

Report for Thornton Le Dale PC February 5th 2019

Responsible Councillor - Janet Sanderson

Thornton Dale & The Wolds Division

e-mail: cllr.janet.sanderson@northyorks.gov.uk

Telephone: 01751 474516 Mobile: 078 3355 3014

I am sure we've all been concerned about the situation with regard to Brexit and of course I would like to give you all the definitive answers to everything you need to know. However, even if I could, the only thing I am sure of is that it will almost certainly all have changed by the time you read this! What I can confirm is that we have made contingency plans at NYCC based on our best guess but I don't think anyone can predict the full ramifications of these turbulent times. Whatever your personal stance on the matter, I do believe that this has gone far beyond redefining our relationship with Europe and that the malaise is spilling out over the general political landscape.

I work with the full spectrum of elected representatives from Parish to Parliament and like myself, the majority of people I work with do this job because they care passionately about the communities they represent. As residents, we often find that the most easily accessed elected members are our Parish Councillors. We see them around the village and in our day to day lives and so it is very easy for us to offload the whole spectrum of our problems on to the shoulders of the unsuspecting PC member we just happen bump in to.

As we move into a new round of elections for Parish Councils, I would like to thank our parish councillors. They stand in the firing line every month facing questions from the public often on topics that are far beyond the remit of their jobs. I have eighteen parish councils and it is clear that the pressures on them are increasing. Residents are able to film and record meetings and this can often be quite onerous to some members. They can face freedom of information requests and onslaught on social media. I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that these positions are extremely valuable to our communities and elected parish councillors do this out of the goodness of their hearts without receiving any remuneration. Our obligation to them is to treat them with respect for the position that we as residents have asked them to fill.

In May, residents will be asked to select a new parish council by voting for seven members at the ballot box. Parish council is non-political and its worth highlighting that as such, **you** get

what **you** as a community voted for and so the responsibility of the next corporate body to represent our village lies in your hands. I would like to reaffirm my commitment so support any resident who wishes to put themselves forward for one of these valuable positions.

I remember being asked back in 2011 what three skills a potential candidate required to best represent their community. My reply back then was "*Communication, communication and communication*". Experience has taught me better and now in 2019, my reply to that same question would be "*Communication, negotiation and an ability to deal with frustration!*".

The cogs of local government can seem to be very slow in turning and this can be a frustration at times, but ultimately with a positive attitude and an aptitude for team work it is the area where we can make a big difference to our local community. We should look to help, harness and encourage our vibrant and varied voluntary sector and respect everyone for the commitment they make at whatever level.

Nominations for parish council will be required soon. If you feel you can make a difference, then I will happily help you through the system. If doing the job is beyond the scale of your commitment, then I would ask you to think hard about who will best represent you when you tick your ballot paper in May.

Janet Sanderson