

has meant that rather than questioning any decision we must necessarily battle the political argument rather than the work we are supposed to be doing. However, more positively it would seem that we are managing to do both.

Further memberships: I am a member of the Standards Committee and the Standards (Assessment) Sub Committee. The Standards Committee grinds on slowly (we still have an outstanding matter from over 2 years ago) but must take advice from the city solicitor and/or Counsel before we act.

An appointment I have been pleased to take up again, is that on the O&S of PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) which marches onward in the background of all our southern Councils. From the New Forest to Basingstoke, including Test Valley, Winchester, the Unitaries of Southampton and Portsmouth – this partnership was sliding into oblivion but seems to have re-invented and re-invigorated itself – my greatest concern is that these neighbouring Councils look with avaricious eyes to our green spaces as they grow. More of this when there is news to bring you.

I hope that the change of administration that happened this month will not bring a slowing down of the progress we have made but we have been disappointed with the increasingly vitriolic stance that the opposition has increasingly taken – not just locally although that has been hurtful, but in political life generally.

This is not us NOR SHOULD IT BE

.... and finally, personally for me this has been rather a difficult year.... *I mean, who knew you needed a birth certificate to die in France.....* I thank you all for the good wishes and quiet but very, very effective, and welcome, support you have given me over the year – I have appreciated it.

– We have a wonderful community and I am proud to be part of it.

Linda Gemmell

District Councillor for Central Meon Valley Ward

22nd May 2019