

COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2019-MARCH 2020

Councillor:	Dale Smith
Ward:	Wharfedale
Party:	Conservative
Date Elected:	1974 and 1988
Basic:	£13,463.16
Special Responsibility:	£4,632.00
Other Allowances:	N/A

Positions held in 2019 – 2020:

- Member of Council
- Standards Committee
- Corporate Parenting Committee
- Shipley Area Committee

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

- Immanuel College, Lister PS, Menston PS, Canterbury NS & CF&C (Governor)
- Trustee Abbeyfield The Dales Ltd and Abbeyfield Ilkley Society Ltd and spin offs
- Trustee Shipley Glen Tramway
- Trustee Canterbury Imagination Library
- Trustee Kirklands (Menston) Trust
- Member of the Lord Mayor's Appeal Committee
- Menston Parish Council as an elected member
- Dragon Boat working party
- Exceed Academies Trust - Member
- Civic functions
- I also attend numerous local groups etc including Bradford Postcard Club and Shipley Conservative Association and spin offs

My priorities for the past year (May 2018 to April 2019) were:

- I continue to remain privileged to have enjoyed a huge span of involvement in both the variety of work and places.
- I do have the satisfaction of knowing that at times I had made a difference for the better.
- I am brought back to earth by the frustration of knowing that at times I had failed and that progress is all too slow.

My priorities for the coming year (May 2020 to April 2021) are:

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

- Continue my endeavours to give service and make a positive difference to the lives of us all.
- Continue the support for Menston, Wharfedale and the District in its Covid19 battles.
- Bring to a successful conclusion the sustainability as an Asset of Community Value of the Malt Shovel, Menston.
- Maintain the sustainability of Kirklands, Menston
- Enhance the use of Menston Library

What I have achieved in the past year (May 2019 to May 2020)

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

- This has been a year of turmoil. May 2019 started in the usual fashion – lots of meetings, joy and challenge!
- The new year then plummeted into turmoil as Covid19 pandemic struck. People became nastier, worried and hardship struck many.
- I tried to be a steadying influencer.
- My heart goes out to all those who have lost loved ones during this crisis and I wish to express my deepest condolences.
- Being a local councillor for more years than I care to remember (46 – but with an 8 year gap) I learnt long ago that you were (and should be) always open to scrutiny and in the public eye.
- For this reason I have isolated, not for frailty but because of age – and so as to lead by example! In any case our children and grandchildren repeatedly re-enforce the message Stay at Home – Protect the NHS.
- As a hands-on man I find this excruciatingly frustrating so I have to find new ways to contribute to my community in their time of need. Margaret feels the strain even more than I do as she so misses her grandchildren and their hugs, her friends and bridge.
- I occupy myself by learning new IT skills and dashing off innumerable emails, both within Menston, Bradford District and further afield.
- I was closely involved in the setting up of *Coronavirus support in MENSTON* and issuing upwards of 500 emails regularly of village news. It is so important to maintain as far as is possible normality so protecting people's wellbeing.
- I bombard Philip Davies MP with emails about the Care System and Business. The Telegraph and Argus published my recent letter, which can be read [HERE](#).
- As Captain Moore tells us better days will come! You may be sure that all my Conservative Councillors are no less involved in supporting your communities.

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).

- Every day is a learning day, and I am disappointed if I do not learn something new each day.
- I have concentrated around Community engagement, Safeguarding, Prevent and Cohesion, Education, and Health and Wellbeing and hope to expand my very simple IT skills.
- My diaries are available for inspection on request.