

## **Sherborne St John APM 2016 Borough Council Report**

First, may I say thank you to all those who voted for me in the elections just 10 days ago. It is a great privilege to have been elected to serve the residents of these villages and I will do my best to ensure that we protect them in the years to come. Congratulations too, to all your Parish Councillors who were returned unopposed at the elections.

In the wider borough, the Conservative Group retained all seats and gained one from the independent in Bramley and Sherfield. The Labour Group gained two seats at the expense of independents in Brighton Hill South (formally a UKIP Councillor) and Whitchurch (formally a Liberal Democrat Councillor) giving the Conservatives 33 councillors out of 60 and overall control of the Council. Aside from any by-elections that may take place, this will likely be the composition for the next two years, as there are no Borough elections next year, just County Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your retiring Borough Councillor, John Leek. John has been a great help to me personally over these past few months, ensuring that I have been kept in the loop over a number of matters, not least planning. I hope that John will be able to spend some well-deserved time with his grandchildren after 16 years on the Borough Council, and 34 years on Wootton St Lawrence Parish Council.

Last Thursday, we had the 'Council Selection Meeting' where I was appointed to the 'Economic, Planning and Housing' Committee, which analyses future Council policy, the 'Scrutiny' Committee, which reviews past policy, and the 'Joint Manydown' Committee, which acts as landowner on behalf of Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. I am pleased with these appointments and will let you know how I progress.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month, we have an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, which will be deciding the fate of the Submission Local Plan. After the old plan expired in 2011, this is long overdue and, when approved - hopefully - will be the first line of defence against speculative development in our villages. Weight will then also be given to saved policies such as the 'Strategic Gap' policy which will help protect villages being swamped by the urban area. Further to this, Oakley and Deane will likely become the first parish to have a neighbourhood plan adopted by the Borough Council, I know that this Parish is working hard on their NP, and I hope to be able to help get this approved as soon as possible.

I hope to work with the Parish Councils in Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne and Wootton St Lawrence in order to improve our area in the years to come. We must protect our area from unsustainable development and ensure that we get the best possible deal from Manydown.

At the borough level, I hope to get involved with the plans to redevelop the Leisure Park and revitalise the Top of The Town.

If you need anything from me, my contact details are available on the Basingstoke and Deane website, or my email address is:  
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