

**2014/2015** was my **12th year** representing Eynsford ward and was the last year of my third term on Breckland Council. One of my proudest boasts is that Breckland has achieved most of its promises made during the three election campaigns I have fought. I am also proud that I have done all that I personally promised on the doorstep in 2003/07/11.

I am pleased to have been elected to the newly formed Upper Wensum Ward this month, and look forward to serving for the next four years. The village now forms part of a two member ward and covers 15 villages in North East Breckland

Individuals who want to see the promises we have made for the next four years can just look at our manifesto and hold us to account in 2019.

In addition I have been proposed as Chairman of Breckland for the coming year and expect to be elected Chairman on 21st May.

**Breckland Council** has achieved for the people of Breckland a high standard of service, compared to other neighbouring local authorities whilst also achieving the lowest *District Council Tax* in the Country. This has been achieved by the sustained policy of investment and re-investment within the community and elsewhere to earn for us all, the shareholders (residents) in Breckland, a dividend which is the equivalent of the council tax charge. It should be noted that this is **UNIQUE** among all district councils in the country.

As a council we have achieved in the past year huge advances in areas of:-

**Environmental services** - with increased recycling and local clean-ups like sponsored litter picks in partnership with the villages and with commercial companies.

**Economic Development** - with Grants4Growth to the value of over £300,000 allowing the creation of at least 38 jobs and the protection of almost 200. In addition the REV ACTIVE projects have drawn in £3.2m and provided 400 SME's with one on one support creating or safeguarding an almost 200 additional jobs and a saving of £10m to SME's and adding an additional £8m GVA to the Breckland economy

**Areas of Finance** - with a balanced budget through to 2018 and a spend of £30m to suppliers contributing to the general economy. We have set aside funding pots for community projects which are available for your community to draw on in both

areas of **Match Funding** and **Pride** plus and often more important given advice and support. The Anglia Revenues Partnership is now one of the leading such organisations in the world and gives huge advantages to claimants whilst savings are made to tax payers and earnings for our communities

**Community Development** - promoting sport and activities, Switch and Save, small and large grants, pride in Breckland, cultural activities a huge list with much more coming. It is our policy to work with communities

**Community Safety** - 8.8% reduction in ASB's in the district, closer working with Police and the CAG, SNAP etc partnerships and many other initiatives

All of these within the district and provided from Breckland resources, officers and members working with you, the community. Fuller details can be supplied by email on request or can be gleaned from the Breckland website or other publicly available sources

**Personally** - During the last year I have been pleased to support the villages in the ward by attending parish meetings and events including around 90% of parish councils. I have represented the community at planning meetings and within cabinet and council to gain approval for cash grants and other support. I have attended a number of meetings with small local groups who have particular concerns and will always seek to do this. This does include groups of neighbours in their homes.

I have represented many individuals in areas such as planning or benefits, and in matters relating to County or Westminster, and following my recent re-election will continue to do so in the newly formed Upper Wensum Ward which we are all part of.

I have been at the centre of achieving better broadband for Norfolk and have supported Breckland in getting almost £2m investment in the district in addition to the County/Central government initiative.

I have been played a central part, with others, in the efforts to gain a safer link road between the A47 and A1067 and seeking a complete NDR which is now under investigation.

I have supported the efforts to dual the A47 which has now received funding with our MP and have met the last three transport minister's on site over the last few years to further this aim.

I have continued to support villages in the ward in funding applications from Breckland and elsewhere. This enables our communities to grow and prosper

During the year **2014 - 2015** I have attended a total of **218 meetings** solely on behalf of my Ward (Eynsford).

These have included:-

**105 meetings** within Breckland offices or outside but on direct council business. They will have included Council Meetings and Hearings. Briefings and one on one meetings with officers. Training sessions and meetings with other members on specific council affairs as related to my position within the council. I have also spent time shadowing officers working in 'Public Protection' to improve my understanding of their duties. (This does not include political meetings) **42** of the above were constituted public meetings of the council - **23** were committee's on which I am or was a member, and **19** were 'in attendance' which means I had a personal or ward interest in matters on the agenda. The remainder were briefings or similar. I have a 98% attendance record for the year

**54 meetings** in the 5 parishes of Bawdeswell, Bylaugh, Foxley, Lyng and Sparham. They will have included Parish Council meetings, Public meetings such as those on Broadband, Planning etc.

(They would not have included attendance at events or social occasions which make an additional 15/20 - such as Fete's etc)

**59 'Other' events.** These would have included attendance at ADA or IDB's on which I am a Breckland Representative. Meetings of SNAP or CAG, Participatory Budgeting and like duties taken on behalf of either Breckland Council or the Ward

Of these **8 were full day events** (or combinations making more than an eight hour day) including meetings in London, Gt Yarmouth and Norwich taking me outside the district

\*\*I am currently a member of - The Council, Cabinet, Licensing (chairman), Licensing Sub Committee (co-chairman), Parking Sub Committee, Norfolk Rivers IDB and the Breckland appointee on the EELGA Members Training Panel (this has

not met in 2014/5). During the year I have also been a member of the General Purposes Committee and a Substitute on the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, both of which ceased when appointed to Cabinet in October. I remain as chairman of Licensing. I am also Member E-Champion for Breckland.

During this year I have had no 'Declarations of Interest' to report.

All of the above is within the public domain in one form or another

Much of the above information can be verified on the Breckland District Council website from the homepage. Two clicks from 'Find Your Councillor' tab.

I am happy to provide a hard copy on request.

\*\* this will change with my appointment at Chairman.

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