

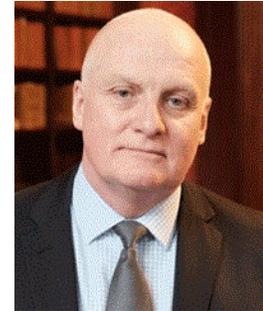
Bob Spencer
County Councillor for Codsall

Annual Report 8 February 2018 – 31 March 2018

Introduction

I was first elected as County Councillor for the Codsall division in February 2018.

My division lies in the north east of South Staffordshire and includes the wards of Bilbrook, Codsall North and Codsall South. and covers approximately 1800 hectares with a population of 12,259.



Committee Membership and Attendance Record

My committee membership and attendance record can be seen below:

Meeting title	Possible attendances	Actual attendances	Apols	Absent
County Council	1	1	0	0
Local Member Priority Meeting – South Staffordshire	1	1	0	0
Pensions Committee	0	0	0	0
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	0	0	0	0
Total	2	2	0	0
Percentage		100%	0%	0%

Member comments on committees/attendance record

It should be noted this report covers a little over a month since my election, hence why the meeting numbers are small. I am looking forward to playing a full and effective part in all committee's in the forthcoming year.

I was also appointed to represent the county council on the following outside bodies:

- South Staffs and Cambridge Water Customer Panel
- Wolverhampton Business Airport

- Staffordshire Joint Police and Crime Panel

Member comments on outside bodies

South Staffordshire and Cambridge Water Customer Panel is a very active group meeting every two months. Its remit is to hold the company to account for not only providing the highest quality drinking water but much more. It is currently preparing its annual report including comments around waste management, leaks, charging structures and importantly how it helps and supports people around their ability to pay.

Wolverhampton Business Airport committee is vital to facility and importantly how it manages the noise and inconvenience to local residents. Most meetings are virtual with one annual meeting with all the relevant parties. There have been no meetings within my first few weeks.

Staffordshire Joint Police and Crime Panel is of particular importance if we are to maintain our commitment to keeping the area a safe place to live, work and raise a family. Again, there have been no meetings within the first weeks of my election but increases in crime and disorder not only here but nationally will be high on the agenda within the forthcoming months. The Police have recently introduced their strategy for the service into the future and naturally this will also be scrutinised to ensure it delivers for communities. Further ahead, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire will be one of just a handful of authorities that will take on responsibility for Fire and Rescue services. Naturally there is a desire to streamline the administration functions of both organisations, freeing up much needed funding to invest in front line services. This is a significant new step forward for both organisations and this committee will be charged with ensuring neither lose their unique and proud identities while ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness are secured.

Divisional activities

In the short time since my election I have been extremely busy getting to know the area, people and importantly the problems that have the greatest impact upon people's lives. I have lived in the area for well over 20 years. My wife is a local nurse and both our children went to school here, so I feel I already have a good understanding of the issues. Unsurprisingly, the main concerns during this period relate to highways and the state of our local roads and footpaths. Potholes have been particularly high on the agenda with some being extremely dangerous. The problem has been made worse by the extended cold winter period and the very people we use to make repairs were working hard to clear snow and keep our main roads open. I was particularly pleased to hear that the County Council

had invested an additional £5m into highway repairs and we look forward to seeing the impact that has on bringing our roads back to a high standard of repair.

What unfortunately appears to be constantly increasing crime and antisocial behaviour, viewed against a backdrop of reducing police resources is another serious concern for residents. Again, I was pleased to see Staffordshire Police have recognised the concerns of local people and not only published their new policing strategy that focuses on communities but importantly reinforced their commitment to Neighbourhood Policing. The importance of this is further evident from their intention to make Chief Inspectors responsible for local areas. Naturally we await the outcome of these changes, however, I feel the police are aware of local concerns and are working hard to solve not only rising crime but also the factors that drive and facilitate it.

Perhaps the greatest annoyance and concern to local residents are issues of speeding at various locations around our villages and the ongoing nuisance of inconsiderate and at times antisocial parking around our schools and by commuters using one of our two train stations. These are not new problems and many attempts have been made previously to tackle them. Unfortunately, as we tackle one location another springs up. The fact that these are persistent problems is evidence that the causes are both extensive and complex. Therefore, if we are to find workable solutions they too need to be holistic and coordinated. I feel the solution will include better communication, some additional parking provision, and, where necessary, law enforcement. Codsall Parish Council has made great inroads into tackling this problem by introducing parking restrictions and later this year we will see the construction of a car park adjacent to Codsall Train Station.

Special activities

Just six weeks in, however, I intend to continue with my involvement with South Staffordshire's Safer Neighbourhoods Panel. This committee is designed to hold local policing providers to account. It meets regularly and is an ideal opportunity to discuss at length the changing crime picture around our area and importantly to explore new and innovative ways of improving safety. It is also my intention to create a task force of local people to take a fresh look at all highways and associated parking problems around our villages.

Councillor Development

- 21/03/2018 - Cyber Security offered by E-learning

Member comments on development

I would again point out this period represents a little over a month since my election.

Remuneration

My Allowances and Expenses

Basic allowance	£1,358.14
Total allowances cost	£1,358.14

My return mileage from home to County Buildings, where many meetings take place, is 32 miles.

Member comments on remuneration

I have claimed no expenses during this period.