

# Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2015



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 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	6	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	5	5

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

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
None	About 30. Attend all Full council meetings, was chairman of Air Traffic Committee, now a member, now Chairman of Finance Committee, and member of Governance Committee and Amenities committee. Also attend Bidborough Parish Council meetings where possible – about 5 this year.	None this year

## **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
High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee	Attend quarterly meetings to discuss AONB management, finances, and policies.
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	Chairman bookings Secretary and Secretary until December 2013, now still Bookings Secretary, dealing with all hirings, cleanliness of the hall, helping keeping grounds in order, (including chain sawing and strimming). Supporting the Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association, a subcommittee of the Trust.
The Southern & South East England Tourist Board - Tourism South East (until May 2015)	Have not been notified of any meetings. Now no longer appointed representative.

### 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.*

The problem of increasing air traffic noise has become the Number One issue in the two parishes in my ward, so I am copied in on all complaints sent to the parish clerk, and liaise with the SPC Chairman as well as other TWBC Cllrs to encourage TWBC to become involved. This has now resulted in TWBC having the possibility of a second runway at Gatwick on the Agenda at Full Council, and the motion not to support this was passed. I regularly attend all Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee meetings as an observer (TWBC is not allowed to send a representative, as yet), and report back to the parishes of all developments, for instance the initiation of the independent Westerly Arrivals Review by Bo Redeborn and Graham Lake. Our MP, Greg Clark, organised a public meeting in the Assembly Hall for members of Greg's constituency to attend and ask questions of these two persons, and many residents of my ward attended. SPC is a member of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group, and I attend all meetings of this Group (bi-monthly) at which I give short reports if appropriate. I have circulated printed newsletters published by the HWCAAG throughout the local area, and sent it to many Tunbridge Wells residents in digital form, to enable them to get up-to-date information, and have on hand relevant email addresses for use in making complaints about low-flying aircraft causing intrusive noise, or night flights disturbing sleep.

As Chairman of the Planning Committee I do get lobbied a great deal, but more importantly I get some complaints letters about planning decisions. I always liaise closely with the Head of Planning, Mrs Jane Lynch, and/or Mr Stephen Baughen, Head of Development Manager, who help me respond appropriately.

Locally I have liaised with residents to help resolve local problems, for instance overgrown footpaths, or moving of trees.

I do not hold surgeries as I am easily available by email or telephone.

I help with Litter Picking and Speed Watch whenever possible.

### 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
Chairman of the Planning Committee	Attend Chairman's briefing meeting usually 6 days before each Planning committee meeting. Chair meetings.

## 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 MKIP Update	17 March 2015
Planning Committee Site Inspections	25 March 2015
Planning Short Bites -Heritage Assets	25 March 2015
Planning Committee Short Bite - pd/eia regulations	08 April 2015
Planning Committee Short Bite - "Call-In" and Update on Enforcement	29 April 2015
Planning Short Bite: Material/Non Material Planning Considerations	03 June 2015
Cultural & Learning Hub	15 July 2015
Planning briefing: 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
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
Engaging and Empowering your Community	27 October 2015
Re-development at RVP	27 October 2015
Planning Short Bite: Overview of Highgate Hill appeal decision and implications	11 November 2015
Update of Review of Care Quality	19 November 2015
Planning Short Bite: Site Inspections and Call-Ins	2 December 2015
Transformation Challenge Award	3 December 2015
Setting our priorities and the budget for 2016/17	9 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 Planning Policy Working Group	Member. Only missed one. Observer. Attended once.
23 February 2015: MKIP meeting of joint Overview and Scrutiny committees from Swale, TW and Maidstone	To discuss future of Shared Planning Support function

## 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.*

Am currently Chairman of the local branch of the RTW Conservative Association – the Langton Green, Speldhurst and Bicborough Branch. Have regular committee meetings, and have had two fund-raising events this year.

Attended a meeting on 28 October 2015 of County and District council representatives at Gatwick to meet Bo Redeborn and Graham Lake and to discuss improvements to aircraft noise management and communication between GAL and local communities.

Attended a meeting on 16 December 2015 at Gatwick to get report on review.

Dated: 29 December 2015