

## **Councillor Annual Report 2022** Councillor Kevin Clarke, Clifton East

### **Introduction**

I was first elected in May 2019, and what a busy first term it's been, working hard for Clifton East with my fellow Councillors.

It's an absolute privilege to represent the ward that we all love, and we hope we're doing a good job representing the citizens of Clifton East. It is our number one priority to put the views and opinions of our residents to the Council, something that we all feel hadn't happened enough in the past. We are back to holding regular advice surgeries on the first Saturday of each month giving residents the opportunity to see their councillors face to face and discuss any problems or concerns they may have.

I also currently sit as the leader of the official opposition within Nottingham City Council, a role that allows us to scrutinise the majority Group, and to ensure Nottingham is led by a Council the people deserve.

### **Council Involvement**

- Group Leader of the Independent Group and Leader of the Opposition.
- Attendee at the Executive Board.
- Member of the Planning Committee.
- Member of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee.

### **Community Involvement**

- Member of the Clifton Community Centre Management Committee.
- Member of the Clifton Green Team litter picking group.

### **Ward Work and Achievements**

We have been heavily involved in the installation of new projects in the ward, including planning applications, the new road layout scheme on Green Lane, the new school crossing in Glapton Lane and the resident's parking scheme for Swansdown Drive that are all now up and running adding greater safety for local residents.

We also got involved with the development of the new Kieron Hill complex on the site of the old garages for the high-rise flats at Southchurch Court complex which will open later this year.

We had made it a priority of the group to preserve Clifton's last remaining adult day centre Summerwood day centre. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the day centre was closed.

Due to Covid-19, ward walks had been suspended but we very quickly got them going again as soon as it was possible to do so safely. They are valuable in highlighting neglected areas and parts of Clifton that needed attention.

We meet with residents to talk through their concerns and try to rectify any issues as quickly as possible. We also worked closely with the local police and CPOs in identifying sources of anti-social behaviour and drug paraphernalia.

We undertook the mammoth task of planting 30,000 bulbs in Clifton Flower park to make it a beautiful place for residents to visit and we are now seeing the fruits of our labour with a massive show of autumn flowers throughout the park this year.

New benches are also on our purchase agenda and we hope to get them installed very shortly.

We managed to secure the Jubilee Beacon site within the park and the event was a massive success on the night of the event with hundreds of residents attending.

We also had the original Clifton Community Notice Board repaired, cleaned up and returned to its original place outside Clifton Library and with the installation of three new flower bins the whole area looks so refreshing.

We have worked closely with our Neighbourhood operations manager to try and help ease the issues of overgrown vegetation and fly tipping. We went out to cut long grassed areas and to tackle weeds to ease the pressure on our cleansing teams during periods of staff shortages and high demand a process we have continued even after the Covid restrictions ended.

We have taken part in the Haf project this year providing meals at sporting events laid on by step out stay out in cooperation with the meadows trust. We believe it is a vital part of our role to help end child poverty in Nottingham.

### **Use of Devolved Budgets**

- Green Lane resurfacing Phase One and Two.
- Clifton Flower Park rejuvenation.
- Christmas lighting along Green Lane.
- Installing a new memorial bin.
- Added extra car parking spaces to the future residential development on Southchurch Drive.
- School Street Project.
- Entertainment for a socially distanced Christmas Carnival.
- Resurfacing of a large section of Summerwood Lane
- Funding secured for the garden redevelopment at Holbrook Court.

### **Challenges**

We hope to play a much bigger part in next year's budget, we aim to make sure the Council is much more prudent with its finances going forward and challenging any rate rises.

We want to champion more social housing being built in our ward, to help get as many people off the waiting list as possible and to make sure Clifton gets a fair proportion of the funding for this.

We will continue to work closely with the police, CPOs and with Neighbourhood Operations to ensure Clifton is a safe and vibrant place to live.