

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2012/13



Name of Member: Councillor Julia Soyke

Ward: Speldhurst & Bidborough

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	6	6
Joint Transportation Board	4	4
Licensing Committee	5	5
Licensing Sub-Committee (only 3 of the 15 members are called at any one time)	7	24
Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	8	8
Western Area Planning Committee	8	12
Joint Eastern and Western Area Committee	1	2
Cabinet (not a member)	2	15

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

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
none	40 Parish council meetings, (full and committee meetings, and also attending some Bidborough Parish council meetings)	2

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
Citizens Advice Bureau Advisory Board	2 meetings attended, till retired. Liaison role
High Weald Joint Advisory Committee	Liaison, and promoting tourism in our area.
Rural Commission	Promote/ support rural views at national meetings of the commission, e.g. on Rural Broadband.
Speldhurst Parish Council	Sat on Governance and Local Needs Housing committees. Now Planning and Finance committees. Also Broadband working party.
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	Chairman and bookings Secretary. The new Sports Ground and Pavilion is run by a sub-committee of the Trust, the Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association.

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.

Have had several meetings assisting residents with planning issues such as parking, and planning applications, and applying for funding for community projects.

Am gathering information on Noise Disturbance from Aeroplanes landing at Gatwick. Attending meetings to understand the work of the Airports Commission, and the possibility of the addition of an extra runway at Gatwick and its implications.

Have arranged for a dog bin to be installed in response to local residents requests

Have reported accidents, deer fatalities, safety issues, and potholes to SPC and KCC for local residents

Have furthered the solving of a footpath routing problem at Stone Cross.

I write a monthly report in the local village magazine, and a six-monthly one in the local parishes magazines, both for TWBC and for the Parish Council. I publicise my email address and telephone number so that I can easily be contacted.

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
Vice-chairman, Finance & Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	

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
Planning Committee Training	28 May 2012
Licensing Committee Training	31 May 2012
Equality Act Training	14 June 2012
Short Bite - Q & A's	20 June 2012

Planning Member Training (NPPF & Conservation)	4 July 2012
Localism Act	9 June 2012
LGA Annual Rural Conference 2012	12 September 2012
Code of Conduct and Register of Interests	25 October 2012
Community Infrastructure Levy	20 September 2012
Member Briefing – Landscape Designations	3 October 2012
Member Briefing – Gypsy Awareness	16 October 2012
MKIP Partnership	1 November 2012
Introduction to Noise	4 December 2012
Affordable Housing	5 December 2012
Strategic Compass and Budget	12 December 2012
Residents Survey 2012 Results	17 January 2013
Licensing Training	22 January 2013
Findings From The Census 2011	24 January 2013
Policy Framework Briefing	20 February 2013
Members Questions and Answers and Planning Forums	6 March 2013
Site Allocations	21 March 2013
NPPF – 1 year on	27 March 2013
Update on the Business Delivery Unit	16 April 2013
Planning Short Bite – Planning Forums	17 April 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.

None at present

--

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
Tourism Working Party	To find a new location for the TIC, and make savings
Planning Application Forums (K & Sx hosp, AXA PPP, Old Brew House, Bayham Road)	
Conservative Group x 11	Air concerns, try and reach consensus on way forward.

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.

As a member of the Country Landowners Association, I have been able to attend conferences run by them on the NPPF, rural Broadband, and Rented Housing. As many constituents are becoming increasingly unhappy about aircraft noise disturbance, I have attended conferences on airport expansion and noise issues, and written reports for distribution to constituents and Cllrs. As the Speldhurst Parish Council is a member of KALC, I have been able to attend conferences during the year on Planning, and Localism. My home garden was open to the public, together with several other gardens in the village, in aid of the local church in 2012. I am a member of the local church council. I attended the 'So Create a Difference' Architect's vision exhibition in the RVP, as I take a keen interest in trying to improve our town which will positively affect tourism, growth, well-being, etc. I have attended meetings concerned with the expansion of the local primary school. I have also attended a conference on Tree Health, with particular attention to Ash Dieback Disease.

Dated: April 7th 2013