

## **Annual review of Councillor Ann Hunter**

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 had regular contact with individual Willesden Green residents through their contacting me to help with any issues they were not able to resolve themselves. These have ranged from problems with noisy neighbours, stolen recycling bins, planning and housing issues, and Brent N.H.S. matters. Often it has been a case of pointing people in the right direction to find help, or contacting the officers' involved on their behalf. We have usually found a way to resolve the issues. And sometimes this has involved putting some pressure on the Council, e.g. the opening of Villiers Park Playground, now (at last) scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>!

### **Surgeries held:**

I have held regular monthly surgeries at Willesden Green library along with my colleague, Cllr Gavin Sneddon. They are 11-1 on the third Saturday of the month, except no surgery in August.

### **Council meetings attended:**

I have attended every full council meeting and all of the Health Overview and Scrutiny committees of which I am vice-chair. I have also attended the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the first part of the year, until I was taken off that committee and replaced by a colleague (Cllr Simon Green). I have attended one meeting of the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee.

### **Community meetings attended:**

I have regularly attended the Willesden Area Forum, the Willesden Safer Neighbourhood Ward panel, and one area housing board meeting. Additionally, I am on the steering group of Brent campaign Against Climate Change, read monthly at the Brent Talking Newspaper for the Blind and have a lot of contact with various other groups in connection with ward working, e.g. Brent Friends of the Earth and the new Willesden Transition Town.

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

None

### **Participation in outside and governing bodies:**

I have participated in Brent and Harrow Education Service Careers Speed Networking at three local schools, City Academy, Crest Academy and Newman

Catholic College. These sessions have been very useful for the pupils I think, as they have been able to question and listen to a range of people with many and varied careers experience, and I have certainly felt a lot has been achieved in the sort of dialogue which has taken place.

### **Training events attended:**

I have attended most of the training events which have been provided for councillors, and found them of immense value, from the very first induction day , right through to the many topics, from Overview and Scrutiny training, Housing, Disability Equality training, Speed reading and safeguarding children and corporate Parenting, not to mention much-needed ( certainly in my case initially), Blackberry training!

One of the values of these events is that they are cross-party, which means we work together irrespective of party politics, and I do think this a very positive aspect, as well as the opportunity to learn a lot about each topic, and meet the officers in each relevant department.

### **Other achievements throughout the period:**

I think that working on the Task Group on Preventing Youth Offending was a very worthwhile thing to do. It again involved working cross-party, and meeting a wide range of people in the borough, both within the council and without , who work so hard to prevent youngsters getting into trouble with the police. We focused on parenting, and the agencies who are there to help our residents in this challenging task, and we talked to lots of youngsters themselves, some in the Brent Youth Parliament, some who had been excluded from school, as well as youth group members from different ethnic communities. We present the report to the Children and Families Overview committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> July of this year, and its recommendations will then go forward to the Executive.

Helping such events as Willesden Green wassail and the Willesden Green Fair get ward working funding, and brightening up the entrance to Sainsbury's forecourt with new plants in the stone troughs there.....helping keep residents informed about the future of Willesden Green Library.....these all mean listening to and reflecting the views of a wide cross-section of residents.

Overall, I feel I have learnt a lot in this year. As a new councillor, there is a very steep learning curve.... A lot of new information to take in and many new people and agencies to connect with, but I do feel able to contribute as an effective councillor both in the committees and work in the Town Hall, and of course, most importantly in the community which is Willesden Green!

**Form completed on: 14<sup>th</sup> June.**