Tameside Council Elected Member Annual Report of Activities 2020/21

Councillor Name: Jan Jackson

Ward Name: Stalybridge North

Participation at Council Meetings and Panels

I have attended Full Council meetings virtually and participated in debate.

As a member of Scrutiny (Integrated Care and Wellbring Panel) I have contributed to the programme and challenged officers and policy in relation to Children's Services.

As a panel member, I take my role seriously in applying the skills and knowledge I have to scrutinise in a formal but diplomatic way to try to improve the service being delivered. This I will continue to do for the betterment of the children to which we, as councillors, have a duty to protect being corporate parents.

Participation on Outside Bodies and Partnerships

The pandemic has made me face many challenges, to include carrying on with the duties imposed on me as a councillor. Virtual meetings have been vital in driving services and keeping the momentum going for the groups and organisations I am involved with:- Second Generation has met to discuss finance and sustainability. It is looking bleak for the organisation to continue delivering a service in our communities and funding is ceasing and passion has been lost amongst key leaders in the organisation.

The Big Local continues to thrive although funding is only for another 3 years.

I remain a committed Director of the Ridgehill-enterprise and volunteer on the boating lake when time allows and keep in contact with the board keeping abreast of developments. The enterprise has been successful with a number of grants applied enabling a dipping pond to be added to the offer and boarding activities.

Although a member of the East Strategic Neighbourhood, this group have not met during the pandemic but it is hoped we will in the near future.

The Stalybridge Carnival Committee have just started to meet in person but have had meetings via zoom to organise a Party in the Park to thank NHS staff for their dedication and commitment throughout the pandemic. We have become stronger as a group and appreciate each other, looking towards future events next year for Stalybridge and Tameside residents.

As newly appointed Secretary to the Carrbrook Conservation Committee, we have met on line and discussed issues//matters related to the village. We have a programme going forward which we hope to deliver.

I am still active with Heyrod Village Hall and its committee and at the moment there is a pressing issue concerning the village hall needing a new roof. Fund raising is being undertaken.

Building relationships with other groups i.e. Dukinfield and Stalybridge Women's Institute, George's Kitchen, Carrbrook Community Garden and Carrbrook Hub continues.

Constituency Work and Local Issues

As a community councillor foremost, I continue to support and assist community groups i.e. churches, play groups, local groups in a voluntary capacity. Raising money for much needy causes is a priority for me.

Responding to residents and being aware of Face Book posts from groups is part of the job which you must do.

Building strong relationships with different groups/organisations and lending of your experience and skills is done and linking groups with other ones to add quality and strength to what is on offer is part of my role.

Supporting vulnerable individuals and families with their struggles and signposting them to services to be accessed is what I enjoy to do.

Organising events and getting the right people in place to support I gain the most pleasure from and recognising community groups; making sure they are valued.

I have just started to meet with Heads from the schools in the Ward and have assisted with problems the school has encountered.

Members Advice Surgeries

No surgeries have been held in the pandemic but it is hoped these will soon be resumed at the same venues but more may be added.

Training and Development

Training has been done virtually and Members training attended throughout the year on Finance/Budgets, Waste, Chjildren's Services etc.

Achievements during the Year

Organising meetings between my colleagues and MP and other agencies.

Being part of resilient communities by supporting in deliveries of food to vulnerable residents Volunteering at a local food bank and donating items of food

Organising a toy appeal for Dukinfield and Stalybridge Rotary Club, meeting the needs of families

Organising a fundraiser for the Mayor's Charity – quiz virtually

Fund raising for local charities

Being a founder member of the Stalybridge Covid-19 Help Line manning the phone 1 morning a week and advising other volunteers of their roles

Volunteering at Ridgehill-enterprise and supporting bids for funding

Visiting new businesses in Stalybridge Town and supporting them

Face Book posting of Ward events/achievements

Writing CV's for residents known to me for their commitment to the community they serve Writing articles for local newspapers

Supporting Domestic Violence residents and assisting with applications they require help with

Organising a garden competition and supporting a local youth group to establish in Carrbrook

Any other comments

As an energetic and active councillor, my main aim is to service the residents in Stalybridge North to the best of my ability.

I am only as good as my residents make me and am grateful to them everyday for sharing with me their experiences and matters of concern.