

Annual review of Councillor Javid Ashraf

I submit the following review as activities I have participated in as a councillor over the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

Please continue on separate sheets if required.

Local ward work:

I have done a number of case works for my constituents who have been contacting me mainly by phone but also by e-mail. Some of the cases have been successful such as installing a gully at the corner of Brook Road and Dawpool Road to reduce overflow of rainwater which entered nearby residents driveways. Other Case work such as housing related issues are much more complex due to the over subscribed demand on the services and this is work in progress. I have also maintained contact with key resident associations in the ward.

Surgeries held:

There are two surgeries held every 1st Saturday of the month. One is at Gladstone Park Community Hall in Mascotts Close from 11am to 12noon and the other one is at Comber Close Community Hall in Comber Close from 12.30 to 13.30pm.

The Surgery at Mascotts Close has remained fairly quiet throughout the year and one suspects that there could be a number of reasons for this including time, location and awareness. However we have been talking to the Chair of the Allotments of the Gladstone Park as well as the probation officer who manages the community payback scheme for rehabilitation of offenders who assist with the upkeep and cleanliness and learning activities at the allotments.

The Surgery at Comber Close is much more active with a number of cases being picked up from housing, traffic issues and crime related issues. As a result of the feedback and requests received, we managed to help get a dispersal zone in the area around the hall and nearby streets by communicating with the SNT as well as encouraged residents to report any crime, anti-social behaviour and disturbances. Again Housing is mainly work in progress, and in relation to traffic issue, this had been raised to the Highways department with information being made available as well as highlighting areas of concern.

Council meetings attended:

I have attended as many council meetings as possible with the exception of clashes, away, or illness which has been unavoidable. I do however send my apologies in advance and always try to get an alternate to attend on my behalf as well as raise any concerns before or after the meeting.

I have been a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, Audit Committee and Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee where I was elected as vice chair due to a largely absent attendee record for other members of this committee.

I like to listen as well as participate as much as possible to raise concerns but also to consider different views and alternatives and I also like to show respect to fellow members of the committees, the Chair as well as to the officers by raising any concerns in a constructive way rather than arguing and having heated exchanges.

Community meetings attended:

I have made attempts to attend meetings held throughout the community through resident associations, but this has not always been easy due to not having sufficient notice, being made aware of the meeting or clashes with other meetings etc.

I have attended some of the meetings ran by the Paddock Road Resident Association and found a great deal of concerns with regards to lack of quality policing as well as traffic issues. I have often contributed by defending the police and reminding people of the work shared with the community through the Ward Panels of which I had previously been a member of for years and had worked with the police for years through different forums and encouraged people to not be discouraged because of a lack of awareness of their work which can often at times be discreet and used to build evidence to secure a successful outcome.

I have also discussed alternative views on traffic issues and made comparisons to other areas as well as highlighting ongoing work and chasing up Council officers for further information.

I also attend the Willesden Green Consultative Forum which I had previously also attended as a resident prior to standing as a local Councillor, so I am aware of the set up of this forum as well as see some participants who also frequently attend. This is a great opportunity to listen to the concerns of local people and for them to have a voice and for us and partners to listen and consider how we can make improvements. I get on with number of participants here as well as members, officers and partners.

Work in respect of which a special responsibility allowance is paid:

None this municipal year.

Participation in outside and governing bodies:

I am a governor of Braintcroft Primary School and was Secretary of a resident association as well as a SNT Ward Panel member before stepping down when I took on my role of local councillor.

Training events attended:

I have attended a number of training events both held internally as well as externally and found that this was useful in helping me get a better understanding

of the work of the Council as well as how I could better participate as an opposition Councillor whilst also thinking about the benefits for Brent Council as a whole.

I attended a Procurement and Efficiency course as well as one on Shared Services and found different and alternative ways as well as efficient ways for the Council to operate but realise that practically it is not as easy and can also have risks attached to the change.

Other achievements throughout the period:

Other achievements have mainly been through making best use of the Ward Working Funds and we thought it would be useful to concentrate most of the funds in different parts of the wards throughout our terms, so for this year we concentrated most of the funds on the Pinemartin area where we had two main concerns that had been problematic for years.

One of these concerns was the lack of children's playing area around Pinemartin Close and the better use of the wasted green space. We had agreed to offer half our ward working funds as match funding to co-finance a partnership development of the green space with Stadium Housing, London and Quadrant and Brent Housing Partnership being stakeholders and to work with Greenspace in developing the project through identifying suitable fund raising to developing a concept design following consultation with the Community. This development is still work in progress with forecast work to commence 2011.

The other concern has been on the area between Edgware Road and Gladstone Park Gardens and the Alleyway leading towards Pinemartin Close. This had been a dumping ground for years with numbers of reported flytipping of waste items including food, furniture and electrical equipment. This resulted in increase of smells and vermin infestation and was a health risk as well as unsightly. After a number of meetings at the Cricklewood Club which was one of the stakeholders with Wilment Court there had been a number of options discussed including gates, CCTV, signs and lighting. We agreed to fund the gates to stop any vehicles coming into the open yard and dump items often late at night, and whilst there was some hiccup in funding these gates and bollards, we eventually got this done after I had requested that this be reviewed on the basis that this problem was one that had been going on for years and that this was a cost for Streetcare and Environmental Health who had visited numerous times and assisted in clean ups as a short term solution. The gates and bollards would be seen as a longer term solution and help to reduce this problem. Since installing the gates and Bollards there has been a reduction of this flytipping and the area looks more pleasant than before.

The rest of the funds had been provided to an after school football activities at the Crest Academies as well as for obtaining some personal attack alarms to be distributed to the Paddock Road Resident Association by the SNT.

Form completed on: 4th July 2011