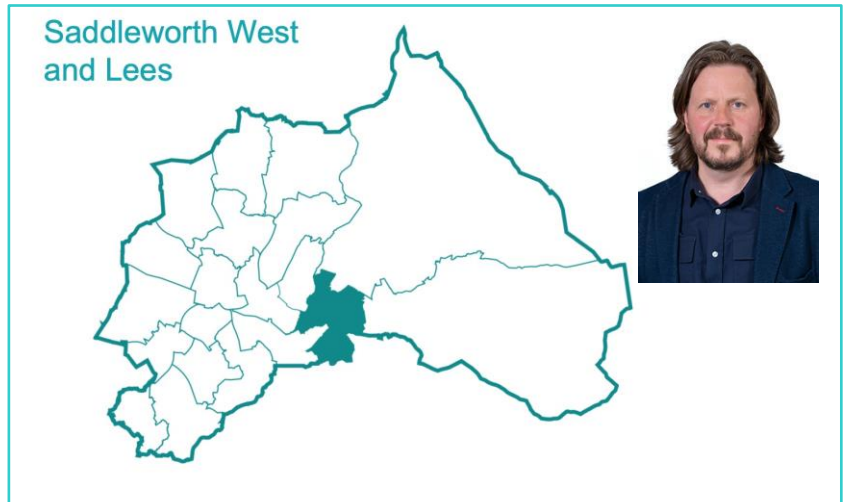


Cllr Mark Kenyon – Saddleworth West & Lees Ward

My Ward priorities

- Speeding
- Crime
- Flytipping



Work in the community

I'm a councillor for everyone in Grotton, Springhead and Lees and work with my colleagues Cllrs Sam Al-Hamdani and Alicia Marland. As well as being shadow cabinet member for Employment & Enterprise, the vast majority of my time, energy and effort goes into casework directly affecting the ward I'm so happy to represent. Oldham Council is a very large organization responsible for delivering over a thousand services with a budget of about £100 million – it's my job to argue for the best outcomes for everyone in our ward, for those who come to me with specific problems or concerns and to work to try and improve services for everyone across the borough.

By the time people often contact their councillor, they've normally tried everywhere else. This means that I do my best to help people when they're facing some very difficult problems including things like:

- Financial support
- SEN provision
- Housing benefit
- Homelessness and eviction
- Mental health
- Access to health services
- Schooling

As well as being contactable by phone, email and Facebook, Sam, Alicia and I hold in person surgeries every month for those residents unable to use email/Facebook. I hold my surgeries twice a month at Lees EcoHub at Lees Park. I also actively go out and find casework by regularly knocking on doors throughout the ward and asking people how I can help them. As well as door knocking, my team and I keep in touch with everyone by posting regular Focus newsletters through each door in the three villages several times a year.

A lot of casework is focused on improving things where we all live and work and deals with things like making sure potholes are repaired, streetlights get fixed, graffiti is removed etc:

- Promoting and taking part in community litter picks with LSG Litter Heroes
- Delivered several successful grant proposals for the Oldham LIF programme on behalf of the Royal British Legion in Lees, Springhead AFC, LSG Litter Heroes.

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- Advising residents at the Public Appeal for planning at Maltby Court which was happily refused.
- Speaking behalf of Save our Valleys in the community's opposition to Russell Homes' plans to re-route a public footpath and make it even more inaccessible as part of the Knowls Lane development. This was at the Public Inquiry which was successful. The developer sadly overturned this decision on appeal so the inquiry will have to be re-heard.
- Campaigning against the planning application from Punch Taverns for 3 houses on the Grapes carpark, which was sadly voted through.
- Continuing to push for speed reduction measures along Stamford Road and it's junction with Huddersfield Road. Work has started and the remainder of the work is due to start soon.
- Continuing to campaign for School Streets on Medlock Way. We know that pressure from ward councillors has kept this project going.
- Continuing to campaign for a 20MPH zone and speed reduction measures on Cooper Street. Progress is frustratingly slow but we hope to be able to announce progress soon.

As well as working for the people of Grotton Springhead & Lees, I also do work on behalf of everyone in the borough. This is work that's more at the Civic Centre and this year has included:

- Member of the Traffic Regulation Order committee which involves approving, amending or rejecting traffic orders applied for by Highways officers. We listen to appeals by people and businesses affected by the proposed order (eg for double yellow lines) and try to make a balanced judgement that works for all.
- Continuing work to scrutinize the performance of the borough's £400K per month streetlighting contract
- Proposed and passed a motion which calls for more 20MPH zones in the borough, particularly around schools. This has been a real achievement and means that kids' lives will be saved in the future. There's still plenty of work to be done in making these 20 zones real.
- Campaigning for the introduction of Community Speedwatch across Oldham, work which has now proved successful with GMP Oldham launching the scheme.

Funded work

- Grit bin filling throughout the ward
- Christmas tree & lights
- Summer and winter planting
- Support the provision of tree planting
- Funding to support the band contest across Lees and Saddleworth.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

#Ourbit – Being the voice of the local community within council and helping local residents solve problems

#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

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