

# BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD WARD

Covering Bramley, Hooton Roberts and Ravenfield



Councillor  
Lewis L H M Mills



Councillor  
Greg Reynolds

## Report to Full Council

May 2023

### Ward priorities (2022-2023)

1. Supporting community and local groups with the cost-of-living crisis
2. Improving road safety and addressing crime and anti-social behaviour
3. Improving the environment and enhancing community facilities
4. Bringing people together and improving mental and physical wellbeing

### How these ward priorities were agreed

We consulted with members of the public to assess their ward priorities, whilst taking into consideration intelligence from Parish Councils, voluntary and statutory sector partners. We reflected on the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had on community need. Fundamentally, we wanted to know the best way to support the community.

As a result, we reflected on how best to reach out, engage and work within the ward, so that plans could be delivered safely within changing Government guidelines, as we emerged from the pandemic and began to navigate the Cost-of-Living Crisis; ensuring that constituents felt safe and supported, whilst continuing to engage in and benefit from a range of community activities.

### How these priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our vision is for every neighbourhood in Rotherham to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life. So that residents are:

- Happy, healthy and love where they live
- Safe and live in a place with a good community spirit
- Able to use their strengths, knowledge, and skills to contribute to improving the things that matter to them

With the impact of the pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis, it was crucial to ensure that projects & activities focussed on bringing people together, reducing the feeling of isolation, bringing joy to people and celebrating the sense of community, whilst supporting the brilliant work of existing community groups and Parish Councils in Bramley & Ravenfield ward.

The projects outlined below, demonstrate how neighbourhood working, even in particularly challenging and uncertain times, have allowed us to lead on and support essential community initiatives, such as increasing social activities in our Neighbourhood Centres, community litter picks, and joint work to enhance community facilities; from replacing benches to installing new lifesaving equipment, and increasing accessibility and promoting inclusivity in our parks.

## **Working in partnership**

As Elected Members we work alongside many organisations to support people in our ward. This includes our Parish Councils – Bramley and Ravenfield, plus community groups and businesses, such as Neighbourhood Watch, St. Francis Church, McDonald's, and our local schools; Bramley Grange Primary and Ravenfield Primary. Whilst dealing with residents' issues we've worked with key Council teams and organisations like Housing, Highways and South Yorkshire Police, to name just a few.

Our partnerships have allowed us to create opportunities for bringing people together, through exercise, coffee mornings, and inclusive outdoor Discovery Days, that have improved mental health and wellbeing, whilst we've also worked hard to keep the ward litter free and to increase residents' sense of safety by addressing road and traffic concerns and anti-social behaviour.

## **Key themes & flagship projects**

### **Being proud of where you live**

We have supported the work of existing litter picking groups in Ravenfield, led on picks and clean-up days in Hooton Roberts, and with the help of the Neighbourhood Coordinator and the Love Where you Live Coordinator, have gone on to develop a regular group of volunteers who pick at hotspots in Bramley. The group includes, Bramley Grange Primary, McDonalds, Bramley Parish Council, St. Francis Church, Neighbourhoods, and ourselves.

Key areas in Ravenfield, Bramley and Hooton Roberts have also benefitted from TLC via clean-up days and community skips.

### **Inclusivity**

We have worked hard across the ward to encourage constituents to make the most of local assets, to build a rapport and trust, and therefore to listen to their valuable ideas and feedback.

Consequently, we are proud to say that we have installed two British Sign Language signs in Parish Council parks, the first of its kind in Rotherham. We have worked in partnership with Parish Councils and community organisations to enhance existing activities and facilities, such as the skate park on Flash Lane and weekly social groups taking place at Neighbourhood Centres. We have set-up monthly dementia friendly singalongs, in partnership with Lost Chord UK and Ravenfield Parish Council, with the support of local businesses. These events have been a fantastic success and showcase top partnership work that benefits the community.

### **Improving Safety**

Road Safety across the ward is tackled through joint work with local police and Highways; progress & further measures continue to be monitored through monthly meetings. We carry out regular walkabouts and speed watches with our PCSO, whilst also attending coffee mornings and supporting the local Neighbourhood Watch. We have funded and installed defibs and a bleed kit within the ward, and, we have worked with residents, Police, and local businesses to disrupt nuisance vehicles and improve quality of life for residents. Most recently we have invested our Capital to purchase a solar powered CCTV camera, which will be an excellent asset to the ward; initially used to tackle fly-tipping in Hooton Roberts.

In summary, we have successfully integrated into our neighbourhoods, adapting our way of working & listening to our constituents, as environments, ways of working, learning, and community living have noticeably changed.