

**Tameside Council
Elected Member
Annual Report of Activities 2022/23**

Councillor Name: Jan Jackson

Ward Name: Stalybridge North

Participation at Council Meetings and Panels

Full Council meetings have been attended and have participated in lively debate.

In the role of Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Connectivity, Scrutiny Panels have been attended with the Director of Place and Officers, joined by TfGM to be made accountable for infrastructure and Active Travel in the borough.

As a new Executive Member, I continue to learn and apply the knowledge acquired and skill set to address Members Training sessions and speak with Wards and elected members on the subject.

Regular briefing meetings are held with Director of Place and Senior Officers, and it is my intention to hold cross executive meetings to gain a better understanding of quicken pace with proposals.

I continue to attend Members Training to gain more knowledge on a subject to make me more effective as an elected member.

Working in partnership with the Assistant Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Connectivity allows representation on outside bodies to be fulfilled.

Participation on Outside Bodies and Partnerships

It is crucial elected members work with outside bodies and partnership to strengthen the communities we represent.

Time restrictions make this possible with virtual meetings being held.

The Big Local is an example of good working practice and as a Ward Councillor this past year has been working closely with the social enterprise at Stamford Boating Lake, together with The Bread and Butter Thing operating at Ambleside; volunteering most weeks to pack food bags for residents and working closely with the community garden based at The Baptist Church in Ambleside.

As the Secretary for the Carrbrook Conservation Committee, we have gained more resident support at our meetings and lodged planning objections collectively as a constituted group.

I am a member of the HRA (Heyrod Residents Association), which has increased its membership to deliver activities in the village such as The Crafty Crafters group and supported in voluntary capacity at the Heyrod Whit Friday Band Contest and Christmas event. Together we are working to raise vital funds to replace the roof of the Village Hall by supporting The Big Breakfast, held the last Sunday of every month and other charity events. It is important Heyrod is not left out and our partnership with residents has grown.

As a Stalybridge Carnival Committee member, we meet regularly to deliver one of the best free shows in the year (Stalybridge Carnival) which covers 2 days. As a small group, we work hard to provide this traditional event which includes floats parading through Stalybridge Town, followed by entertainment provided in Cheetham's Park. Linking community charities to have a stake hold at the event is important and have managed to link in with the Stalybridge Bikers Club.

Carrbrook Community Hub is regularly visited and local 'drop ins' have been organised with attendance from the police, Mosscafe St. Vincent representative and Jigsaw Homes. It is important to provide an outreach service to residents in a surgery format.

I am proud to be a volunteer at George's Kitchen which operates from St. George's Church. The service offers a free, cooked on the premise meal to residents in Ridge Hill. As a volunteer deliverer I chat with our service users while giving them a meal and signpost them to up and coming events in Stalybridge.

As a founder member for the Stalybridge Together project, we hold fortnightly afternoon tea sessions for people to tackle isolation and loneliness. Always looking to tap into funding streams available for the sustainability of the project and aiming to increase numbers. We go from strength to strength, drawing on the pool of volunteers from other organisations e.g. Dukinfield and Stalybridge Rotary Club.

Being a Cooperative and Labour Councillor, as Secretary for the Stalybridge, Hyde and Ashton division we have held meetings to drive forward the cooperative movement and been supported by members inputting into policy.

Linking with primary schools and a secondary school in the Ward is proving to be challenging but I do reach out to them to provide support and problem solving.

I will continue to build stronger relationships with all local groups and organisations.

Constituency Work and Local Issues

Foremost, I am a community Councillor and continue to support and assist community groups including churches, play groups, local groups in any way I can. I will promote groups and am always on the lookout for funding streams which will ensure a groups sustainability e.g. local scouts, brownie groups.

Posting on face-book, Instagram and tweeting is a daily duty whilst responding to queries, negative press on social media in a diplomatic manner.

Linking up groups with each other is imperative and supporting vulnerable individuals and families is important to me. Organising events such as the annual Carrbrook Garden Competition to bring 3 communities together is challenging but rewarding; valuing the efforts of residents making their garden look fantastic.

Members Advice Surgeries

A more reaching out to residents in a different way to meet their needs has been adopted. An example is not to hold surgeries in the conventional way but to 'piggy-back' events taking place to be

present and have face-to-face conversations. Emails and messages play an important role communicating with residents and doing more walkabouts with partners to be visible in the Ward is more effective.

Training and Development

Any opportunity to learn is grabbed. I do attend Members training to become more knowledgeable about subject and have attended virtual training to boost skills and confidence.

Achievements during the Year

As an Executive Elected Member, I pride myself on being able to do the role justice by regular briefing sessions being held with Director of Place and ensuring channels of communication are open to speak with fellow colleagues on the subject matter.

I am passionate about making our communities stronger and more resilient by being judged on what I do. Continuing to be part of the Ward by delivering for George's Kitchen, organising events, volunteering for local charities and the local food bank demonstrates I am a Councillor, who does get things done!

Together with a Labour Councillor colleague, I organised a fund raiser. Money raised was split between the Mayor's charities and Willow Wood.

Making organisations accountable by organising an on-line petition to reinstate a bus service in Ridge Hill was successful and more work is going to be done with engagement of residents and putting pressure on services to deliver for our community.

I volunteer for many local charities and organisations and seek to support the most vulnerable I represent, building up trustworthy relations.

As an active member of Stalybridge Delivery Group, I will continue to contribute new ideas and initiative and communicate to the public what we are spending the £20M Levelling Up Fund on and be accountable.

I will look at new ways to engage Labour Party members in Stalybridge North Ward and continue to be a strong voice for the people I represent.

Making the social media platform used better is an objective and publishing what I do and information, which is important to our viewers, is my intention.

Writing references for residents I am familiar with and recognising residents and groups with their commitment to the community they serve is important. Making residents valued for what they do will be continued.

The 3rd Carrbrook Garden competition is to be held this year but it is my plan to roll it out to other parts of the ward in the future.

Continue to reach out to new businesses and local groups, offering support and help.

Any other comments

As an active community and strategic councillor in the Ward, I will continue to meet the needs of those I represent 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 inspiring me to do better, challenge authority and make it happen, while managing expectation.