

What can a Local Council Representative do for their Constituents?

Apart from attending Council meetings there is much that can be achieved by an active Councillor.

- Community Forums cover a wide variety of issues such as access for those with a disability; how to help those with Alzheimer's or dementia; how a community may envision their suburb and their use of water; composting and worm farming to name a few. By attending these conferences you meet your constituents and learn the issues facing them and how you can help meet their needs.
- Residents come to a Councillor with issues as varied as tree lopping that may endanger birds; a road closure for an Australia Day celebration with neighbours; poisoning of trees; issues over DA's; problems with footpaths; disputes among neighbours; finding second hand gear for a soccer team; issues of bike riders riding too fast in a park; dogs off leash; Enfield's intermodal freight terminal; a local park that needs to be upgraded; advertising leaflets and material polluting the local area.
- Sometimes a local Councillor will walk the walk, like walking for several hours along the Wolli Creek or taking a bike ride along the Cooks River to discover what issues need to be addressed. A Councillor may also need to go to the Community when an issue is distressing them and discuss what can and needs to be done and then liaise with Council Directors. Similarly the Councillor may attend Local Business Chamber meetings to see what the local businesses believe needs to be done to keep their Community economically alive and prospering.
- Visits to Community Gardens to discover how we can set them up in Canterbury.
- Then there are Conferences like: Local Government forum; Integrating Sustainability; Planning Legislation; Carbon Consumers; plus The Greens are continually putting on forums to improve their Local Councillors skills and knowledge on a wide number of topics so that we can serve the Community more effectively.
- Councillors do not just wait till issues come to them. The Greens Councillor online network send each other the ideas they have pursued in Council that other Green Councillors might like to take up like the problem many residents are facing by poor guttering (*see motion to Council February 26th*) or share local group policy eg cycling strategy and action plan. They make them aware of information that can affect their Council like Rudd's Stimulus Package.
- There's also talking to the media to make sure Green ideas are being aired.

A lot of your Local Councillor's work is done behind the scenes. She talks to the various Directors and Managers to try and solve problems. There are also plenty of committee meetings too!

I find the work of a Local Councillor varied and stimulating.

Cr Linda Eisler