeting with Director of Planning to discuss housing development and raise concerns of local residents re proposals for development on the site of Hanham Hall.
- Continue to support Hanham School site for local cub, scout and guide groups whose current building is derelict.
- Delivered leaflets to local residents on specific topics relating to their immediate vicinity as well as leafleting ward on more general issues relating to political party on council.
- Attended training days on various issues organised by the council.
- Time spent reading extensive paperwork sent from council departments.
- Liaising with residents and council officers who voiced concerns about Ship Hill, Hanham, being used by motorcycles.
- Liaise with community Police Officer and Community Police Support Officer to improve the safety of the area.
- **Council Activities**
(Identify what committees you sit on - this should also include complaints and licensing panels and forums)

Communities Select Committee
Chairman of Kings Forest Forum
Transfer Offer Steering Group

School Governance

(Provide details of any school governships and the nature of your responsibility - eg, chairing roles)

None.

- **Outside Bodies (excluding Fire and Police Authorities and Parish Councils)**
(Provide details of those bodies to which you have been appointed by the Council)

None.

Achievements

(Set out here a description of your main achievements/successes this year – in your own words – maximum 250)

- Succeeded in getting Planning Department to take a stricter approach to matters of enforcement.
- Satisfactorily dealt with local residents' queries on a wide range of issues and followed up to ensure residents were satisfied with the outcome.
- Succeeded in obtaining a small amount of council funding to enable roundabout at junction with Memorial Road to be planted with flowers. This improves the image of the area.



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Councillor Warren Bray

Ward: St Peter's

Annual Report of Activities 2004/05

Participation at Council Panels and Committees

My attendance at the meetings of the Council has been very good I do not think I have missed one unless I have been on official duties.

At the 2004 Annual meeting of the Council I was once again elected Chair of the Speakers Panel and as Chair I have chaired all the meetings of the Speakers Panel (planning) and some of the Appeals Panel. As Chair I have also been involved with organising training for members of the panel.

Participation at District Assemblies

I have attended all but one (official duties) of the DA meetings and have also attended the Business meetings.

Participation on Outside Bodies

Once again my outside bodies are Ashton Pioneer Homes (APH) and Greater Manchester Police Authority (GMPA).

This year I was elected Chair of the Corporate Planning/Performance Management Committee of GMPA. This Committee has delegated authority for dealing with Planning, Performance and Best Value and Scrutinises the force against Home Office Performance Indicators.

I have also served on the Complaints Panel, Finance and Personnel Committee, Business Management Panel and the Capital works project board as well as attending meetings of the full Authority.

This year I was elected as Chairman of Ashton Pioneer Homes again and have chaired all the Board meetings bar two and have also Chaired Remuneration Committees and attended Audit Committees. This year I also arranged for an away day training seminar for Board members.

Participation on School Governing Bodies

-6-

I am a LEA Governor at St Peter's CE primary School, Ashton-under-Lyne and have attended where possible all Governors and Committee meetings.

Constituency Work

I was elected as Secretary of St Peter's ward again.

The three ward Councillors at St Peter's meet fairly regularly to discuss constituency problems.

Achievements during the Year

My membership of GMPA has enabled me to push for extra policing over the years and we are finally able to begin to see the effects on our streets with crime figures for Burglary, Robbery and Car Crime all being reduced this improving trend will hopefully continue for some time.

Ashton Pioneer Homes and the achievements made there are now apparent to anybody who drives past or walks through the estates. The Environmental works are now complete and the estates are looking great this summer. This now completes all the pledges that were made in 1999 when the company was formed.

Oxford Park continues to improve and we now have full planning permission to develop a new Sports and Community Centre in the park and in fact as I write this report the steelwork is being erected.

I did say last year that I hoped progress would be made on Nursery provision to replace Trafalgar nursery. I am glad to say that after full consultations a new scheme has been agreed that will provide some provision on the old Trafalgar site to be run by Surestart and some at St Peter's school. This will mean an overall improvement in provision.

Members Surgeries

I have held 10 Surgeries throughout the year 5 at Ashton-u-Lyne Town Hall and 5 at Audenshaw Community Centre.

Training and Development

During the year I have attended over 9 Training sessions on various subjects given by TMBC, GMPA and APH.

I have also attended the Royal Town Planning Institute Summer School at Reading University .

Other Key Tasks

In July 2004 I represented the Greater Manchester Police Authority at the LGA Local Government Conference in Bournemouth.

In September 2004 I represented Ashton Pioneer Homes at the annual Conference of the National Housing Federation in Birmingham.

In April 2005 I organised a Training away day at St Anne's for Board members of Ashton Pioneer Homes which was very successful and well received.

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