

Councillor Clive Patrick

Ward: Stalybridge South

Annual Report of Activities 2020/2021

This municipal year has obviously been strange and unprecedented; the whole world has seen a pandemic affecting every aspect of our lives. This of course includes the services the Council provides and the service that individual Councillors provide. One of the affects that the pandemic has had, is on the way we hold meetings and the way polices are made. All meetings and discussions have therefore gone online.

Also unfortunately in my case, due to being a type one diabetic I have been more careful than some, and have not felt able to join with my colleagues much in personal care or support for local residents in Stalybridge South.

Participation at Council Meetings and Panels

This year I have have attended all online Full Council meetings, and have spoken and joined the debate a number of times. Amongst other occasions, I spoke twice during the debate on the GMSF and contributed to the budget debate. I have also been to all Integrated Care and Wellbeing (ICE) Scrutiny Panel meetings and feel proud of all my contributions at these panel meetings. This scrutiny panel has a permanent working party called the Children's Working group which meets regularly and I again have been to all of these meetings.

At the ICW Scrutiny Panel itself, we studied a wide diversity of subjects, including meeting Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) and Richard Hancock, Director of Children's Services. We also had a visit from Councillor Allison Gwynne, Executive Member, Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Eleanor Wills, Executive Member, Health, Social Care and Population Health; James Mallion, Consultant Public Health and Samantha Jury-Dada, Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager, to receive an update on domestic abuse in Tameside. At the last meeting the panel met Councillor Eleanor Wills and Sarah Exall, Population Health Consultant, to receive an update on the re-commissioning of the health improvement service.

My other Council responsibilities are to sit on the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel and the Education Attainment Improvement Board(EAIB). I have attended all meetings of both of these panels and feel that both subjects are extremely important to way we live and that the EAIB meetings are a vital tool to improve education in our borough. My other main responsibility is to sit on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund-Management/Advisory Panel and one of the Pension Fund Working Groups,

namely the Pension Fund Administration, Employer Funding and Viability Working Group.

During this year of lock down I have also been to quite a few online training days related to pensions. These have included to a series of meetings organised and led by Hymans Robinson, which have been entitled "Keeping the LGPS connected". I have also participated in the Pensions Management Institute's State of Transition Summit 2021.

Participation at the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum

I have joined online in all of these meetings and learned a great deal during this municipal year. I however regret that the public are not allowed to ask questions other than questions related to the subject of the particular presentation that is being given. This unfortunately this means that few if any member of the public attend these meetings, and if they do, no questions are asked.

Participation on Outside Bodies and Partnerships

In Stalybridge South we continued to have Police and Community Together, meetings (PACT), although they have ceased in all other wards in Tameside. This is because the local Police and Stalybridge South Councillors jointly recognised the value of such meetings where local issues and problems can be discussed. Unfortunately these meetings had to stop in April 2020, due to the pandemic and social distancing.

My membership of the Carrbook Conservation Panel and Carrbook Residence Association has also continued, but are now held online.

Constituency Work

As a Councillor I am contactable through phone, email, email via members services and by CRM through Executive Support. Much of the work that has come in from these sources has, as usual, been about planning issues, trees, flytipping and bin collections. The planning issue that took the greatest amount of my time was one that proposed to build on a very small parcel of land on Ashes Lane. I was first asked to attend a meeting at a constituent's home to meet a group of residents who were very upset by the plans. In the end, I asked that the plans should go to Planning Speakers Panel where I spoke and where I helped to get the plans rejected.

In Stalybridge South between lockdowns we have also had a number of much needed litter picks. One that I organised with the Keep Britain Tidy Organisation, last March had to be postponed to September, however after it was held, the Walkerwood Estate looked very much tidier than it had done before and was much praised by local residents.

My work on the Mable Wilson Fund has continued although due to Covid-19 and the dwindling funds we were restricted in what we could do this year. However in March 2021 I organised a meeting at the Stalybridge Food Bank and gave them a cheque for a £1000.

Advice Surgeries

All advice surgeries have been cancelled this year because of lockdowns. However as discussed above, any resident that has had an issue, has been able to contact me through the other methods.

Training and Development

I have again joined the vast majority of online member's training evenings this year, which have covered a great number of issues. However the most important and well covered subjects were training on how COVID-19 and then the vaccination arrangements were being tackled in Tameside. Also the boundary changes have been necessarily well covered.