

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2015



Name of Member: Councillor Dr Linda Hall

Ward: Benenden & Cranbrook

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 2015.

1 January – 27 May

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	3	4
Planning Committee	5	6
Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	2	2

28 May – 31 December

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	3	3
Planning Committee	9	10
Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	3	5

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

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
	8 Cranbrook PC and 5 Benenden PC, including the Saturday launch of the Parish Plan.	

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
English Heritage HELM initiative	I have attended all training sessions in Localism Act and Conservation issues and Neighbourhood Development Plan.
Cranbrook Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CCAAC)	TWBC councillor rep on this committee.

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.

1. Answering letters and phone calls about constituents' personal housing problems and referring them to the appropriate service at the Town Hall.
2. Answering questions about planning and enforcement issues, especially regarding potentially unlawful developments. There are several of these still pending.
3. Trying to answer questions put to me in the street about a range of issues.
4. Trying to eliminate grot spots in Cranbrook, which will adversely affect the town's appeal to tourists if not attended to. I enabled the Trustees of Friends of St Dunstan's Church to restore the ironwork of the Pile tomb in churchyard by sourcing TWBC grants.
5. I am very keen to take up matters relating to heritage, conservation, the natural and the built environment on behalf of my constituents and those of other wards, as my role as Heritage Champion covers the whole borough.
6. In Cranbrook and Benenden there is no demand for surgeries, but all constituents know my email address and telephone number and are at liberty to contact me, whenever they feel that they need assistance, and they do so, as well as stopping me in the street, or out shopping, or in church.
7. I help voluntary groups fund projects, as in the last year financial year I gave my community grant to the Cranbrook Museum to up-date its lighting system and install energy efficient light bulbs.

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
Champion of the Historic Environment (Tunbridge Wells rural areas)	To attend all English Heritage conferences and training in conservation and heritage issues, so as to keep updated as legislation changes and affects us in TWBC.
Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	To chair meetings in the absence of the Chairman.

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 2015 which have supported you in your duties as a councillor. Please check this with your own records and contact Emily Metcalf if you have any queries.

Details of event	Date attended
Planning Short Bites Prior Notifications	21 January 2015
Member Briefing 5 year Plan Transforming the Museum	25 February 2015
Member Briefing Local Policing in TW	18 March 2015
Planning Committee Short Bite - "Call-In" and Update on Enforcement	29 April 2015
Historic Towns Forum	27 May 2015
Planning Short Bite: Material/Non Material Planning Considerations	03 June 2015
Design South East-conference Canterbury	19 June 2015
Hidden in clear view	25 June 2015
Local Listing-HELM training	09 July 2015
Counting the Cost of Difficult Planning Decisions	22 July 2015
Planning Short Bite: "Applications for works to protected trees"	29 July 2015
Planning Short Bite	19 August 2015
Planning Short Bite: 5 Year Housing Land Supply, the NPPF and Wider Implications	09 September 2015
Health Matters	17 September 2015
English Heritage (Guildford)	22 September 2015
Planning Short Bite: 5 Year Housing Land Supply, the NPPF and Wider Implications	30 September 2015
Community Safety	13 October 2015
Universal Credit	14 October 2015
Presentation Skills and Public Speaking	19 October 2015
Planning Short Bite: Kent Air Ambulance	21 October 2015
Planning Short Bite: Overview of Highgate Hill	11 November 2015

appeal decision and implications	
Planning Short Bite: Site Inspections and Call-Ins	2 December 2015

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.

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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.

I am a member of SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), English Historic Towns Forum, The Churches Preservation Trust, English Heritage and the National Trust. I try to take part in a study tour of a European area at least once every few years.

I have attended Birkbeck College, London University, to complete a Cert.in H.E. in the History of Art and Architecture, so as to inform my understanding of the historic built and natural environment. Next term I am due to attend a course at the Courtauld Institute on Art History. I see these studies as a vital contribution to my effectiveness and understanding of the heritage of TWBC. I meet the expenses of all these courses out of my own pocket.

I also lecture at Cambridge and for the National Trust on the interplay between literature and art history.

For several years I have been pressing the Cranbrook Parish council to engage in a Neighbourhood Development Plan, which the Localism Act (2011) encourages all parished areas to involve themselves in. It will give local people their say over the nature and design of housing development in their area. At long last the CPC has agreed to set one up and it is just about to start.

Dated: 26 December 2015