

BOSTON CASTLE WARD

Covering Rotherham Town Centre, Canklow,
Moorgate, Broom, Herringthorpe, Clifton,
Wellgate and Wharncliffe



Councillor
Saghir Alam



Councillor
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Councillor
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Report to Full Council

May 2022

Ward priorities

- Help communities to be safe and feel safe
- Ensure families are supported as we emerge from the pandemic
- Support initiatives which bring together new and existing communities in the Town Centre and beyond
- Work with communities to improve local green spaces; in particular Clifton Park, Boston Park and Herringthorpe Playing Fields
- Support initiatives designed to develop an understanding of, and involve, our diverse communities

How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our Ward Plan priorities for the Boston Castle Ward i.e.

- The new Ward boundaries
- The new Ward profile which showed e.g.
 - high BAME community (33.6%)
 - higher than average deprivation
 - above average levels of crime and ASB
- The previous Boston Castle Ward Plan's priorities and the actions taken to address them
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders
 - We included an article in our ward e-bulletin asking for feedback on the priorities and what we could do in response to them
 - We spoke to a number of organisations, agencies and individuals working and/or living within the ward
- Feedback from services
- Progress of ongoing projects
- Our own aspirations for the Ward
 - As returning Ward Councillors, we were able to draw upon a lot of existing knowledge and experience



How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our approach has been and remains centred on the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.

We

- ❖ Work with communities on the things that matter to them
- ❖ Listen and work together to make a difference
- ❖ Recognise that there are a wealth of social and community assets that are underutilised

Below are just a few examples of what we have done with partners to try and make a positive difference.

Progress so far

Help communities to be safe and feel safe

Wharncliffe

- A meeting was held in November 2021 with the MP, Ward Councillors, partners and tenants following concerns raised by tenants in respect of Crime / ASB and maintenance issues
- In response
 - RMBC Housing and SYP identified key offenders and taken appropriate enforcement action
 - SYP have increased foot patrols
 - RMBC Housing have identified a number of physical improvements which could prevent crime and are working on repairs issues too
- A follow up meeting will be held with a particular focus on repairs issues
- In the meantime, the Ward Councillors and partners produced a newsletter and delivered this to every property during March



Speeding

- Feedback from residents and services identified speeding as an issue in various location
- In response
 - Councillors used their ward budget to purchase a redeployable electronic speed sign, which was most recently deployed on Boston Castle Grove
 - In addition, there was effective partnership working with SYP, Thomas Rotherham College and RMBC Green Spaces / Early Help who provided detached youth work in the area

Ensure families are supported as we emerge from the pandemic

Rotherham Minster Social Supermarket

- We were approached by Rotherham Minster who were looking for a sustainable location for their Social Supermarket, which was operating at the time from the Minster. The initiative was invaluable, offering access to affordable food and support with other issues - money management, debt advice and social isolation
- In response
 - Ward Councillors, with the support of their Neighbourhood Co-ordinator (NC), helped the Minster to identify and move to a more suitable, sustainable location. We also paid for equipment to get the new premises ready

Rotherham Cancer Care Centre

- We were approached by the Centre seeking support for upgrading their fire alarm / system. The Centre provides support and counselling services to people diagnosed with cancer and their families
- In response
 - Ward Councillors provided some funding which enabled the Centre to carry on delivering their valuable service.



Health Promotion, keeping safe from Covid 19

- We have continued to keep Boston Castle Residents up to date with information regarding Covid 19 and how to protect themselves from the virus. This work has included.
 - Handing out face masks, hand gel and information leaflets at various venues across the area
 - Speaking to residents about Covid testing
 - Informing community members about the importance of vaccinations, where the vaccination sites are and how to book.

Support initiatives which bring together new / existing communities in the Town Centre and beyond

Wellgate – Towns / Villages Funding

- There has been some concern that Wellgate does not get overlooked when it comes to regenerating the Town Centre
- In response
 - The Councillors decided that Wellgate should be the focus for their Towns / Villages Funding proposal.
 - This has been informed by site visits and will be further informed by consultation with local businesses



Work with communities to improve local green spaces; in particular Clifton Park, Boston Park and Herringthorpe Playing Fields

Clifton Park

- The Councillors were approached by an artist with a view to delivering an art project in Clifton Park
- In response
 - The Councillors, in partnership with Rotherham East, funded an art project. An artist worked with young people to plan the carving and they put forward a design reflecting life in the area.



Herringthorpe Playing Fields

- The Councillors have been working with a group of residents who are passionate about the playing fields
- In response
 - The Councillors have funded a tree planting initiative
 - A longer term aim is to explore the development of a Master Plan for improvements to the site with RMBC partners and residents

Support initiatives designed to develop an understanding of, and involve, our diverse communities

- Boston Castle Ward is incredibly diverse, the Councillors want to ensure that their work reflects this.

- In response
 - The Councillors have funded a wide range of groups
e.g. a newly formed South Asian group for celebrating Diwali
An existing community group for a Chinese New Year event and
RUCST for a Ramadan football tournament



- More recently, a Ward Councillor in partnership with a colleague from another ward, recently organised and delivered a special event for Syrian and Afghan refugees. The event comprised of an Iftar (Ramadan Meal) at Chapel Walk Mosque, giving refugees the chance to meet other families and to make them feel welcome in Rotherham
- Another initiative designed to develop an understanding of, and involve, our diverse communities is a 'Community Summit'. The Councillors, supported by their Neighbourhoods Team, are in the process of organising our first 'Community Summit' which will give up to 20 community stakeholders the opportunity to come together and discuss the issues that are important to them. The topic of the summit will be a current Ward Priority – '*Supporting families as we emerge from the pandemic*'.

Working in partnership

Finally, we want to say **Thank You** to all of our statutory and voluntary / community partners for supporting us in the development and delivery of our ward work.

There are too many to mention but some of the ones we've worked with on the above initiatives are:

- Boston Castle Community Action Partnership / Ward Briefing
- Rotherham Minster and Social Supermarket
- Rotherham Cancer Care Centre
- Friends of Boston Castle and Moorgate Cemetery
- Herringthorpe Playing Fields Group
- REMA
- Rotherham United Community Sports Trust
- Canklow Kidz
- Casting Innovations
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Local Primary Schools