

## COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORTS 2017- 2018

<b>Councillor:</b>	Joanne Dodds
<b>Ward:</b>	Great Horton
<b>Party:</b>	Labour
<b>Date Elected:</b>	May 2006
<b>Basic:</b>	£13,463.16
<b>Special Responsibility:</b>	£3,419.92
<b>Other Allowances:</b>	£7,407.00 (West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority)

### **Positions held in 2017 – 2018:**

Bradford South Area Committee  
Education Appeals Panel (Ch)

Finance & Resources Committee – West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (Ch)  
West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (Exec Member)

Armed Forces Champion

---

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

- Lidget Green Primary School
- West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Greenmoor Big Local
- Friends of Brackenhill Park
- Bradford Cathedral Council
- Ward Partnership Meetings
- Welcome to Great Horton Project
- Scholemoor Beacon
- Cornerstone Church Trustee Meetings
- Dragon Boat committee
- Play & Youth forum
- Co-op Party
- BD7 Support Network
- Bradford South CLP
- Great Horton Branch Meetings

**My priorities for the past year were (May 2017 to April 2018)**

- To develop a ward partnership involving all the Community Groups, Organisations, Schools, Businesses, Faith Organisations, Housing providers, Council Officers, Police, Fire, Health that work within the ward. With limited resources and increasing need I believe that we need to work together and be creating this partnership it will enable us all to work together and pool our resources and strengthen our community.

**My priorities for the coming year (May 2018 to April 2019) are:**

**(Please list or describe your priorities or targets as a Councillor for the coming year)**

- I am absolutely delighted to be re-elected again this year with a very good majority. This is my fourth term and so I am looking forward to continuing the work that I have been doing over the last year.
- I will continue to work hard with both my colleagues and partners for the benefit of the ward. I am passionate about my community work and I do have some ideas for future projects and initiatives.
- I am looking forward to my work on the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee which I am Deputy Chair.

**What I have achieved in the past year (May 2017 to May 2018)**

**(Please list or describe some of your activities as a Councillor and what you see as your key achievements)**

- It has been a busy year in terms of both ward work and community work. Although I haven't managed to develop a ward partnership which was one of my priorities, I have started to build those networks.
- One of the networks I want to build is with all the schools across the ward. I have started to meet with the Primary School Heads to discuss any issues and concerns. Schools are a large part of the community and I want to ensure that they are linked into what else is happening across the ward.
- Tesco's are a large part of the community in Great Horton so I have started to meet with the Manager to build that relationship and to look at how we can work together for the benefit of the community.
- Following a number of the small shops and businesses in Great Horton experiencing burglaries and vandalism I went around some of the business with my colleagues and MP to find out what their concerns were and to see what help we could provide.
- The councillors street surgeries continue to be very busy and well received. The static surgeries are important but I have found over the years that people do prefer us to come out into the community.

- Neighbourhood Forums are a good opportunity for residents to come and raise their issues and meet with ourselves and others such as the Police. However over the years the numbers have been dropping and it was decided that we needed to do something different. Based on our Councillor Street Surgeries we trialled a multi-agency street surgery on Scholemoor where we had representatives from the Police, Council, Incommunities, Youth Service and Scholemoor Beacon. Although the weather was terrible it was well received and further multi agency street surgeries will be planned in the future.
- I support as much as I can the various community groups and clubs across the ward. I took over the position of Chair, for the Friends of Brackenhill Park group. I am the main organiser for the annual community festival in the park. It is always a fantastic event that the community really look forward to each year and we took the decision to move the date back to July from September to enable the schools to be more involved.
- One of my passions is around helping older people. We do have a large number of older people across the ward that are isolated and lonely. I have continued to run a monthly coffee morning and lunch club in Lidget Green for older people. I have also been working with the village hall to look at what provision they can provide for older people, because there is a need for something there. I have also supported the Goldies sessions and wellbeing cafes at Cornerstone Church.
- I have been supporting St Johns who has taken management of both the village hall and library in Great Horton. We came close to losing both our community centre and library and so it was crucial that we found someone to take both on; I initiated early talks between St Johns and the Council's Asset Management.
- The alternate weekly waste collections have worked well in some areas but within some of the ward have proved to be quite challenging. I have been out with the recycling advisors, wardens and the ward officer to try and encourage people to recycle. I have now set up a focus group to look at how we can address some of the challenges in these areas. We have identified three areas that we are going to focus on and hopefully educate the community about waste collection. One of the main problems identified are the language problems and many of the new arrivals do not always understand about waste collections.
- I have been involved in setting up the Welcome to Great Horton project. It was started with a weekly drop in session with the wardens, hope for justice, advice services and the police. It has been very successful with people attending with very complex needs. We held an event to bring all the community together and going forward we are arranging English & IT classes, and other health related activities like exercise classes.

- I have continued to be on the West Yorkshire Fire Authority and also an Executive Member. I have changed committees this year and I have chaired the Finance & Resources Committee. In April I attended the opening of the new station at Shipley. After a chance conversation with Asset Management I managed to organise for the Bradford District Fire Service to use Jacobs Well for training. Throughout the year they have been fortunate enough to let every watch take part in an exercise, and also they held a 12 pump exercise with other districts. I was able to go and watch some of their training sessions; it was a unique opportunity to see up close them in action. Jacobs Well is a perfect building for them to train in, it enables them to get some high rise experience and the confusing layout of the building levels was certainly a good test for our fire-fighters.
- It was around April 2017 that I took on the role of Armed Forces Champion so I have been finding my feet, supporting events and the community covenant. I attended the launch of the Bradford Ex Forces Together launch at Bradford City.
- Age UK are commissioned to deliver a project called Aged Veterans; and this year I was asked if I would be their Ambassador to champion their project. It is a lovely project that involves collecting memories from those that have served in the armed forces.
- In March at the Peacemakers International Women's day event they presented me with an outstanding achievement award for my work on FGM.
- I have recently become a member of the Cathedral Council which I have found to be very interesting.

**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).**

- Forgotten boys
- Equalities training
- Emergency planning for members
- Hopes for justice
- Age Uk Conference
- IRMP Briefings
- Housing Options
- Jacobs well
- Training on scams
- Migrant training – introduction to migration
- Peacemaker International Women's day event
- Road safety performance
- Welfare reform