

Councillors' Report to Spotland and Falinge Area Forum

16 November 2017

Cecile Biant

Your three Councillors have been working hard since the last Spotland and Falinge Area Forum meeting, although Surinder and I did have a week away to celebrate our golden wedding anniversary (50 years!) in September.

I have been continuing to attend the meetings listed in my last report. In addition, I attended a Cabinet meeting and Planning and Licensing meeting to represent our ward, a briefing on Health and Social Care, Medical Professionals Community Support Organisation, two Prince's Trust events, six meetings relating to the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum, two meetings of the Board of Vintageworx, and a Clinical Commissioning group meeting. I have attended a session of 'Reclaim', an organisation which encourages confidence and enterprise for young people, and a Groundwork presentation by young volunteers on work they had done at the Scout Hut at Spotland Bridge.

I attended two meetings of the Greater Manchester Economy, Business growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee where I was able to raise issues on behalf of Rochdale Council and questioned Andy Burnham on aspects of his priorities for devolved funding, putting the case for Rochdale. Both meetings were televised.

I have been in discussions on the re-roofing of Meanwood School which will cost £200k to complete, with Highways on various schemes, and have dealt with about 200 requests from individuals and organisations. Surinder and I attended the first meeting of Spotland and Falinge in Bloom Group. It was a successful meeting which augers well for our increased contributions and involvement with the Rochdale In Bloom offer next year. Rochdale did outstandingly well, winning a large proportion of the awards for the Region.

Surinder Biant

As well as my involvement in some events mentioned by Cecile, I have dealt with several more items of 'casework'. As Chair of the Norman Barnes Group, I have overseen grants made to needy older people. I have also researched Planning and Licensing issues in relation to applications. I shall be 80 in January, so shall be stepping down from being a Councillor from May next year. I want to thank all those people who have supported me over 9 years I have been a Councillor, in Healey and in Spotland and Falinge. It has been a privilege to serve the community I have lived in for about 45 years, and the Town I made my home nearly 48 years ago. However, I am still 'in business' until May! We are looking for ideas for capital projects in the ward, and welcome suggestions if they fit the funding criteria.

I am sure that most people will be very relieved following the results of the air sampling activity around the TBA site. The results of the intrusive survey when they are released may well be a different story.

Wendy Cocks

Following on from successes in the Rochdale In Bloom competition and the efforts of some committed folk, I have worked with them to expand community involvement across the ward for next year. As a representative on an RBH board, I have held discussions around Independent Living and support services and the plans for Lower Falinge and College bank flats, which may have an impact on our ward. As a member of the Ambition for Ageing Strategic Board, I have been working with partners to tackle social isolation for older people. As a member of the Community and Engagement and Clean and Green sub groups of the Rochdale Township, I am looking for more suggestions from local groups for projects in the ward.

Some examples of the kind of casework I have been doing since the last meeting include dropped kerbs issues, hate crime, trees and footpaths, and vulnerable adults and housing.