

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2014



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 January to December 2014.

1 January – 10 June

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	2	2
Planning Committee	7	7
Licensing Committee	1	1
Licensing Sub-Committee (only 3 of the 15 members are called at any one time)	7	9
Joint Transportation Board	2	2
Finance & Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	3	4

11 June – 31 December

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	4	5
Planning Committee	11	11
Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	3	4

*In addition, Councillor Soyke attended the following committee meetings as a visiting member:
Joint Transportation Board, 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>Speldhurst Parish Council (member) total meetings attended, incl of committees: approx. 20</p> <p>Instigator of formation of SPC Air Traffic Committee Dec 2013, and Chairman until summer 2014. Still a member</p> <p>SPC Finance Committee member. Also Planning Committee member until May 2014</p> <p>Bidborough Parish Council – attended 7</p>	<i>one</i>

Section 2: Community Involvement

Organisation	Brief description of your role
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	Chairman until December 2013, now still Bookings Secretary, dealing with all hirings, cleanliness of the hall, helping keeping grounds in order,(incl chain sawing and strimming). Supporting the Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association, a subcommittee of the Trust.
High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee	Attend quarterly meetings to discuss AONB management, finances, policies.
The Southern & South East England Tourist Board - Tourism South East	Very disappointing organisation: failed to notify me of meetings. Attended AGM as heard about it from another source, at which they were not inclined to discuss issues relevant to our area.

Section 3: Assisting Constituents

Have been very involved with handling complaints about the recent big increase in air traffic noise both during the day and at night. Have led the Air Traffic committee to draft and submit detailed responses to four public consultations on Airport Consultative Committees, Noise, London Airspace Changes, Possible new runways at Gatwick Airport, and currently the Airports Commission Consultation on airport expansion in the South East. Have attended numerous meeting of organisations concerned with Aircraft Noise, Airport Expansion, etc, organised by the Airports Commission (in London and Crawley), SASIG (in London), NATS (London), Gatwick, KCC (Maidstone), and the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group. Speldhurst Parish Council voted to join this group about nine months ago, following my proposal, and is now an active member. I have kept TWBC informed about this issue, and, supported by Cllrs Paul Barrington-King, Catherine Rankin, and David Jukes, have been pleased that a motion drafted by me and proposed by David Jukes at a Full council meeting on January 7th 2015 to oppose the expansion of Gatwick Airport, the narrowing of flight paths, and support a significant reduction in the number of night flights, received unanimous support bar one abstention and one opponent after a good debate and a presentation by KCC's Jo Ratcliffe.

Have helped constituents with dealing with complaints such as nearby bonfire noxious fumes, bin collection or non-collection issues, issues of dangerous speeding in our villages and particularly near schools.

Often in conjunction with the Parish Council, have helped constituents liaise with KCC officers on issues of poor Broadband delivery, potholes, road closures, overgrown hedges, etc

I contribute every month to the local village Newsletter, and keep residents up to date with local parish and borough council news. I also contribute when relevant to other village newsletters within the ward.

My contact details are in local newsletters and on the web so that I can be contacted at any time at my home.

Section 4: Special Responsibilities

Responsibility	Nature of your duties
Planning Committee – Chair (from 11 June 2014)	Managing meetings, helping to organise site visits, and also briefings on important planning issues. Need to promote good communication.

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 Wendy Newton-May if you have any queries.

Details of event	Date attended
Planning Short Bites – Trees and Subsidence	8 January 2014
Planning Short Bite – Assets of Community Value	29 January 2014
Licensing Committee Training – Scrap Metal Dealers	5 February 2014
Planning Short Bite – Planning Committee Review	11 March 2014
Member Briefing – Digital Services	13 March 2014
Planning Short Bite – Ash Dieback	7 May 2014
IER Training	5 June 2014
Planning Short Bite – Introduction from Chairman	18 June 2014
Member Briefing – Buildings at Risk	23 July 2014
Planning Short Bite – Mid Kent Planning Services Update	30 July 2014
Planning Short Bite – Google Street View	6 August 2014
Planning Short Bite – Protocol for Members taking part in Planning Process	10 Sept 2014
Member Briefing – Digital First	15 Oct 2014
Planning Short Bite – Capel Grange Farm	22 Oct 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.

None

Section 6: Internal Meetings Attended

Details of event	Role and purpose
Conservative Group Meetings	Member

Section 7: Supplementary Information

Having now been a TWBC Cllr for just over four years I am feeling settled and confident in my aim to help work towards the long-term improvement of our Borough – this meaning all aspects of the infrastructure, natural and built environment. The key to this is good communication, to enable meaningful discussion and understanding, and good decisions to be made. It is an exciting time, with plans emerging for significant improvements to the TWB cultural life and TW town centre configuration,

I am thoroughly enjoying my role as a councillor, and am happy to prioritise it over other commitments.

Dated: 15 January 2015