

Statement

- MR KEITH HOSKINS

Disciplinary Committee, in the case of Cllr David Leal-Bennet, NHDC

1. My name is Keith Hoskins and I am the Hitchin Town centre Manager.
2. I have known Cllr Leal-Bennett for 8 years and I live in Highbury Ward Hitchin which he represents.
3. I can only attest to what I see and hear at meetings of the Hitchin Area Committee at which I am a regular attendee for both the meeting itself and the Town Talk that precedes it.
4. I'm happy to go on the record with my view that area committee meetings have been re-energised under Cllr Leal-Bennett's chairmanship.
5. His conduct of the Town Talks is fair and inclusive and all members of the public who wish to raise issues are given the opportunity to do so. Cllr Leal-Bennett's wish to serve his constituents to the best of his ability is blindingly obvious.
6. He often reflects the frustrations of the community who can feel remote from the decision-making process and this at times may make him appear brusque; I know that with the reduction in the number of Area meetings, he has responded to their frustrations by seeking to have updates on the main issues affecting the town at each meeting so that any progress or delay is made publicly available.
7. It is not for me to comment on any other matters but I do hope that they may be amicably resolved.
8. I write this as a concerned citizen and constituent and not on behalf of any organization.

Keith Hoskins