

# Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2012/13



**Name of Member:** Councillor Nicholas Rogers

**Ward:** Culverden

## Section 1: Attendance at Council/ Committee and Sub-Committee meetings

*This section has been completed by Democratic Services and lists all Council and Committee meetings, including how many meetings of each, you attended for the period from Annual Council on 23 May 2012 to the end of April 2013.*

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	5	6
Planning and Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	6	8
Joint Transportation Board	4	4

*Please list how many County Council, Parish/Town Council and Town Forum meetings you have attended.*

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
N/A	N/A	N/A

## Section 2: Community Involvement

*Please list details of organisations within the community with which you are involved, including any outside bodies that you have been appointed to by the Council in order to promote joint working and improved service delivery to the public.*

Organisation	Brief description of your role
TWITA (Tunbridge Wells Is Traffic Aware)	Joined the steering group of this road safety campaign, helping it to transition to charity status.
Local residents' associations	Take on casework and represent residents' views on the council.

### Section 3: Assisting Constituents

*Please give an illustration of the ways in which you have assisted or liaised with your constituents, or other residents of the Borough (i.e resolving problems), including details of any surgeries you have held.*

I have now been a member of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for two years. During this time I have learned that much of being an effective councillor is knowing when to 'poke my nose in' on behalf of local residents. I have 'poked my nose in' on a variety of local issues, including the public realm, parking problems in various parts of the ward, tourism issues and a variety of other, more specific, issues.

For example, in my last annual report I lamented that I had not been able to secure more progress with addressing parking problems on Woodbury Park Road. I can report that, thanks to pressure from residents and councillors, Woodbury Park Road is finally going forward to the next stage in the residents' parking zone process – a real win for long-suffering residents, but it is vital that pressure is maintained.

Since my last report I joined Twitter, which has proved to be an invaluable method of keeping in touch with residents from Culverden and across the town. I have begun to pick up casework from Twitter and am always happy to explain, and sometimes defend, council decisions to followers. I urge more of my colleagues to join!

Residents' associations are a particularly valuable source of contact and information. I have mostly worked with Boyne Park RA and Inner London Road RA. If any residents want support in setting up their own associations, I am happy to help them through the process.

A key issue in Culverden is of course the Berkeley Homes development on the old Kent & Sussex Hospital site. As ward councillor I have had numerous meetings with the planning officers, as well as with the developers themselves. I believe that resident concerns have been listened to and that the development will actually enhance our town, creating an interesting place to live. The fact that it will come with a purpose-built free school is even better and is one of the most exciting developments in the town.

I relish the chance to help individuals and groups with local problems and believe that I present myself as an open and approachable local councillor.

### Section 4: Special Responsibilities

*Please list any other positions of responsibility that you may hold within this Council (for example: Portfolio Holder, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Lead Member, or Mayoral duties).*

Responsibility	Nature of your duties
Chairman – Joint Transportation Board	Chair meetings and manage workload of this joint TWBC – KCC transportation committee. See below for further information.

### Section 5: Learning and Development

*This section has been completed by Democratic Services and lists dates and details of attendance at training sessions, conferences, seminars etc during the period 23 May 2012 to the end of April 2013 which have supported you in your duties as a councillor. Please check this with your own records and contact Wendy Newton-May if you have any queries.*

Details of event	Date attended
Website Briefing	21 June 2012
Community Infrastructure Levy	20 September 2012
Residents Survey 2012 Results	17 January 2013

*Do you have any other learning and development needs that have not been identified or met by the Council? If so, please set out below.*

N/A

### Section 6: Internal Meetings Attended

*Please give details of role and attendance at internal meetings, including Working Parties/Groups and Political Group meetings.*

Details of event	Role and purpose
Conservative Group	Member.
Meetings to advise portfolio holder on tourism issues.	I was one of a small number of councillors asked to advise the portfolio holder on the future of the TIC.
Meetings with Berkeley Homes & planning officers to discuss K&S development	I organised and attended a number of meetings with both the developer and with planning officers to understand and represent residents' views on the proposed development.
Meetings with parking team to discuss parking issues within the ward	I met with officers from various sections of the parking department to get information and push for progress on a number of parking issues in Culverden.
Numerous ad hoc meetings with borough council officers	As a ward councillor I frequently meet with borough council officers to discuss issues that arise within Culverden.

**Section 7: Supplementary Information**

*Please feel free to add any information you consider may assist in defining your role as an elected Member, any outside obligations that may impact on your role or any additional information you wish to add.*

Much of my role as a councilor this year was spent as chairman of the Joint Transportation Board. For residents who are unaware, JTB is a joint TWBC-KCC committee that investigates and makes recommendations on highways and other transport issues. I found chairing JTB a fascinating and rewarding experience. I relished the opportunity to become involved in issues of borough-wide significance and enjoyed helping residents from all over Tunbridge Wells.

It was an interesting insight into the challenge the borough council faces when making decisions; we can never please everyone, and to seek to do so is to invite failure. TWBC has to weigh up multiple interests and come to an evidence-based decision. It can be a tough task at times, but as always I felt privileged to be involved.

Dated: 14/05/2013