

# Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2014



Name of Member: Councillor Bob Backhouse

Ward: Sherwood

## 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 January to December 2014.*

1 January – 10 June

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during this period
Full Council	2	2
Licensing Committee	1	1
Licensing Sub-Committee (only 3 of the 15 members a called at any time, including attendance as guest)	5	9
Planning Committee	7	7
Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	1	2
Joint Transportation Board	2	2

11 June – 31 December

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during this period
Full Council	5	5
Licensing Committee	3	3
Licensing Sub-Committee (only 3 of the 15 members a called at any time, including attendance as guest)	5	7

Planning Committee	11	11
Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	4	4
Joint Transportation Board	2	2

In addition, Councillor Backhouse attended the following committee meetings as a visiting member:

Cabinet, 7 meetings

Licensing Sub-Committee, 1 meeting

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

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
<p>I have attended a meeting with a KCC councillor at County Hall, Maidstone in June 2014 regularly</p> <p>I also represent residents at Canterbury Christ Church University on selection of staff &amp; student panels</p>	<p>Not Applicable; we are in RTW.</p> <p>I hold a weekly surgery instead.</p>	<p>I am vice Chairman of the Town Forum and I have attended every meeting (I chaired on in July) and I bring my Sherwood experiences to the Forum.</p>

## 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
TCHG: Shadow Steering group	We follow the progress of the Sherwood re-generation project and the Sherwood Lake & woodlands. Kent High Weald are present too.
Sherwood Networking	Chairman. We co-ordinate social activities of the schools and social groups within Sherwood. Meets 6 times a year. We also meet with the local Police and discuss any issues and trends.
Sherwood Residents Association	Meets monthly and is a forum for residents to ventilate issues, especially the builders in Greggs Wood Road.

### 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.*

Weekly surgeries held every Wednesday with fellow councillor Lynne Weatherly. We help arbitrate issues with TCHG/TWBC/KCC/Police. Eg Assisted moves, CCTV

Many meetings with constituents to try to assist with planning application issues and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) problems. EG Burnside Flats, Sherwood regeneration, noisy MOTO bikes stopped. I have attended three open days for the Dandara/ Knights Wood and TCHG developments at our TN2 Centre.

Regular attendance at St. Philip's Church and liaise with their committees; help foster good relations with TWBC..

Had meetings with Cllr Alan McDermott re designated parking. A section of residents' parking was created as a result of Councillor Mc Dermott's and my efforts

Contacted KCC on behalf of residents complaining about [County Council services]

Contacted environmental services about dog-fouling on behalf of many residents. As a result of me undertaking an informal review (done jointly with Councillor Weatherly) new bins and dog fouling signs were placed strategically in our ward.

Contacted KCC Highways and secured £130,000+ road resurfacing in my ward. I regularly liaise with Highways over broken pavements, potholes and faulty street lights. Over 60 such incidents last year.

I have helped a local resident over poor Royal Mail Deliveries.

I regularly help Greg Clark MP with queries.

I often discuss residents issues with The Leader, Cabinet members, fellow councillors and KC councillors to determine good outcomes to local problems.

### 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
Licensing Committee – Chair (from 11 June 2014)	Chairing Licensing Committee and Sub-Committee meetings
Licensing Committee – Vice-Chair (before 11 June 2014)	Chairing Licensing Committee and Sub-Committee meetings when necessary

### 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 January to December 2014 which have supported you in your duties as a councillor. Please check this with your own records and contact Maria Burton if you have any queries.*

Details of event	Date attended
Planning Short Bite-Trees and Subsidence	8 Jan 2014
Planning Short Bite – Assets of Community Value	29 Jan 2014
Planning Short Bite – MidKIP Planning Back Office	19 Feb 2014
Planning Short Bite – Planning Committee Review	11 March 2014
Member Briefing – Markerstudy Presentation	3 April 2014
Planning Short Bite – Ash Dieback	7 May 2014
IER Training	5 June 2014
Planning Short Bite – Introduction from Chairman	18 June 2014
Licensing Committee Training	9 July 2014
Member Briefing – Buildings at Risk	23 July 2014
Planning Short Bite – Mid Kent Planning Services Update	30 July 2014
Planning Short Bites – Google Street View	6 August 2014
Planning Short Bites – Protocol for Members Taking Part in the Planning Process	10 Sept 2014
Member Briefing - Electoral Review	8 Oct 2014
Member Briefing - Digital First	15 Oct 2014
Planning Short Bite – Capel Grange Farm	22 Oct 2014
Licensing Committee Training	4 Nov 2014
Managing Casework Training	5 Nov 2014
Planning Short Bite – Update on MKIP	12 Nov 2014
Member Briefing – Health and the CCG	2 Dec 2014
Member Briefing – The Budget and the Five Year Plan	4 Dec 2014
Member Briefing – Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	10 Dec 2014

*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.*

I benefitted from attending a Planning Summer Forum at Liverpool University in 2012 which has greatly assisted me understanding planning legislation and procedures plus the many technical terms. This has helped me greatly at

Planning Committees and the PPWG. It gives me the required training for Chairing any planning related meetings.

I am very happy with the strong support I get from Democratic Services staff.

## **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 Meetings	Member
Planning Policy Working Group	Member
Licensing Committee Chairman's Briefings	Chair

## **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.*

I play a leading role in our monthly Group Meetings which help determine future TWBC policies.

I enjoy supporting the Mayor in his events eg First World War Centenary, Mayor's Church service and the Battle of Britain service. I also attend the Holocaust Day observance and the Remembrance Sunday/Armistice day at the War Memorial. I attended the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Wiesbaden twinning and the Wiesbaden Christmas cabin at the Ice Rink. I also attended the official opening of the Ice Rink and I am a strong supporter of the tourist attraction.

I also support events at the Town Museum, The Assembly Hall and Trinity Theatre.

I have helped hold two Jobs Fairs (one in my Sherwood Ward) as I believe passionately about the role TWBC plays through the Five Year Plan, in creating employment and tourist attractions. I actively support the Digital First campaign. I have been involved in the A21 dualling and North Farm Roads (both in my ward) campaigns. Many millions of pounds have been garnered by the pressure brought to bear; from KCC, Whitehall and locally based businesses. This has extended to the help in co-ordinating of the Knights Wood development with Planning, residents and Dandara; this has provided 550 new houses and a new Primary school.

Dated: 21 January 2015