

# Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2014



**All activity is from May 2014, when the Member was elected**

Name of Member: Councillor Don Sloan OBE

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 January to December 2014.*

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	5	5
Licensing Committee	3	3
Licensing Sub-Committee (only 3 of the 15 members a called at any time)	1	8
Planning Committee	9	11

*In addition, Councillor Sloan attended the following committee meetings as a visiting member:  
Communities Cabinet Advisory Board, 1 meeting  
Licensing Sub-Committee, 2 meetings*

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	Attended meeting 27 Nov 14

## 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
Member, Rotary Club of Tunbridge Wells.	Have held numerous officer responsibilities including President. Currently assist with community projects and fund-raising.
Chair, Clanricarde Medical Centre Patient Participation Group.	Liaising between patients and Medical Centre staff to improve patient experience. Attend Chairs meeting arranged by West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group.

## 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.

Surgeries have been tried but have not been found in the past to be well attended in Culverden Ward. Ward members tend to write and email me. I prefer to liaise with residents' associations, and I plan for closer involvement with the Town Forum. Here are some of the issues raised so far:

### **May 2014: Complaints about congestion in Culverden Park and Culverden Down caused by school buses going to Bennet Memorial School.**

Had correspondence with residents' representative and with Councillors Derrick, Jamil, Rogers and Basu. School did not take advantage of a pilot scheme promoted Councillor Derrick to assess traffic. Have also consulted with County Councillor John Davies who advises no funds available for a crossing outside the school. Various options still under consideration. I have also submitted photos of the congestion.

### **July 2014: London Road residents association express concern in a letter about traffic congestion on A26. On page 39, item 6.33 of Five Year Plan for Tunbridge Wells it says, "This could mean encroaching on Green Space in the future....." – this gives cause for concern. Residents mention London Road/Mount Ephraim, Vale Road/London Road and other junctions and roundabouts.**

I have indicated no plans are in place at the moment except for the London road junction in Southborough. I am also drawing residents attention to the coming consultation on the revised Sites Allocation Development Planning Document

**August 2014: Complaint from Hanover Road about rubbish outside Cosmo restaurant.**

Contacted Street Scene Enforcement Officer. Issue is now resolved. Agreed with complainant that issues should be dealt with by the Council rather than the Council referring public to subcontractors as happened in the first instance.

**September 2014: invited to London Road residents' luncheon get-together. The Church Road/London Road junction was raised as were other matters raised in the July letter mentioned above.**

Promised to report back if/when I have further information.

**October 2014: Complaints about commercial vehicles, Ford and Suzuki parking in Earls Road. Court Road and Molyneux Park Road area, and suspected sales promotions. This restricts parking for residents.**

Sought advice from Street Scene Enforcement Officer. Cars removed after we complained, but still occasional instances of this kind of parking.

**October 2014: Resident of Post Office Square draws attention by email to potential dangers on the road linking London road to Vale Road, and the service road, and suggests improvements.**

Will refer him to Site Allocations Development Planning Document consultations in 2015

**December 2014: Residents of Molyneux Park Gardens area asked about Gatwick Airport plans for another runway and possible impact on noise in the Culverden area.**

County Councillor John Davies filled me in on the KCC position and Borough Councillor Julia Soyke supplied me with details of meetings she had attended on the issue, and agreed I pass these on to residents. I also informed residents about the special TW Borough Council meeting scheduled for 7 January, 2015.

**Complaints about potholes and sinkholes.**

These were passed on to KCC or residents were advised how to report them directly.

**Complaint about early morning street cleaning in Grosvenor Park.**

Referred to Head of Street Scene and Environment who agreed to follow it up.

#### **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
None	

#### **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
IER Training	5 June 2014

Planning Committee Training	16 June 2014
Planning Short Bite – Introduction from Chairman	18 June 2014
Licensing Committee Training	9 July 2014
Planning Short Bite – Mid Kent Planning Services Update	30 July 2014
Planning Short Bite – Google Street View	6 August 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 – The Budget and 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.*

Understanding and exploiting the Council's use of social media.

## **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

## **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 new member of the Council I am acquiring knowledge of the constraints under which Council staff operate in all areas, including planning. It is interesting to see democracy at grass-roots level and to get an idea what can and cannot be achieved within the current legal context and the policies of central Government.

At the same time I carry the aspirations and expectations of ward members and the public, and feel I am in a good position to modify and influence thinking within the Council in a number of areas. In the context of planning a vote by a single councillor can make all the difference to an outcome/decision, for example whether a major development or a solar farm is approved.

Also of interest are the processes of decision-making and gaining an understanding of how policy is created e.g. as in the Planning Policy Working Group. There are opportunities for me to bring your views to bear.

Above all I enjoy meeting members of neighbourhood and residents associations and addressing their interests and concerns. In the coming months I hope to tackle more such issues as they are raised.

My work on the planning and licensing committees covers the entire borough, and the need to preserve and enhance the environment throughout is clear. Also we should have increasing pride in Tunbridge Wells itself as the Council strives to accentuate its distinctive features, add to its amenities, and make it an even more attractive place in which to live.

Dated: 3 January 2015