

Annual review of Councillor James Denselow

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 maintained regular contact with constituents in Queens Park. In most instances, concerns resolved or information provided. Home visits and site visits made to constituents as requested. I have taken a keen interest in the Islamia school planning application and individual planning and enforcement concerns.

I have been also heavily involved in a proposal to expand the remit of the ward working (see ACF section below)

Surgeries held:

I hold monthly surgeries at Kilburn Library at 6pm on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Council meetings attended:

Council, 24/05/2010 Present
Council, 26/05/2010 Present
Council, 12/07/2010 Present
Council, 13/09/2010 Present
Council, 22/11/2010 Present
Council, 24/01/2011 Present
Council, 28/02/2011 Present
Council, 13/04/2011 Present
Council, 11/05/2011 Present

Community meetings attended:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 26/05/2010 Present
Call In Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30/11/2010 Present
Call In Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 09/12/2010 Present
Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 28/07/2010 Absent
Call In Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 05/01/2011 Present
Call In Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 02/02/2011 Present
Call In Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 02/03/2011 Present
Call In Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 27/04/2011 Present
Call In Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 08/06/2011 Present

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

Chair of the Kilburn and Kensal Area Consultancy Forum. As Chair I oversaw the transition of the pre-ACF consultation meetings from a physical to a virtual forum and thus am very sensitive to the importance of bringing in key stakeholders to the agenda formation prior to the actual meetings. Prior to becoming Chair last year I developed a wealth of experience in chairing often passionately debated events and believe that the Chair has a crucial responsibility into balancing voices from the audience as well as the panel itself.

Participation in outside and governing bodies:

Governor at Northview Primary School

Training events attended:

Meetings with officers from Brent Partnership

Other achievements throughout the period:

I have followed up my Chairing of the ACF by the creation of a bespoke Councillor Blog (www.jamesdenselow.com/councillor-blog) which reports on highlights from the event and linked issues. I have also developed an excellent working relationship with the Brent Consultation team and look forward to continuing to work with them in the coming year.

Over the course of the next year I hope to increase the participation numbers in the ACF by better linking it to the variety of community hubs in the wards it represents. Working with local councillors, residents associations and other groups to feed back into what exactly they want from the meetings. I have also been working with the Ward Working team on trialling a 'Dragons Den' style consultation with local residents – held prior to an ACF – to debate the allocation and priorities of the ward's annual fund. Hopefully this will encourage higher participation rates in the ACF and give residents greater ownership over local decision making. I've held meetings with the officers on the Ward Working team and have also held discussion with Cllr. Lesley Jones on the issue, with all feedback being very positive.

I believe that the ACFs represent a fantastic opportunity to show the residents of Brent that the administration is on their side in these difficult times of government cuts. More often than not constituents' complaints I receive are linked to communication issues and I think that the administration has to be far more proactive in addressing residents concerns.

Form completed on: 20.6.11