

**Name:** Cllr Kath Pinnock **Year first Elected:** 1987 and re-elected again in 2012

**Ward:** Cleckheaton

### **Introduction**

I continue to enjoy the privilege of being one of the 3 elected Liberal Democrat councillors for the Cleckheaton ward. As part of the councillor team, I am committed to doing my best to stand up for local people and the town so that we get a fair share of Kirklees Council services.

### **Council Meetings Attended:**

I have attended all meetings of Full Council. I attended meetings of the Personnel Committee; Budget Implementation Group; Corporate Audit & Governance Committee; Kirklees Health & Well Being Board; Child Sexual Exploitation Panel; Spen Valley Area Committee which was replaced by a Batley & Spen District Committee; Oakenshaw Forum; Spen Valley Neighbourhood Management Group; Spen Valley Housing Forum; North Kirklees Countryside Forum until its end.

### **Participation on Outside Bodies:**

- In August 2014, I was given the great honour of being appointed to the House of Lords as a Life
- Peer. This has given me a wonderful opportunity of raising issues affecting local people in Parliament. I have spoken about the Government's plans to create a new "council" for West Yorkshire possibly with an elected Mayor. I have spoken extensively about the proposals for more free child care and asked questions about policing and dementia care.
- I continued to be Chair of Governors at Whitcliffe Mount School until September 2014. I have been closely involved with the planning for a new school building on the site. The school continues to provide very good outcomes for all students and it is very rewarding to be able to contribute to such a successful school which has served the local community for over 100 years.
- I Chaired the Cleckheaton First Community Trust which decided on applications to the Community First Fund. Cleckheaton Ward had around £7,000 for 3 years for local groups who wanted to improve local amenities or services to the community. This funding and the Community Trust ended in April.
- I am a trustee at the Scholes Village Shelter which has continued to improve the facilities and is attracting increasing number of users to this local community hall.
- I attend local Tenants and Residents Association meetings to support and provide help and advice on local housing matters.

- I support the Friends of Scholes Rec which is doing fabulous work in renovating this Council owned facility.

#### **Ward Work and Achievements:**

- The Cleckheaton Ward Liberal Democrat team **keeps residents informed and involved all the year round**. We produce and deliver a **FOCUS** news and campaigning leaflet which we deliver to the 8,000 homes in our ward at least 5 times during the year.
- I use **Twitter and Facebook** to advertise local events, record some of the activities undertaken and comment on some political decisions of local and national importance. You can follow me on Twitter @kathpinnock and I use #Cleckheaton for local issues and events. My Facebook page is at Cllr Kath Pinnock. I have a blog at [www.kathpinnock.org.uk](http://www.kathpinnock.org.uk) which I have used to let residents know what is happening locally.

#### **With my colleagues, I have campaigned on several major issues affecting local people which are a consequence of the significant reductions by Government in funding for local government:**

- **Cleckheaton Library:** all three Cleckheaton councillors, led by Cllr Andrew Pinnock, have campaigned very hard to protect Cleckheaton Library and keep it in its current building. Labour announced that their initial plan to retain only two libraries, at Huddersfield and Dewsbury. This was totally unacceptable to us and the 4,000 local people and 250 children who signed petitions to save Cleckheaton Library. The latest data shows that Cleckheaton Library is the second best used library in Kirklees and the case is very well made to keep this flourishing library serving our community.
- In another blow to local people, the Council has adamantly refused to replace the **Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre**. The current building is being demolished in order for a new school building to be constructed on the site while the school remains fully working in the existing building. The new school build will have a single sports hall for school use, and community use after school hours. However, this is a big reduction on what is there, and very well used, at the moment. We have argued and campaigned for a second sports hall to be built at the same time as the school building. This suggestion has the agreement of the school, the builders, and the local community but, sadly, the Council has, so far, failed to agree.
- Our **Save Spen Pool** campaign was organised and led by Ward colleagues Cllr John Lawson and Cllr Andrew Pinnock, and with Spen Valley Liberal Democrats including Richard Farnhill. Spenborough Pool was opened in 1969 and is built of concrete and is coming to the end of its life due to the quality of concrete used at the time. The Pool is

on the Council's risk register. There is an estimated need for between £8 million and £10 million to replace the pool with a modern facility. Over 4,500 people signed the petition which was submitted to the Council in July 2013. The Liberal Democrats followed this up by proposing that £4.8m be set aside in the Council's capital plan to fund a replacement. This was successful and forced the Labour-run Council to make additional funding available so that a new Pool can be built.

- I have continued to work closely with the local **Chamber of Trade** to get improvements to our town. The Chamber are very active and have done a huge amount to promote our town. So it was great to be able to allocate funding to the Chamber for flower barrels which the Chamber then planted. The result is a fantastic flower display.
- **Westgate** derelict site was cleared in 2012 and a planning application approved for 217 housing units. However, the manufacturing business in the centre of the site has to be re-located before development can start. There have been protracted negotiations about this but so far no solution.
- **Tesco** announced in 2012 that they were not going ahead with the building of a new store for Cleckheaton. Obviously that left derelict buildings in Tesco's ownership on the site off Serpentine Road. As ward councillors we had a meeting with senior Tesco property managers along with an officer from the Council and the Chamber of Trade. We were unanimous in asking the Tesco representatives to get their site cleared and developed. Since then the derelict mills have been demolished and the site secured. The site is on the market for over £2m. My hope is for an early development on the site for houses and some retail which may then become a spur for the development of the other town centre derelict site off Horncastle Street;
- I have continued to help the **Scholes Village Shelter** and **Wobbly Tots** to improve their facilities;
- With my ward colleagues we have prioritised the re-surfacing of **Wyke Lane in Oakenshaw** which was in a poor state and identified by council officers as being one of the worst road surfaces in our ward. The work has been done and is a big improvement;
- The lack of gulleys on part of **Bradford Road in Oakenshaw** has been a constant problem Work has been done to improve the problem of standing water in wet weather but has not resolved it;
- In **Hunsworth** large parts the Recreation Ground were permanently flooded and unusable. We worked with the Council to have new land drains installed. We have then worked with residents in Hunsworth to set up a Friends of Hunsworth Rec to get further improvements. We have held initial and enthusiastic meetings;

- **Friends of Scholes Rec:** plans for a major improvement to the Rec. Were agreed by the village. We have worked with the Friends to plant over 100 new trees and work will be starting soon to create a path around the whole site.
- I have continued to campaign with local residents against the plans by **Redrow** to build houses on virgin green fields round Lower Blacup farm which is one of the oldest buildings in Cleckheaton dating back to the early 16th century. All three ward councillors attended the planning appeal to make the case for residents. Unfortunately, the Planning Inspector has given Redrow permission to build. We will remain vigilant on this issue.
- with my ward colleagues I have ensured that we tackle **speeding traffic** in Oakenshaw and Moorside / Moorbottom, Rawfolds, and Hunsworth Lane by the use of a Speed Indicator Device;
- **Mann Dam and the viaduct** – with ward colleagues and the area committee we are pursuing an aim of creating a countryside park and restoration of the viaduct. As a small part of the project, a community artist was commissioned to engage with interested local people. The artist did so and has then created a leaf trail round town and leading to Mann Dam;
- I have helped hundreds of local residents over the last year.

**This is just a snap shot of the work Cleckheaton Ward Liberal Democrat councillors have done over the past year. Please get in contact if you would like more information.**

#### **Surgeries:**

Cleckheaton Ward councillors hold drop-in surgeries at the Town Hall and Scholes Church Hall every Saturday morning; at Oakenshaw Church Hall once a month.

It is always good to meet residents of Cleckheaton and other wards who come seeking advice and support. We are always pleased to be of help.

#### **Contact me:**

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