

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2015



All activity is from May 2015, when the Member was elected

Name of Member: Councillor Joy Podbury

Ward: Rusthall

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 May to December 2015.

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	3	4
General Purposes Committee	0	0
Planning Committee	10	10

In attendance at the DAP Finance Meeting concerning the Hub

In attendance at DAP Community Hub meeting

In attendance at the JTB meeting concerning the introduction of 20mph

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
	7 Rusthall Parish Council Full Council Meetings 8 Speldhurst Parish Council Full Council Meetings 12 Speldhurst Parish Council Various meetings including Finance, Air Traffic Noise and Parish Vision.	

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
Tunbridge Wells U3A	Chairman
High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group	Member
Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons Conservators	In attendance at meetings in September and December

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.

Contacted environment officer regarding residents concerned with burning of toxic waste. I managed to gather evidence with the assistance of residents. This resulted in the officer and a member of the Environment Agency visiting the site. They were able to collect evidence of burning of materials in contravention of the Clean Air Act 1993. They have served the owner with a Notification of Offence under the Act and are trying to seek compliance. The Environment Agency will now be investigating further in relation to waste recovery operations.

I attended a large public meeting with Denny Bottom residents, worried by letters they received from Target Follow appertaining to licences for access rights. I contacted TWBC Legal Department and advised residents to seek independent legal advice.

I have held several meetings with constituents to try to assist with planning application issues.

Monthly surgeries are held on the last Friday of each month, by myself and Councillor Huggett. Issues raised include Aircraft Noise, Community Safety, and Access Rights.

I arranged a meeting with the Head-Teacher of St Paul's primary school, Rusthall, concerned with traffic issues. The information has been passed to the Parish Council.

As a result of residents expressing concern with speeding traffic, inconsiderate parking and various other traffic issues, I attended various meetings, including a meeting held at Skinners School, concerned with reducing traffic congestion and the introduction of 20 mph zones and cycling routes.

I met with the Community Safety Officer regarding a number of local anti-social issues.

Elderly residents' spoke to me as they are worried by the proposed changes to the 281

bus service. This matter has been raised with TWBC. I have also spoken to Councillors from neighbouring Wards who share similar concerns.

A meeting with a Parking Enforcement Officer regarding a parking ticket resulted in the fine being cancelled.

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 May 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
Chairman Training	18 June 2015
Planning Training	01 June 2015
Planning Short Bite: Material/Non Material Planning Considerations	03 June 2015
Planning Short Bite: Scaling Plans on the Planning Pages of the Website	17 June 2015
Behind the Scenes at the Museum	25 June 2015
Hidden in clear view	25 June 2015
Cultural & Learning Hub	15 July 2015
Counting the costs 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
Briefing – Health Matters	17 September 2015
Managing Conflict	29 September 2015
Planning Short Bite: 5 Year Housing Land Supply, the NPPF and Wider Implications	30 September 2015
Briefing: Community Safety	13 October 2015
Briefing: Universal Credit	14 October 2015
Planning Short Bite: Kent Air Ambulance	21 October 2015
Engaging and Empowering your Community	27 October 2015
Redevelopment of Royal Victoria Place	27 October 2015
Planning Short Bite: Overview of Highgate Hill appeal decision and implications	11 November 2015

Briefing - Review of Care Quality of Maidstone & TW hospitals	19 November 2015
Planning Short Bite: Site Inspections and Call-Ins	2 December 2015
Briefing Transformation Challenge	3 December 2015
Setting Priorities + the budget 2016/17	9 December 2015
Planning Short Bite – consultation on further changes to the National Planning Policy	16 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.

I would appreciate information on registering with the Commissioner's Office.

It would be useful to be kept up-to-date with any National Planning Policy changes.

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
Constitution Review Working Party	Member – to ensure the constitution is up to date
Conservative Member Group	Member
I have volunteered to join the 20mph 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.

In my first year as Councillor I have been keen to attend all training and briefing sessions and every meeting at which my attendance was required. I have enjoyed attending a number of village events including Rusthall Fete, Rusthall Bonfire and St Paul's school Christmas Fair. Regularly monthly surgeries are held on the last Friday of each month (excluding December) with Cllr Huggett.

The role of councillor extends beyond the ward, I have therefore tried to support the Borough Community. As an illustration I attended the Remembrance Day Service, Southborough Hub and Royal Victoria Place Presentations. I also support events at the Assembly Hall, Museum and Trinity Theatre.

I support the plan to reduce the speed limit (where appropriate) to 20mph and encourage the safe passage of cyclists; this would enable our residents to live in a safer, healthier

environment.

Digitalisation of some of the council's services is the way forward, however, it is essential we offer alternative forms of communication to those unable or unwilling to access information in this way.

Dated: 27 December 2015