



Councillor Howard Sykes MBE - Annual Report of Activities 2017- 18

I have been a Liberal Democrat Councillor representing the Shaw Ward since May 1987 and currently also represent the South Ward of the Shaw and Crompton Parish Council; I was first elected to East Ward as a founding member of the Parish Council in March 1987.

In that time I have held many different roles and responsibilities as a Parish Councillor and also a Borough Councillor for Oldham Council.

Meetings and committees

- Vice Chair of Local Government Association (LGA)
- LGA Councillors Forum
- Leader of Local Government Association Liberal Democrat Group
- Chair – A V Davies Charity
- Unity Partnership Ltd – Partnership Board
- Full Council Meetings
- Joint Leadership
- Group Leaders
- Board Member and Vice Chairman Oldham, Rochdale, Bury and Bolton Groundwork Trust
- Chair of Budget and Audit Oldham, Rochdale, Bury and Bolton Groundwork Trust
- Oldham Leadership Board
- Local Authority Representative Governor on Governing Body of St. Joseph's RC Primary School
- Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC)
- Transport for Greater Manchester Bus Network Committee and Transport for Greater Manchester Services
- Transport for Greater Manchester Capital Projects and Policy Committee

- Shadow Leader – Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) and the Combined Authority for Greater Manchester
- Member of Shaw & Crompton Parish Council
- Member of Chair of Shaw & Crompton Parish Council – Staffing and Pay Committee
- Vice Chair of Shaw & Crompton Parish Council – Environment Committee

Participation at Parish level

- Shaw and Crompton Community Forum
- Shaw and Crompton District Executive
- Get Shaw and Crompton working
- Crompton Moor Users Group
- Shaw Town Centre Grants
- Residential parking issues
- Land maintenance issues for private, non-Council and Local Authority owned areas
- First Choice Homes Oldham property and tenancy issues
- Guinness Northern Counties property and tenancy issues
- Great Places property and tenancy issues
- Milnrow Road crossing on-going concerns for local businesses, contractors, residents
- Tipping and litter – domestic and commercial
- Supporting residents with planning applications
- Refuse collections and refuse bins
- Fraser Street/ Rochdale Road/ Chamber Road junction
- Requests for Disabled Parking Bays
- Support with Planning Applications
- Issues with blocked drains

Representing residents

Shaw and Crompton Park and Ride - Metrolink

Now that the Metrolink is fully operational through Shaw to Rochdale I continue to campaign for more trams/ double trams at peak times and more retail facilities at Manchester Victoria Station. I have also questioned litter and parking issues at tram stations in Shaw.

Asda Planning Applications – Shaw

Asda submitted an application for 24/7 deliveries and following meetings with Councillors and residents, the application was withdrawn. Asda have now applied to add a petrol station to the store, which has been refused but they have now appealed. I am now dealing with the Planning Department regarding a ramp which ASDA have installed without prior planning permission.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

There are plans to build on Shaw and Crompton's greenbelt which will have a massive impact on the area and its community in terms of school places, traffic, doctors etc and I am pursuing this to highlight the need to use pre-existing empty homes and mills before taking away any more of our greenbelt which I have raised in Full Council on a number of occasions and have also raised with the Mayor of Greater Manchester via letter.

Bus Services and transport

I continually receive queries and complaints regarding changes to bus services with which I work with Transport for Greater Manchester to resolve and most recently a request for bus shelters on Eastway.

Ongoing contact with Yodel/ Shop Direct to in regards to congestion on Beal Lane during the Christmas period and at other times.

Community Concerns

I continue to work closely with residents and agencies relating to matters that impact on the local community such as speeding hotspots and vandalism, and I continue to pursue actions that can be taken to address and resolve these issues.

Flood Management

I continue to work with local residents and a variety of agencies for a resolution to on-going flooding problems, primarily in the areas of:

- Dunwood Park
- Grains Road
- Beal Lane

Anti-Social Behaviour

I continue to work closely with our local Police, the District Partnership, Parish Council, residents and businesses of Shaw to resolve these problems of anti-social behaviour in Shaw. Initiatives that I have pushed for to reduce anti-social behaviour from Shaw town centre had seen significant reduction in reported ASB cases, and work continues and is on-going to reduce them further. Extra Youth provision has been funded locally.

New and Improved Lighting

I have also been actively pursuing the improved lighting works at George Street Playing Fields. Work has at long last been completed and made a huge improvement to the area.

Crompton Moor

As Chair of the Crompton Moor Users Group and in my role as Ward Councillor, I meet regularly with the group, working closely for this area of countryside that within our community remains very important. I continue to ensure that this area is maintained and safe to use by all.

This work is only possible due to the great work the Friends of Crompton Moor do and undertake. All users of this area owe them a very real debt of gratitude for their efforts. I also work with the Volunteer Rangers for Crompton Moor who also do a lot of sterling work improving the Moor for all to enjoy.

In the past twelve months, issues dealt with include:

- Dog fouling
- Public Space Protection Order has been drafted for the Moor
- Crompton Hall – upkeep
- Litter
- Illegal fly-tipping issues
- Vagrant/rough Sleepers
- Encouragement of joint ventures with uniformed organisations for planned events
- Application for funding bid
- Tree planting
- Boundary fencing and maintenance of stone walling
- Identification of drainage issues
- Disruption caused by quads and motorbikes
- Use of cross bows/ bow and arrows
- Illegal hunting

Participation on outside bodies and partnerships

- Board Member and Vice Chair Oldham and Rochdale, Bolton and Bury Groundwork Trust
- Chair of Budget and Audit – Oldham and Rochdale, Bolton and Bury Groundwork Trust

- Local Authority Representative Governor on Governing Body at St Joseph's RC Primary School
- St Joseph's RC Primary School Finance Sub Committee
- Leader of Liberal Democrat Group at Local Government Association
- Vice Chair of the Local Government Association
- Local Government Association Executive (General Assembly)

Ward work

- Family fun weekend and car rally
- St George's day
- Attended a variety of community group meetings and events and resident associations working with various community groups
- Regular ward surgeries
- Coffee mornings and social events
- Christmas event – including lights switch on

To find out more about my work in and around Shaw and on the Council



Web:

<http://howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk>

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Facebook: Councillor Howard Sykes

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Ward Surgeries (no appointment necessary) held every Thursday at Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre – 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

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