



Councillor Habib Rehman

University Ward

2007/2008

Annual Report

COUNCILLOR HABIB REHMAN
UNIVERSITY WARD

INTRODUCTION:

I am one of two Ward Councillors representing University Ward elected on May 2007, and this is my first annual report. As a local Ward Councillor living within University Ward, I am accessible and available to all residents, so please contact me if you think I may be able to help. I have represented a large number of constituents on many different issues and dealt with a huge variety of casework. I have been able to build and support the networking of community groups across the ward. My priorities are to continue to serve my constituents in an effective way, working relentlessly and efficiently with my ward colleague, and to speak up on issues of importance to local people both inside the council and outside.

KEY ISSUES FACING UNIVERSITY WARD IN 2007/2008:

The following list has been compiled after talking and listening to local residents. The list provides a very basic snapshot of some of the important issues and challenges facing the ward and should help the Council identify and prioritise some of the key issues which are reflected and form the basis of thinking behind the development of my Key Aims:

1. Road safety, residents street parking and football match traffic congestion problems. Some residents feel the Council has been slow in realizing the nature and severity of the problem and responding to the catastrophic pressures placed upon the ward.
2. Litter, rubbish, junk and state of cleanliness of streets & back alleys
3. Condition and state of roads, Pot holes, broken pavements & damaged kerb
4. Facelift and improvement works to properties
5. Dog fouling, rats/vermin and pests creating health hazard
6. Community cohesion & integration of transient residents
7. Lack of youth facilities & activities
8. Inadequate & poor community development work & networking of resident meetings
9. Rapid disintegration of established community due to some residents moving out
10. Impact of regeneration & demolition plans on University Ward

KEY AIMS FOR 2007/2008 AND REVIEW OF PROGRESS:

1. Be visible, available and accessible to residents:

This has been achieved primarily through the production and distribution of leaflets and newsletters, walking patrols and surgeries.

2. To lobby the council for the introduction of residents parking scheme:

Actively pursuing this issue within the council to ensure it receives top priority. Currently awaiting results of capital funding programme. In the meantime providing the necessary feedback and practical support to those residents severely affected and suffering from this problem.

3. To reduce amount of litter and improve cleanliness within the ward:

Helped to introduce new communal wheelie bins in back alleys and undertake regular quarterly inspections of the ward with senior members of Streetscene.

4. To reduce the number of potholes and improve road safety:

Work is currently being undertaken to deal with this matter.

5. To work with residents, the Police and the other agencies to deal firmly with anti-social behaviour:

This has been achieved by arranging to hold joint patrols and surgeries with various agencies like the Neighbourhood Police, PCSOs, Street Wardens and local residents. This strategy has proved particularly successful during summer holidays of 2007 when we had to put this multi-agency partnership to the test.

6. To hold regular ward and street surgeries in order to consult with residents:

Regular ward surgeries are held at Breckon Hill Community Centre, Lothian Road Day Centre, Jamia Mosque Waterloo Road and The Little House, 96 Park Lane. In addition regular walkabouts and patrols are also undertaken.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2007/2008:

A. Hanging Basket Workshop

I am very pleased to be able to report that following several requests made by residents that University ward had been neglected and left out of the scheduled summer flower workshops. I have been able to arrange this workshop which has proved to be a tremendous success and has been filmed by Tyne-Tees Television.

B. Residents On Patrol

I have been immensely privileged to be part of a small dedicated team of local residents patrolling our streets and alleys alongside RSVP and Neighbourhood Community Safety Officers. The volunteers sacrifice their personal comfort and benevolently put the interests of the local community above all other considerations and patrol the streets & alleys.

C. Whatever It Takes – Fire Safety Campaign

During the year I have successfully collaborated with Cleveland Fire Brigade in raising awareness and encouraging residents to make use of free home fire safety checks and where necessary fit smoke alarms within the home.

D. “Walk For Justice” - Campaign March

In September 2007 I joined hundreds of ordinary residents, some disabled and senior citizens and from all walks of life and from all over the North in a “Walk for Justice” for the families of victims which was led by the Mayor.

E. Opening Of The Revitalised Saltwells Park

On 11th August 2007 I took part in the opening ceremony of the revitalised Saltwells Park, which was officially re-launched with fun events and activities for the whole family.

F. Shoot Volleyball Tournament At Clairville Stadium – Men’s Health Project

In June 2007 along with my other ward colleague, I was invited to handout trophies to the participants and winners of shoot volleyball tournament which consisted of four teams from Middlesbrough, Stockton and Bradford. The shoot volleyball tournament is a sub-continent variation of volleyball. An information stand about Men’s Health Project was also available for the public on the day.

G. Cleveland Police Independent Advisory Group Conference 2007

I attended The Cleveland Police IAG Conference which brought together 71 delegates representing IAGs, forces, Police Authority and partner agencies across the Cleveland area and the North East of England.

PARTICIPATION AT COUNCIL, PANELS, COMMITTEES ETC:

In 2007-2008 I was a member of and attended:

MEETINGS		ATTENDANCE
1	Full Council	88%
2	Corporate Affairs Committee	57%
3	Licensing Committee	31%
4	Older Persons Partnership Board	6%
5	Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel	86%
6	Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel	92%

PARTICIPATION AT COMMUNITY COUNCIL, OUTSIDE BODIES, AND OTHER:

During 2007-2008 I was a member of the following outside bodies:

- Middlesbrough Citizens Advice Bureau
- Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency
- Chemoxy Community Liaison Panel
- Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group
- Breckon Hill Primary School Governor
- Ward Surgeries

WORK IN THE WARD AND IN THE TOWN:

Ward Surgeries are held regularly in partnership with my ward colleague. These are held: 1st & 3rd Friday of the Month at Jamia Mosque, 133a Waterloo Road; 1st Saturday of the Month at The Little House, 96 Park Lane; 2nd Saturday of the Month Breckon Hill Community Centre, Breckon Hill Road; 4th Friday of the Month Lothian Road Day Centre, 90-92 Lothian Road. No appointment is necessary and everyone is welcome to attend.

The following list is a summary of some important issues within University Ward I have been actively involved in:

1. Road safety and residents parking campaign
2. Residents on Patrol
3. Ward inspections with members of Streetscene
4. Joint ward surgeries with Police
5. Campaign work with Cleveland Fire Brigade
6. Liaise with Street Wardens
7. Liaise with PALS Service, PCT and NHS
8. Liaise with Teesside University and Housing Associations
9. Establishing a University Ward Residents Association
10. Undertake research into the work of Community Councils and issues facing University Ward
11. Production and distribution of leaflets and newsletters
12. Joining a team of delegates to visit Consular General of Pakistan in Bradford and attending a reciprocation event within University Ward

For a more detailed breakdown of the nature of enquiries and issues dealt with in 2007/2008 please see attached records of my One Stop Shop case statistical sheet/s.

1	2	3	4	5
Residents parking & match day traffic congestion problem	Litter/junk back alley street cleanliness	Dog fouling & Rats/vermin pests	Pot holes & road safety	Face-lifting & improvement works

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN:

In 2007-2008 I have attended a number of seminars and events held within the Council and hope to continue to participate further in as many as possible.

KEY AIMS 2008-2009:

1. Be visible, available and accessible to all residents of University Ward
2. To continue to effectively deal with all enquiries from constituents
3. To continue to lobby the Council until such time the residents parking problem has been satisfactorily resolved
4. To continue to work for a reduction in the amount of litter and improve cleanliness within the ward
5. To continue to work for a reduction in the number of potholes and improve road safety within the ward
6. To push for the resumption of Facelift and Improvement works within the ward
7. To continue to work with residents, the Police, Street Wards and the other agencies to deal firmly with anti-social behaviour
8. To continue to hold regular ward and street surgeries in order to consult with residents
9. To focus on neighbourhood regeneration and community development work by working with and supporting community groups, resident associations and councils within University Ward and to bring inward funding.
10. To continue to produce leaflets and newsletters and website

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone, especially the staff and officers for helping me to fulfil my role as a councillor. I would also like to thank all the residents of University Ward who got in touch by telephone, post and email. Especially those who are joining & participating in the various discussions and debates through the internet, ward surgeries, residents meetings and patrols, and keeping me informed and updated with key issues concerning them and the ward.

Councillor Habib Rehman
University Ward
July 2008