

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

Councillor Name: Councillor Joyce Bowerman

Ward Name: St Peter's (Ashton)

Participation at Council Meetings and Panels

I have attended Full Council Meetings and Labour Group Meetings.

This year I have served as the Chair of the North Strategic Neighbourhood Forum. This role has enabled me to become involved in all aspects of the Tameside North Area. I have had regular meetings throughout the year which are attended by local Councillors and also members of the public are invited and can ask any questions relating to the items on the agenda for that particular meeting.

I have actively promoted our town during the year but due to the Covid pandemic attendance at community and civic events have been seriously curtailed. I have regularly taken part in Zoom, Skype and FaceTime meetings regarding our ward and I joined the Tameside Community Champions, which has helped to support and give advice to our residents throughout the pandemic.

This year I have been a Member of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. This Scrutiny Panel has met frequently throughout the year including a number of working groups on relevant topics.

I am also a Member of the Speakers Panel (Liquor Licensing) and a Member of the Events Panel.

Participation on Outside Bodies and Partnerships

I regularly attend the St Peter's Community Gathering where I Chair the meetings each month.

I have for many years been a Trustee of St Peter's Partnerships and serve as the Vice-Chair at the Trustees meetings held throughout the year.

I am a Committee Member of the Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre.

I am a Member of the Tameside District Lieutenancy Committee.

I am Vice-Chair of the Friends of Ashton Parish Church, a member of the Neo-natal Knitters Group and a member of the Friends of Guide Bridge Station. This year I have been a member of the Ashton West End Mutual Aid Covid-19 group which has given help and support to our residents during this year's pandemic.

I enjoy all these roles and have seen the benefits and the positive change we can make in our ward

Constituency Work and Local Issues

I attend Labour Group Meetings and Ward Meetings. I am often in touch with members of the public where they have been able to raise community issues and concerns. I regularly attend, when I'm able to, our local coffee mornings, breakfast club and soup club to meet up with local residents where I am available should anyone need any help or advice.

I often meet with my colleagues in St Peter's Ward to discuss local issues. I always aim to deal with matters promptly and keep my constituents fully informed of any progress. I am involved with local housing groups along with my ward colleagues. This year I helped to arrange for Christmas Hampers to be delivered to our senior citizens, as we were unable to hold our annual Christmas Dinner and Party due to Covid. I also helped to arrange an Easter Egg competition for the young people of our ward to take part in.

I am a Member of the Ashton Town Team Board where we actively support our town centre businesses and market.

I am also a Member of the Labour Women's Forum and the Ashton C.L.P.

Members Advice Surgeries

There were no face-to-face advice surgeries due to the pandemic but residents contact me mainly by e-mail and telephone.

Training and Development

During the year, I have taken part in a number of varied training sessions designed especially for Elected Members by Tameside MBC.

Achievements during the Year

As Chair of the North Strategic Neighbourhood Forum, I have participated in meetings with local Councillors and residents on important and relevant issues that included the Covid crisis, the vaccination programme, this year's Census, developing the Community Champion model, Children's services and the Community Safety Neighbourhood Strategy.

St Peter's Community Gathering arranged for Christmas Hampers to be delivered to our senior citizens, an Easter egg competition for the young people of our ward and we have given advice and support to our residents throughout the year.

The Linda Fletcher Community Base remained open for as long as possible so our residents were able make use of the computer base where they received help and support, coffee mornings and soup club continued also but then had to be curtailed due to the pandemic

Any other comments

Due to a serious health issue and the Covid pandemic my attendance at various events was not possible this year, however, I have been proud to be a Community Champion, and a member of the Ashton West End Mutual Aid Covid-19 Group which has helped so many in our community. I have promoted our town and businesses throughout the year and participated in numerous Zoom, Skype and FaceTime meetings and events to support our residents.

Hopefully, the pandemic will get better and I can resume attending in person all the community and charity events, promotions of our town and market and meeting our residents at the many coffee mornings, clubs and friends groups once again. It has been a very difficult year for everyone in our borough due to the Covid crisis but myself and my ward colleagues adapted well to a different way of working and managed to help and

support our residents to the best of our ability.