

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2015



Name of Member: Councillor Hugh Patterson

Ward: Capel

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	4	4
Audit & Governance Committee	0	1
Planning Committee	5	6
Communities Cabinet Advisory Board	3	3

28 May – 31 December

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	3	3
Licensing Committee	2	3
Licensing Sub-Committee (only 3 of the 15 members are called at any time, including attendance as guest)	0	4
Planning Committee	6	10
Communities Cabinet Advisory Board	2	3

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

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
	<p>Capel Parish Councillor and Vice Chairman Attended every monthly meeting 2015 except July (10 x a year).</p> <p>Attended nearly every Parish Planning meeting – missed 2, one ill and one on holiday</p> <p>Parish Finance and resources meeting (3 x a year)</p> <p>Chairman Parish Flooding meeting met twice times in 2015 inviting local residents to express their concerns to the EA, Southern Water, KCC and the highways authority. Also a parish Flood Warden- attended training in July and November</p> <p>Attended Annual Parish Meeting in May and reported to local residents.</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
Capel Parish Council	Vice Chairman, Chairman of Flooding Committee
Capel Cricket Club	Helped to re-found the village Cricket Club after c.40 years in abeyance. Committee member and Secretary 2011 until September 2015;

	scorer for first XI and indoor winter team.
Tudeley cum Capel with Five Oak Green LEP	On electoral roll of Parish church – occasional sides man and reading lessons. Help to deliver parish magazine.

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.

I continued to work with local residents, and spoke in the planning committee against the two Solar Parks that are now being/have been built in the parish on the grounds of harm to the Green Belt. A plan for a larger scheme at Capel Grange Farm was refused by the planning committee on these grounds, against the officers' recommendation, after I and local residents spoke against it. Subsequently the refusal was supported not only by the Planning Inspectorate, but also by the Secretary of State. As a result a much smaller scheme, than the one originally intended, is being built, with consequently less harm to the MGB.

I chair the Parish Flooding Committee (wearing both Borough and Parish hats) which meets twice annually and provides a link between local residents, the Parish Council, TWBC, Kent Highways, the Environment Agency and Southern Water. We attempt to address flooding issues within the ward that have occurred or are ongoing from previous years. Most recently in Dec/Jan 2013-14 there was flooding in the centre of Five Oak Green and along Alders Road in Capel. I continue to campaign for the building of the flood diversion scheme planned by the EA, that would reduce the danger of flooding from the Alders Stream for around 100 properties in Five Oak Green to a 1 in 100 year risk. In December 2015, working with the EA I sought to persuade Capel Parish Council to make a contribution to this diversion scheme. This has now been referred to the parish council's finance committee for consideration.

During 2015 I attended several meetings of residents of Alders Road and Redwood Park, Capel, over the activities within, and the lorry movements in and out of, Capel Yard Alders Road. I have been in frequent email contact with local residents and the planning department over the issue. In November 2015, the Planning Department enforced a section 52 order against the owners. However the use of the site and associated vehicle movements remain an ongoing issue of great concern to the neighbours.

I have contacted the council officers on behalf of my constituents on a range of other issues including the moving of a bus stop and litter bin by the stream culvert, the provision of litter bins by the bus stop in Sychem Lane, and issues related to listed buildings.

I am accessible to my constituents by phone and email at all times, and in November/December 2015 distributed a leaflet to my constituents.

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 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
Planning Committee Site Inspections	25 March 2015
Planning Committee Short Bite - pd/eia regulations	8 April 2015
Licensing Training	09 June 2015
Planning Short Bite: Scaling Plans on the Planning Pages of the Website	17 June 2015
Counting the Cost of Difficult Planning Decisions	22 July 2015
Planning Short Bite	19 August 2015
Planning Short Bite: 5 Year Housing Land Supply, the NPPF and Wider Implications	09 September 2015
Planning Short Bite: 5 Year Housing Land Supply, the NPPF and Wider Implications	30 September 2015
Universal Credit	14 October 2015
Planning Short Bite: Overview of Highgate Hill appeal decision and implications	11 November 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
Lib Dem Group Meetings	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 the only elected Borough Councillor for Capel Ward, I have sought to speak for the views and concerns of my fellow residents to the other members of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and to council officers.

The boundaries of the Ward and of Capel Parish are the same and I see my role as a Borough councillor as one that complements that of a Parish Councillor. I am a point of contact between both authorities and can try to make both aware of the priorities of the other.

I combine my role as a local Parish and Borough councillor with full time employment. Although this means I cannot attend every single committee meeting, particularly planning site meetings held in the day time. I believe it important that councillors are more representative of a wide range of employment and social backgrounds, and are not limited solely to those who are retired or in charge of their own diaries.

Please contact me if you need my help or advice any issue relating to the work of the Borough Council within Capel Ward.

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Dated: 18 December 2015

Updated: 21 December 2015