

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2015



Name of Member: Councillor Julian Stanyer

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	4	4

28 May – 31 December

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	3	3
Joint Transportation Board	2	2
Planning and Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	3	5
Planning Committee (Member exercising right to speak)	2	N/A

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

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
0	Speldhurst PC 6 Bidborough PC 3	0

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
Melville's Charity for Molyneux Almshouses	Appointed Trustee by TWBC, serving on Trust and on the Maintenance and Finance Committees during a period of major change
Tunbridge Wells Twinning and Friendship Association	Co-opted Committee Member since September 2015. TWTFa organises twinning links and other activities with Wiesbaden, Germany.
Burrswood Independent Christian Hospital, Groombridge	Chosen Charity during Mayoral Year My wife and I are both 'Fellows' of Burrswood
Sir Thomas Smythe's Charity - St Paul's Parish	Appointed Trustee by TWBC. Resigned 2015.
Tunbridge Wells Business Forum	Member by invitation of this business partnership/forum for owners/entrepreneurs operating within the Borough
Langton Green, Speldhurst & Bidborough Branch of the Conservative Association And Tunbridge Wells Conservative Association	Member Member of the TWCA Patrons' Club
St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells	On the Electoral Roll for many years and my wife and I are active members of the congregation

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 have lived in Tunbridge Wells for nearly 30 years, in the same house in my Ward, and my 3 children were educated at Langton and at TWGGS. Many of the parents we met at the school gates or in the PTA all those years' ago are still friends, and living locally. In some ways, that tells you a lot about the area which I represent.

I do not try to duplicate the work that our excellent community organisations already

produce, but I do spend much of my efforts in supporting them either by attending their meetings or offering to help in times of need. For example I make a point of attending both of our first rate Parish Councils when I can, and there is often an overlap between their concerns and those of the Borough Council, aircraft noise being a particular issue during this last year. I am also very supportive of the Langton Village Society, previously the Rural Society, which runs a very successful fete on the green every year, which contributes to paying for hanging baskets and other attractive features in the village and to their various charitable activities within Langton Green. My wife and I have had the privilege of working on the Catering Tent and Fete bookstall respectively for many years.

On a wider level, I have a small community grant fund supplied by TWBC which I have been able to direct to community projects in Ashurst, Speldhurst and Langton and which I am currently trying to direct to a project in Bidborough.

Most residents contact me by e-mail or telephone if they have a particular issue, or else speak to me at the Parish Meetings and I have not felt the need to have personal surgeries. However, if I felt there was a demand I would obviously be happy to do so. There are of course issues which most definitely require a personal intervention. For example, most planning applications are delegated to officers to decide but I have been able to help residents this year by calling in planning applications where I think there are community concerns which merit a full presentation of the facts before the committee. As a result, recently, the Planning Committee asked officers to reconsider their advice and as a result officers revised their recommendation, and we avoided the threatened loss of one of our few retail premises.

As Mayor, it was my privilege also to choose Burrswood Independent Christian Hospital in Groombridge as my Charity. When I first I approached the CEO to ask them to be my Charity, he indicated that his hope above all others was to use the opportunity to make the organisation, and the unique work that it does, better known. Many people have indicated that we made some in-roads into achieving this objective. In addition we were able to help the Charity raise £15,000 towards its work. I should mention that Burrswood operates with 160 volunteers, many of whom are local residents, and I have been pleased to continue my association with them subsequent to being Mayor.

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
Mayor (until May 2015)	Chairing Full Council meetings, attending formal and informal functions

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
Member Briefing Local Policing in TW	18 March 2015
Health Matters	17 September 2015

Re-development at RVP	27 October 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.

No

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, meetings of majority group
Planning Policy Working Group	Member, cross-party working group overseeing development of the Local Plan and site allocations

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 addition to my political and community activities, I have a full-time job as a Chartered Surveyor. I believe this offers me the opportunity to keep my professional skills current and to keep abreast of contemporary issues which might affect our residents. A key issue of relevance to Tunbridge Wells, for example, is the government's devolution agenda, and eventual withdrawal of LA grant, and site allocations within the emerging Local Plan.

In addition, many years' relevant experience of working within local government at Director level and subsequently as a consultant and employee has allowed me to contribute to discussions within the Council about innovative ways of providing services, and to seek to provide services in a more cost effective way. I regularly ask Questions of the relevant portfolio holder at Full Council and recent questions have included an up-date on empty properties within the borough and confirmation that the Council has no intention to allow building within the Green Belt or AONB.

I am also committed to partnership with our wider community including residents, the business sector and voluntary/charity sector and of course to its investors. I attend a number of partnership organisation meetings including the Business Forum and with representatives of the Royal Victoria Place.

I have been fortunate in experiencing a year as Mayor, which continued until May 2015, which enabled me to meet parts of the community sometimes hard to reach. I have personally witnessed the very great debt that we owe to the hundreds of volunteers who support our community and the organisations which they represent.

Dated: 1 January 2016