

Cllr. Mrs Jackie Pell – BDC report to the Annual Town Meeting
Monday 15th April, 2019

I have attended all full Council meetings apart from one when I was on holiday. At these meeting I constantly bring up Highways matters like the Halstead Bypass, upgrading of the A131 and Marks Farm roundabout as well as other issues.

Most meetings of BDC are webcast.

I have a seat at the Cabinet table as Leader of Halstead Residents' Association and am allowed to speak and take part in the debate but have no vote. This is courtesy of the Leader of the Council and I thank him for this privilege. This is unique to BDC as it doesn't happen in other Districts.

I have continued to work on the tourism strategy that I chaired as a task and finish group and a tourism document/strategy now exists.

I have this year served on a task and finish group looking into social isolation and loneliness within the district and this is a huge problem for those who endure it. Their report has just been accepted and some action beginning to take effect.

I am a member of the Licensing Committee along with Cllr. Mrs Allen. We try to ensure that the public are deemed to be safe in private hire and hackney carriages. Rigorous tests on drivers and vehicles are carried out as well as health checks. We also licence premises, and licence holders to ensure a safe environment and with a 'fit and proper' person in charge.

I am part of the Governance Committee that meets quarterly looking at the Council's finance arrangements, risk factors, investments, Auditors reports and status of performance.

I am part of the Member Development Group that looks at Member training and development as well as core skills. Members MUST attend so many training events per year.

I am part of the scrutiny steering board that meets as and when required.

I am one of three people who make up the Standards Board.

I have been part of the Developing Democracy Group that has been looking at Parish Boundaries. The consultation earlier this year has now concluded for Halstead and we have been successful in moving the Oak Road development into both the parish of Halstead and district of Trinity. We also included one property at the top of Tidings Hill at the request of the owner of that property. At the other end of town we have included the Halstead Cricket Ground and new public open space into Halstead

I sit on the Community Governance Review

I have attended planning meetings from time to time adding weight to the recommendation that HTC have made to refuse certain planning applications.

I have this year spent my Councillor Grant on two projects. The first was £500 to Halstead in Bloom for new planters. This was also supported by other Councillors. The second was for £1,000 to the newly formed Holy Trinity Church project to bring the Church into more use for the Town's inhabitants for a compostable toilet.

I am BDC's representative on the Friends of Halstead Public Gardens and serve as its Chairman. We try to promote use of the gardens and run The successful May day event that is taking place again this year.

We were also pleased to be voted the best medium sized park in Anglia in Bloom.

I also serve on the newly formed Housing Development Company and am looking forward to this work as this is where I started my journey 32 years ago in housing people. This has been a bit slow of the ground as we have had to find the correct qualified staff to do this.

I continue to assist members of the public and various groups and associations with help and advice on all aspects of Council work. This year I have given lots of advice or informed residents where to go to get advice on planning matters without prejudicing my position by pre-determination. Also taking up breaches of Planning conditions or approval particularly with regard to Oak Road.

If anybody has any questions on my work please make contact with me.

Thank you for listening.

Jackie Pell