

Cllr Sandra Ball – Failsworth West Ward

My Ward priorities

To continue try to make a difference to improve my Ward and to support constituents in any matters they are struggling with by advocating for them and keeping them updated on a regular basis.

Borough map and photograph (supplied by Constitutional Services)

Work in the community

I have completed 326 cases/enquiries since May 2023 which came in via email, Social Media Groups, my private and Council Messenger pages. Of these 50 were in the East Ward, 4 were out of area and 36 were cases I picked up whilst out in the community, plus I have 40 ongoing cases. These have involved housing repairs, re-housing support, advocacy to the Ombudsman, traffic issues, road markings, potholes, fly tips, graffiti, contaminated bins, water main repairs, speeding cars, ASB, school crossings, issues with trees, Licensing in regard to selling vapes to minors, street furniture repairs, school placements, benefits advice/signposting and informal meetings just to chat and give emotional support at stressful times. I applied for Local Improvement Funding to improve the safety of two main roads but unfortunately this did not get through the initial stage, but I intend to try again the next time funding is available.

I have attended District meetings at Failsworth Town Hall; an introduction meeting at First Choice Homes; an opening event at Turning Point; attended an invitation to speak to the Chief Superintendent and Sergeant about my area at Oldham Police Station; took part in a Webinar hosted by Professor Chris Witty about vapes and smoking to get a better understanding of the issues they can cause; had an unexpected, informative one-to-one teams session to understand how the street light contracts work.

I advocated on behalf of some of my constituents at a planning meeting which involved many hours of preparation and attending two Public meetings beforehand with them regarding a housing application.

I have run a Facebook Litter Group for the last three years and personally go out litter picking whenever time allows. Plus, I also coordinate, and participate in, a monthly clean up on the Failsworth stretch of Rochdale Canal and have built up a good relationship with the Canal Trust staff.

I have also helped in a local community garden (GROWE) when more hands are needed to do heavy gardening and have attended community events there.

Last year I joined the Committee for Failsworth Carnival and played a major part in keeping the event clear of litter. I was also asked to present the Carnival Royalty with their Sashes and Crowns. I also helped prepare for The Christmas Light Switch on at Failsworth Pole, and again helped in keeping it free of litter on the night.

I facilitate and take part in weekly local short walks for all ages and abilities, which helps residents meet other people, thus preventing loneliness and promoting wellbeing.

I was proud to be asked to present students at the Failsworth Branch of the MPCT (Military Preparation College) with their certificates in 2023 on their Graduation Open Day and am continuing to discuss getting involved in future projects.

During last years Poppy Appeal I gave a lot of time helping on the stands in our local store, and took part in the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph.

In December 2023 I joined my fellow members of the Failsworth Branch of the Royal British Legion in an overnight sleep-out to raise much needed funds for our Veterans.

Council Committees

Health Scrutiny Committee

Training/Events completed

Data Protection; Effective Scrutiny; Safeguarding; Code of Conduct; Casework and Advocacy; Peer review focus group; District and SARA meetings at Failsworth Town Hall; Completed a Housing Briefing and an HMO briefing via Teams online.

Ward Budget Spend

Project	Amount £
Christmas Event Lighting – repairs, putting up, taking down	703.64
Failsworth Pole Christmas Tree	241.83
Purchase of flags for Failsworth RBL	100.00
Day Drive Community Garden Project	1000.00
Big screen for Failsworth Remembrance Sunday event	300.00
Failsworth Christmas Lights Switch on Event	250.00
Saturday Evening Social Group	250.00
Jelly Babies Nursery	500.00
Dino Event at Failsworth Higher Memorial Park	404.00
OPAG attending Dino Event at Failsworth Higher Memorial Park	75.50
Diggle Brass Band for Remembrance Sunday	50.00
South Failsworth Primary School – litter pick hoops	50.00
Moston Cycling at GROWE in Failsworth	75.03
Total Spend	4000.00

Contact me

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Surgeries

These have been held on the last Monday of every month since June 2023 at Failsworth Town Hall - from 6pm to 7pm