

**Tameside Council
Elected Member
Annual Report of Activities 2020/21**

Councillor Name: Cllr Vimal Choksi

Ward Name: Ashton Waterloo

Participation at Council Meetings and Panels

I represent Ashton Waterloo residents at full council meetings, place & External relation scrutiny panel, North Strategic Neighbourhood Forum and at the Speakers Panel of Planning. This year due to pandemic most meetings were held via Zoom, which was new ways of conducting scrutiny to the council business. I am proud to put on record that, despite my serious illness, I have been able to attend most meetings in the financial year 20-21. This year I was also appointed to SACRE as Local Authority Representative to which I am looking forward to contribute my knowledge and skills to deliver balanced RE to our borough's school. I would like to put on record, my sincerest gratitude for TMBC officers and all the staff for delivering fantastic services to the residents of Tameside despite tough and challenging times.

Constituency Work and Local Issues

I am extremely proud to represent Ashton Waterloo and its residents and always grateful for giving me chance to represent them. I take each phone call, messages, emails and letters very sincerely and put my equal efforts to find suitable solutions for my residents.

A year 20-21 was unprecedented year full of personal and professional challenges throughout this year. Despite my personal health issues, I carried on working for residents and has remained fully accessible to residents throughout my health recovery period. Due to series of lockdowns, especially older people were greatly affected in terms of daily living difficulties. I appreciate countless selfless volunteers and charities for delivering fantastic community services and practical support to Waterloo residents throughout this pandemic. I dealt with countless emails, messages and phone calls, as it was not possible to meet face to face due to various COVID restrictions imposed by the government.

Although, each contact is a unique but if I have to put in major theme of issues, it has been mainly as following:

1. Flytipping
2. Bin collection
3. Criminal activities such as Burglaries and Car jacking
4. Anti-social Behaviour
5. Planning breaches
6. Grid blockages

Members Advice Surgeries

Due to COVID restrictions, it has not been possible to hold my usual twice-monthly advice surgeries however; I have been accessible through phone calls, email, messages and via

social media to resolve issues. Where it is required, visits to the spot have been made individually to take a stock of the situations. During the month of March-21, following relaxation of government restrictions, many residents were offered opportunities on the door step to discuss their issues. I have also attended meetings with individuals or residents group via online platforms to offer my support to the residents. I am hoping to continue to deliver more doorstep services to the residents in the coming year.

Training and Development

This year there were many briefing sessions organised for the information on the COVID cases, vaccination, Census, boundary changes, budget briefings, clean air, GMSF, Trans-pennine A57 Upgrade, TFGM update and regular community champion's session.

Achievements during the Year

- Eliminated long term bin contamination issues on Atlas Street
- Increased traffic enforcement on the section of Oldham road/ new market road
- Removed Flytipping from Park bridge, Elgin Street, Minto Street, Newmarket Road, Downing Street
- Working towards long term solutions to tackle flytipping and increased enforcement
- Lobbied for £150k funding award from TMBC for 4C community centre until grant paid in Oct-20
- Working closely with police to tackle increasing crime- alleged gang arrested and vehicle recovered
- Highlighted local flytipping issues in the media
- Increased participation of elected member, local residents and council officer to tackle issues collectively such as flytipping and planning issues
- Ward funding to 7 small communities group to continue to deliver fantastic local services
- Capital investments to improve footways of crow hill, vicarage road

Any other comments

I want to pay my tribute to heroic work of NHS and all supporting services throughout Covid pandemic for saving lives and deliver medical services during tough circumstances. I also want to pay my tribute to retiring Councillor Pauline Hollinshead for delivering much-needed public services to the resident of Waterloo during her tenure. We hope to continue legacy of our predecessors and deliver outstanding public services to the residents of Ashton Waterloo.