

**Report for Thornton Le Dale Parish Council Annual Meeting**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

**Responsible Councillor** - Janet Sanderson

Thornton Dale & The Wolds Division

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The results of the Ryedale District Council elections are not yet known at the time of writing this report, but may I offer my sincere congratulations to the two new incumbents and give my assurance that I will work with them both to better our communities.

These are strange political times, I read that over 300 seats in England representing 850,000 potential voters have been uncontested in the May local elections. This has sadly given rise to the term “Democratic deserts”. It’s been a steady trend for several years now, and my own view is that if we want to encourage people to come forward from within our own communities to take on these valuable roles, we need to streamline local government structure, give these volunteers full professional support, but most of all, give them positive encouragement from within the community itself - that you!

At the start of the new Parish Council, it’s timely to give a broader overview of the general picture at North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), so I have highlighted below a few facts and figures -

- The Council is in safe hands – for the last 25 years NYCC has been Conservative-led, stable, prudent and consistent in applying sensible policies that work.
- We have kept Council Tax as low as possible, whilst reducing our spending power by 40% playing our part in rebalancing the country’s books.
- We have reduced our properties, getting rid of old and inefficient buildings, and reduced our workforce, with few compulsory redundancies.
- We have altered our contracts to allow us to deal more with local businesses, and we have started our own companies selling to other Councils to help our budgets go further.
- We still invest in the big things that matter such as –

- I. More Extra Care facilities to look after our growing population of older people.
  - II. Investment in our roads where we are spending more now than ever before on maintaining the largest network of roads in England;
  - III. Replacing old street lights with modern, less carbon producing LED lights;
  - IV. Increasing the roll out of high speed broadband, available to over 90% of premises and growing.
- We still invest in the smaller things that matter with our Stronger Communities programme – helping people to help themselves, like community libraries.
  - At a very local level, our locality budget and environment budget has enabled us to support the –
    - I. Rebuild of the beck wall around the village and down Beck Isle.
    - II. Christmas Lights activities and helping to improve their storage facilities.
    - III. Sporting activities including the football club and the Bowls club.
    - IV. The new village hub were given a great start with a grant of over £4,000 to improve the village pond area with tree carvings, disabled access seating and general maintenance and improvement work.
  - We have also worked with government and others on some very big projects – Kex Gill repairs and hopefully realignment, a new Dalton Bridge.
  - Our new massive Energy from Waste plant at Allerton, in partnership with Amey Cespa, is now working - efficiently and effectively getting rid of NY` s rubbish without using landfill.
  - Our schools` education attainment is still “top of the class”
  - We manage public health well, keeping people healthy and out of hospital.

As an executive member of NYCC, I hold the Children’s Social Care portfolio. In our Children and Young People’s Services we have always sought innovative new ways to transform services rather than squeeze them. Our work has been nationally and internationally recognised by the numerous awards received. We were one of the “partners in practice” authorities used to help other authorities improve their services and Ofsted judged our Children’s Services as outstanding – the only authority to have received “Outstanding” in all four categories and proving that creative innovative work can really improve lives.

Of course there is always more to be done and funding is a constant worry however I am looking forward to working over the next term of office with both the Parish and District councils as well as our many and varied voluntary groups within the village.

It’s a pleasure and a great honour to represent the village and I will always offer an open line of communication to you all.

*Janet Sanderson*