

Annual Report – Special Responsibilities

(Under the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Members' Allowances, certain councillors who perform significant responsibilities over and above those of other councillors, are entitled to receive additional allowances to recognise those extra responsibilities. The Scheme requires councillors in receipt of such allowances to report on their actions. This report is published on the Council's website).

Report for period: 2015/16

Name: Ian Boulton

Position held: Labour Lead Member, Communities Committee.....

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Develop and lead on Labour Group policy. Scrutinise and hold the ruling group to account for their policies and outcomes. Provide input into council policies relating to the wide subject area covered by the committee. I ensure the Labour Group is fully engaged by attending Agenda Briefings, the Communities Committee and Full Council meetings.

The Lead members now under the Committee System share some responsibility for producing the agenda but also have to ensure that the committee reviews and comments on subjects under the remit of the Communities Committee's role and responsibilities.

I ensure that the Labour group have a high profile within the Communities Committee by actively participating in Committee meetings.

I ensure information is fed back to the Labour group for discussion.

My two Labour colleagues on the team are fully briefed and contributed to our policy positions. I also send press statements and I am the point of contact for the Labour Group on Communities Committee for the public when they raise concerns.

I attend the Safer and Stronger Strategic Partnership Meetings, Joint Parish Forum meetings, Armed Forces Day, the Engage Community Festival Steering Group (and volunteered at the Festival as well). I attended the Annual Sports Award event and I'm an active member of the Friends of Page Park Group who I also comperre the annual summer festival for.

I am also the Council's representative on the Staple Hill Regeneration Partnership which I Chair.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

I have campaigned to protect the Priority Neighbourhoods initiative which supports the most vulnerable wards in South Gloucestershire. I opposed the plans to remove Filton from the list of priority neighbourhoods in order to give the community time to consolidate their position.

The number of crimes has continued to rise in South Gloucestershire and I have worked to highlight this. I have been on 2 ride-a longs with the police in order to better understand the unprecedented pressures they are working under. I have brought the lessons I have learned from these experiences into the Council debates.

I have continued to oppose the ruling groups drive to reduce green bin charges at the expense of other valued services. I have been working with Library user groups across South Gloucestershire to highlight the importance of our library service.

I am an active member of the Friends of Page Park. While we were unable to secure funding for the new pavilion we have secured over £2million of funding to improve the rest of the park and I am now on the steering group of this exciting 3 year project.

I actively use social media to publicise our work. I currently have at least over 100,000 twitter impressions per month with over 2000 followers.

What “added value” to the local community have you been able to achieve through your special responsibilities?

Scrutiny of the ruling group policies and outcomes. Publicising community campaigns, events and activities. Active membership of the Friends of Page Park, attending a wide range of community groups and events.

How have your special responsibilities enabled the Council to be more effective?

Allows me the time to hold the ruling group to account and provide an alternative voice to residents who do not feel that the ruling group support their needs.

In what ways has the exercise of your special responsibilities supported the core objectives of the Council?

I hope that by scrutinising and holding the ruling group to account we make South Gloucestershire a better place to live and work.