

Tressell ward report February 2012

From Cllr Jay Kramer

Tressell

Peter and I have continued to knock on doors on a weekly basis when we can with our newsletter and have had some really good results e.g. getting a property and front garden in Mount Pleasant Road transformed by our grobusters team; sorting out an additional dog bin in Waterside Close and having a further empty home tackled through the threat of a compulsory purchase order. We continue to use the newsletters as a vehicle to personalise the contacts we make.

My role as Chair of the Bridge continues and I never seem to have enough time to devote to it as I would like. The Centre is thriving but it is a very hard to mouth existence and my aim like so many others is to try and establish the Bridge on a firm footing financially for the future.

Council work

I have been responsible for the adoption of the council's anti-poverty strategy at Cabinet and the Local Strategic Partnership. It is a key document which should make a difference to combating poverty once we have agreed an action plan and found a way of "poverty-proofing" all our decisions i.e. looking at where the council's resources are being put in terms of deprivation. The Contact Centre is advancing positively and walls are being knocked down through from the Information Centre; Committee Room 2 and the Leader's Room to enable all services to be dealt with at the Town Hall. Judging by the speed of the building work, we should be on target for the end of March and an Easter opening.

One major piece of work in the autumn was assessing the applications for community partnership funding which was hugely over subscribed. It was a very rigorous process and we have now determined nine organisations which will receive funding from 1 April.

I wrote about the senior management restructure in my last report: this was agreed by Cabinet on 16 November and you will have read the adverse comments made by the opposition. It will be interesting to see if they move to reinstate the post of chief executive at budget council which is being held on 29 February. I am very satisfied that we followed a good model by creating a staff commission and also our professional independent adviser was very helpful. The changes have been taking place incrementally and all will be in place by 1 April.