

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2011/12



Name of Member: Councillor Bob Backhouse

Ward: Sherwood

Year elected: 2010

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 Annual Council on 25 May 2011 to the end of April 2012.

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Council	6	6
Environment, Health & Housing Select Committee	10	10
Licensing Committee	5	5
Licensing Sub-Committee (only 3 members called at any one time)	1	16
Western Area Planning Committee	12	13
Economy and Governance Select Committee (not a member)	2	10
Joint Transportation Board (not a member)	4	5
Cabinet (not a member)	1	13
Eastern Area Planning Committee (not a member)	1	11

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

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
KCC: Chairman KCC Supporting People; 3 meetings at County Hall.	N/A	2 meetings (not a member)

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 (please contact Democratic Services if you need any information on the number of meetings held by the Outside Bodies per year.

Organisation and brief description of your role	No. of meeting attended	No. or frequency of meetings held during the year	Council Appointment? (yes or no)
Sherwood Events Team (SET)	12	12	NO
Sherwood Plan (with T&C HG)	7	7	YES
Sherwood Steering Group for Sherwood Lake & Forest.(SSGLW)	5	5	Yes

Section 3: Assisting Constituents

Please give an illustration of the ways in which you have assisted your constituents, or other residents of the Borough (i.e ward walks, resolving problems in TWBC services), including details of any surgeries you have held. How do you make it easier for constituents to contact you?

I have held a SURGERY (with fellow ward member Cllr. Mrs Lynne Weatherly) every Wednesday since September 2011. This is in conjunction with T&CHG's consulting day. We help with housing, benefit and ASB issues. Also other pastoral work (eg G.P.s) and we liaise with other groups (local church, Little Forrest etc) plus Greg Clark MP. These surgeries are advertised in TN2, St. Philip's Church and in our contact literature.

I have run, since September 2011, on a voluntary basis, our TN2 Centre Cafe every Monday.

I ensure regular contact is made with our local vicar of St. Philip's Church and, as I use public transport, I meet many of Sherwood residents at High Brooms Station or at bus stops. I am always available for home visits and by mobile/landline or email. I shall get a web site in June 2012.

I have been actively involved with the new development in Sherwood and attended all public consultations. Similarly, I have met Dandara who have expressed an interest in new housing within Sherwood.

There are annual events in Sherwood like our Carnival (where I helped in 2011 with a member's grant) and street parties like last year's Royal Wedding and this year's Diamond jubilee. These attract about 1,000 residents and require all-year round participation and all day-work on the day.

I also ran (11/9/11), with T&C H G a DIVERSITY STREET PARTY for Sherwood on Oak Green. Over 200 attended and was covered by The courier and local BBC TV. This required much -planning.

We also ran a PUDSEY/BBC Quiz night in October.

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, Champion, or Mayoral duties).

Responsibility	Nature of your duties
Environmental Health & Housing Steering group on disability adaption grants	Report to Environmental Health & Housing- met 4 times
North Farm Industrial Estate Road Group	Attended joint public/ traders/ KCC/TWBC plus Greg Clark MP to lobby for traffic changes. Met 4 times.
Invited Mayor and Deputy Mayor to Sherwood events	Escorted during Royal Wedding, Carnival, Christmas Fete and Mayor's Christmas Appeal.
Attended Mayor's Events	Battle of Britain Service (18/9/11), Remembrance Day (11/11/11) & Sunday, Mayor's Quiz (Jan 2012) and Holocaust Memorial Service (27/1/12)

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 25 May 2011 to end of April 2012 which have supported you in your duties as a councillor. Please check this with your own records and contact Wendy Newton-May, Democratic Services, if you have any queries.

Details of event	Date attended
Members' Briefing	19 May 2011
Member Induction	20 May 2011
1-1 IT coaching	2 June 2011
Licensing training	15 June 2011
Members' Briefing: Local Policing	22 June 2011
Short Bite: Overview of National Planning Policy	24 August 2011
Food Hygiene	12 September 2011
Members' Briefing: Sherwood Vision	15 September 2011
Short Bite: Design Review	14 September 2011
Members' Briefing: Ice Rink, Universal Credits	19 October 2011
Short Bite: Public Access	26 October 2011
Short Bite: Trees	16 November 2011
Members' Briefing: Calling Planning Applications	17 November 2011
Members' Briefing: Love Where we Live/2012	14 December 2011
Members' Briefing: Core Strategy Review	17 January 2012
CCTV visit	31 January 2012
Social Media training	1 February 2012
Short Bite: Conservation Areas	7 March 2012
Members' Briefing: Empty Properties in the Borough	25 April 2012

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 have attended a food hygiene course by TWBC. I should like to attend a First aiders course.

A day spent shadowing a department, like housing, would be beneficial.

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 frequency of attendance
All Conservative Group Meetings	Member; 12
Led Members' briefing on Empty Homes in TW	25/4/12
Attended Annual Conservative Party Conference at Manchester. Spoke about ASB in Social Housing and Empty Homes.	1 st to 6 th October 2011.
Attended Tour of new Paddock Wood Ambulance HQ	13/12/11
Attended all pre-Western Planning short bite updates on planning	May 2011 to April 2012.

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 assist in Graduate Recruitment at Christ Church University, Canterbury. I also am a part – time lecturer for their Social & Mental Health teams.

I am a resident representative of MOAT Social Housing at Dartford. I help on the service charges for residents' panel, Mystery Shopper for their repairs team and report on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). I have sent a report and other submissions to Grant Shapps MP, Minister for Housing; this was during a policy formulation exercise and they were seeking case studies and outcomes.

I am actively involved with the residents adjacent to the new Skinners Kent Academy (SKA). They have a Local Community Group (LCG) for Sandown Park & Blackhurst Lane residents. I attend meetings with them and at the SKA open days. This has helped relieve tensions between residents and the building project.

I have become a member of the SHERWOOD PILOT Government Scheme to re-direct Stakeholders within the ward to improve outcomes of intervention. E.G.: to reduce endemic unemployment, improve health and lower rates of ASB/criminality. We are the only scheme in the S-E and one of 12 in the whole of the UK. This body should have national interest as the Coalition Government seeks to get better value for money out of large national spends.

Date completed: 16th May 2012.