

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH COUNCILLOR CARPENTER ON 22/2/18



Q: Do you enjoy your job as a Councillor and what's your favourite part of your job?

A: Yes! My favourite part of my job is knocking on doors and meeting people that live in Becontree Ward. Asking questions and sending newsletters about schools, events and updates etc.

Q: Why and when did you decide that you wanted to be a Councillor?

A: When I was made redundant from my previous job. My job came to an end and I decided to become a Councillor in 2006.

Q: Is it hard work being a Councillor?

A: Yes! It's very hard work being a councillor. Collecting information and sending e-mails to thousands of people. Attending lots of interesting and some boring cabinet member's meetings, presenting reports on how schools are progressing or being extended but most importantly I enjoy visiting schools.

Q: What is it like being a Councillor?

A: Great! I enjoy representing my community where I work and live, it makes me feel part of the community.

Q: What inspired you to become a Councillor?

A: I knew very little about being a councillor but was inspired that there were not many women councillors so I decided to become one.

Q: Which school has been your favourite to visit and why did you choose to visit Becontree Primary School?

A: Becontree Primary has been my favourite to visit so far because I visited this school in the beginning of February 2018 for a Reading Scheme and was very impressed with the children and so when you invited me, I was more than happy to attend again.

Q: Have you ever taught or worked with children?

A: No! I have read to children in St Vincent school as I am a Governor there. I have visited many secondary and primary schools but have not actually taught children.

Q: What do you not like about being a Councillor?

A: I enjoy most of the jobs I do.

Q: Are there any other jobs you do other than being a Councillor?

A: Yes! I'm a School Governor at St. Vincent School. As part of my job, I also keep an eye on what churches get upto and how clean the streets are and how many people have been re-housed etc.

Q: How often to you go to the House of Parliament?

A: Not very often as I am very busy locally but have had many invitations to attend.

Q: Have you met the Prime Minister - Mrs Theresa May?

A: No! I have not met Mrs May but have met Jeremy Corbyn and local MP, Margaret Hodge.

Q: Would Becontree School Council be able to visit your office?

A: Yes! I can arrange for Becontree Primary to visit my office and possibly meet the Mayor of Barking and Dagenham.

Q: Would we be allowed to have one of our meetings in your office/building?

A: Yes! Possibly, all depends on dates and timing.

Q: What skills do we need to become a Councillor?

A: **Good listening**
 Determination to keep going
 Well organised and plan well
 Most importantly, resilient

Q: What advice would you give us if we wanted to become a Councillor in the future?

A: Work extremely hard and you can become a councillor like myself, your already councillors for your school. You need to go to

college/university and obtain life experience skills and think about political values and being active in the right party, campaigning etc. It's hard work and takes a lot of dedication but it's all worth it.

