

Annual review of Councillor Ketan Sheth

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

Local ward work:

I have maintained regular contact with my constituents and stakeholders in Tokyngton since my being elected to the Office in May 2010.

In this respect, I set out below few examples of the local work that I have supported and where I have committed some of the Council's *Ward Working* capital:

- Oakington Manor School Woodland Development Project – to create an outdoor environment in the wooded area in the School
- Route 18 Project – to provide support to all members of the local community in the need of shelter during the winter months at the St Michael's Church
- White Horse Bridge Public Art Hoarding – to provide an attractive screen endorsed with public piece of art to prevent rubbish and fly-tipping etc at this prime location in the heart of Wembley Hill
- Islamic Cultural Centre Luncheon Club – to bring together isolated elderly residents of all faiths together in Monks Park Parade for a wide range of activities
- Tree planting along Harrow Road - to enhance visual appearance to one of the main roads of Tokyngton

Further, I have worked closely with the Council's Officers to ensure that potholes and other general damages to Tokyngton's public highways and footpaths are repaired in timely fashion; rubbish and unwanted household items left on pavements and elsewhere are quickly removed; and trees and grass verges are routinely maintained to improve visual appearance and to foster civic pride in the area.

Surgeries held:

During the past year, I have held regular surgeries at Tokyngton Library and St Joseph's Social Club Centre.

Additionally, I have held regular ad hoc surgeries at St. Michael's Church Hall, St Joseph's Pastoral Central and on various routine walkabouts throughout the Ward.

Council meetings attended:

I have attended all the Full Council meetings and several Executive meetings in the past municipal year.

However, as a lawyer, it has been immensely satisfying to be able to serve on the two quasi-judicial committees of the Council during this period, namely as a Chair of Staff Appeals Committee and as Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee. These roles have provided me with the unique opportunity to utilise my legal knowledge and skills for the continued good governance and prosperity of the Borough as a whole.

I have also sat on the Budget & Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee – two major scrutiny committees of the Council: the former reviewing the Council's budgetary process and the latter reviewing One Council project. The work on these committees have been highly challenging in the current economic climate.

Community meetings attended:

Over the past year, I have been hugely privileged to have been able to attend many community gatherings and events in Brent and in the Capital. Some of the key events, which I have attended includes:

The Residents' meeting with Chiltern Railways at Sherrins Farm
Inauguration Service of the Shree Sanatan Mandir, Alperton
Yogi Jayanti celebration at the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Neasden
Open Day at St Michael's Church
Jamaica Independence Day celebration at St Michael's Church Hall
India Independence Day celebration at Brent India Association
Diwali celebrations at Sanatan Mandir, Alperton; Swaminarayan Mandirs, Neasden, Willesden & Kenton; and Barham Park
India High Commission's Diwali & Eid celebration at India Gymkhana, Osterley
Open Day at Brent River Park
India High Commission's India Republic Day celebrations at Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane London
The Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey
The Royal Maundy Service at Westminster Abbey

I have also attended Wembley Area Forum, Wembley Area Housing Board and Wembley Police Panel meetings

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

As a Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, I have been able to work closely with the colleagues, Officers and other stakeholders to ensure that Council's planning policies continue to evolve with the ever change in the built environment landscape, and that these are innovative, just and equitable.

Participation in outside and governing bodies:

I have sat on the various school governing bodies over the past two decades, where I have been able to make a significant contribution in the education arena.

I currently sit on the following bodies:

Governor, College Green Nursery School and Services
Governor, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Infant School
Governor, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Junior School
Governor, Woodfield School (Secondary Special)

Additionally, I also take keen interest in health issues and am a Council Member of the Central & North West London Foundation NHS Trust

Training events attended:

As a new Councillor, I have attended various inductions and training sessions to equip myself of the requisite skills to fully fulfil my civic role.

Other achievements throughout the period:

My aim and objective throughout the past year has been to foster a close working relationship with the residents and stakeholders in Tokyngton to attain a greater degree of civic pride in the Ward - the home of the world famous iconic Wembley Stadium.

Form completed on: 20th June 2011