

Councillor Connor J. Winter

St Marks Ward / September – October 2021 Update

The Big Survey 2021

Throughout, September and October I have been out delivering the Survey to residents who have needed a paper copy or who have not received one through their letterboxes. Along with Normans Bay resident Mr Dash, we managed to deliver a survey to every household in Normans Bay in just a few hours, whilst stopping to talk to a few local residents as well.

Also, I have been in contact with every Care Home in St Marks and engaged with some care home residents and staff regarding the survey. I have contacted a variety of different community groups and organisations to see if they have responded and to make sure their members are aware of the survey.

National Association of Local Councils

At the beginning, of September I was featured in the Official magazine of NALC as being one of the youngest councillors in England along with Cllr Michie and Cllr Davies.

Kennel Lane Activities

Cllr Fenner and I have been involved with Kennel Lane opposite the Royal British Legion in Little Common since being elected in May and in September along with a number of volunteers we managed to clear the path and finish laying the wood chips which has now made the path accessible to most, this has now made it quicker for residents to access the village.

Monthly Litter Picks

In both September and October, I organised my monthly Little Common Litter Pick and both were attended by volunteers and all together we managed to really clean up Little Common and the surrounding roads and paths. Unfortunately, the amount of litter being collected doesn't seem to be slowing down. In October, I collected two sacks of litter one from Little Common and one along Barnhorn Road and Rosewood Park as well.

Window Cleaning

On the same day as my October Litter Pick, I went down to Rosewood Park were a week or so prior I had met a new St Marks resident who was struggling to clean her lower windows after her son had moved up to Surrey. I volunteered to help clean her windows (for free) and actually it turned out to be a heart-warming and rewarding experience overall.

October's Planning Committee

The Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council's Planning Committee met to discuss many items with one being the King Offa Consultation which has been open since August. Thankfully, after a well worded, planned, and constructed speech from me the Planning Committee voted to oppose this consultation which is now the official Town Council's response. Even though this is not part of my ward it is something I promised during the election to carefully consider major Bexhill housing developments. This is something I did with this consultation (not a planning application) and

concluded that for many reasons which are set out on my social media pages the Town Council should oppose this consultation development.

Care Home Visit

Only last week, I visited Prideaux Lodge along Barnhorn Road which is a local care home in St Marks. I went there with the intention of getting staff and residents to fill in the council's survey. However, after speaking to the manager and staff it became obvious to me, that this was not my main priority anymore. I felt angry and sad at the way Care Homes had been treated over the past 18 months and how 99% of the time care home residents are forgotten as Bexhill residents too. This is something I promised to change.

The manager said that we have never had a local councillor visit us and that I was the first one. This is something I found astonishing. So, I promised the manager and the residents that I would return at least every other month for a residents surgery just for St Marks Care Home Residents starting off with Prideaux Lodge residents and hopefully in the future other care homes will take up the offer as well. I look forward to my November surgery.

Future Dates

October 20th – BoSTC Full Council Meeting

October 30th – St Marks Councillor's Surgery in Little Common Community Centre.

November 12th – Prideaux Lodge Resident's Surgery (Prideaux Lodge residents ONLY)

November 14th – Remembrance Sunday

I would also, like to pay my respect to Sir David Amess MP for Southend-West who was tragically killed on the 15th of October in a brutal and nasty terror-related incident. Yesterday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the Queen had agreed to officially recognise Southend as a city something which Sir David campaigned on for many years and a fitting tribute to a devoted politician.

R.I.P Sir David Amess

So, in total the last couple of months, have been really busy and filled with many emotional moments and things as a Councillor I can now go away and work on and build the relationships with local residents which I promised them during the election. As Councillors, we must always listen, engage, and respect our residents as they are the people who elected us to do that exact job.

Thank You,

Cllr Connor Winter – St Marks Ward

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