

COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORTS 2014 - 2015

Councillor: Joanne Dodds

Ward: Great Horton

Party: Labour

Date Elected: 04/05/06

Basic: £13173.36

Special Responsibility:

Other Council Remunerations:

Positions held:

Bradford South Area Committee

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Housing and Non-Domestic Rates Appeals Panel

How many neighbourhood forums have you attended? (Please state a number and not all)

2

Other meetings/bodies which you regularly attend: (e.g School governing bodies outside bodies etc)

Lidget Green Co-operative Trust School
West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Meetings
Cornerstone Trustees Meeting
Great Horton Community Partnership
Brackenhill School ECO Committee Meetings
Community First
Friends of Brackenhill Park
Lidget Green Coffee & Chat
Co-operative Party
Village Hall User Group
No Deal Project
Ward Team Leadership Meetings
Greenmoor Big Local
Greenmoor Safer Communities
Haworth Fire Station Steering Group Meetings
Bradford District Fire Updates

Dementia Friendly Communities
Ward Days of Action
Ward Branch Meetings
Lord Mayors Appeal

My priorities for the past year were (May 2014 to May 2015)

Great Horton has many challenges and I will continue to work hard for the benefit of the ward. The priorities from previous years are still as important today with my commitment to be accessible and to work with the community and partners to develop projects and initiatives to address these challenges.

**My priorities for the coming year (May 2015 to May 2016) are:
(Please list or describe your priorities or targets as a Councillor for the coming year)**

This year is a very special year for me as The Lord Mayor of Bradford. I am so looking forward to getting out around the district and finding out what fantastic works are going on in our communities. I love meeting people and so this year is a dream come true for me.

**What I have achieved in the past year (May 2014 to May 2015)
(Please list or describe some of your activities as a Councillor and what you see as your key achievements)**

This year I have written a couple of newsletters which have gone out to every house across the ward. The one thing that I have not always been good about is letting people know what I have been doing around the year and then when it gets to election time there is not enough space to write it all down. So the newsletter has been good to inform what I have done and also give that information about other things happening across the ward.

I am proud of the good working relationship there is in Great Horton ward between the Police, Ward Co-ordinator, Council, Incommunities and other partners so that we can deliver some good projects and initiatives that are needed across the ward. This year we have worked on the No Deal project, placing bin stickers on wheel bins encouraging the community to contact crimestoppers. We have reviewed all the existing cold calling control zones to check they are still working and they are. We have set up three new schemes in areas of need.

Lidget Green is working towards being a dementia friendly community, this is still early days but from the meetings we have had it is something that the community are really behind and it is much needed.

Another group I am now involved with and helped set up is the Friends of Brackenhill Park. The group are hoping to apply for funds and help to make the park friendlier, safer and a place where all the community want to come to.

I had a number of complaints about the Police 101 service and so after reporting my concerns to the divisional commander I was invited to visit both the control centres in Bradford and Wakefield to see for myself how the control centres work and to show that the improvements had been made following the complaints. I did find this very enlightening and I was surprised how much of a pressured role this is for the operators but also it can be quite rewarding.

The monthly street surgeries continue to be popular and well received from our constituents and I always enjoy walking around that designated area around the ward as part of the surgery.

This year on the fire authority I have had the privilege to chair the Community Safety Committee and to be on the Executive. I have always been passionate about community safety and my service on the Fire Authority. During this year to further my understanding of how the service works I have spent a shift down at Cleckheaton Fire Station. The Cleckheaton fire fighters deal with all the technical rescue incidents across West Yorkshire. They set up an exercise for me whereby I had to climb up the tower and they then rescued me by line and then instead of going straight down zip wire across the ground, it was a wonderful experience. I also learnt about animal rescues and how they approach them.

I then spent a shift at Bradford and they cut me out of a car, again this was a great experience. I have now started giving talks about my adventures on the Fire Authority because throughout my time I have learnt so much about how they have to be trained and prepared for any incident and I have picked up so many safety messages I can give to others.

I also attended a couple of the young fire fighter schemes at Keighley and Fairweather Green. These schemes are excellent for all the young people that take part in them. It teaches them the skills of a fire fighter, discipline and team work. I was able to talk to some of the young people attending and their teachers and it was so obvious just how much they get out of this scheme. Most of them that complete the course will in a couple of years then have a passing out parade and that is one proud moment for both YFF and parent.

I have also been involved in the Haworth Fire Station Steering Group to try and help the community to take over the fire station and turn it into a community hub.

This year I have attended two conferences, the first was the Labour conference and then the fire conference at Gateshead. It was the first time that I had attended a conference and I found both were a great experience and opportunity.

What training sessions, seminars, briefings and conferences have you attended to develop your skills and gain knowledge that has helped you to serve the people of the district? (Please list them).

Housing & Domestic Rates Appeals Training
Welfare reform update
Dementia awareness
Protecting your data
Labour Conference
Safeguarding children, adults
Audit Committee Training
Governor responsibility on health & safety
Roma awareness event
Somebody's Sister (drama based on sexual exploitation)
Corporate Parent safeguarding event
Risk based inspection program (WYF&RS)
FGM Conference
Fire Conference
Human Trafficking course
Civic Head Training
Public Health open day
Vision Day for Governors
Visited Police control centres at Bradford & Wakefield
Young fire fighters courses at Keighley & Fairweather Green