

COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2019- 2020

Councillor:	Joanne Dodds
Ward:	Great Horton
Party:	Labour
Date Elected:	May 2006
Basic:	£13,463.16
Special Responsibility:	£3,197.68
Other Allowances:	Basic £892.71 SRA £985.24 Wesy Yorkshire Fire Authority

Positions held in 2019 – 2020:

Standards Committee (Ch)
Regeneration & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee (DCh)
Licensing Committee
Bradford South Area Committee

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

Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership
Armed Forces Champion
Bradford Cathedral Council
Bradford Dragonboat Committee (DCh)
Bradford South CLP
Cornerstone Church Trustee Meetings
Co-op Party
Community Partnership 7
FGM Multi Agency partnership
Friends of Brackenhill Park (Ch)
Great Horton Branch Meetings
Great Horton Play Forum
Scholemoor Beacon
Veterans Breakfast Club
Ward Partnership Meetings
Welcome to Great Horton Project
West Yorkshire Good Practice Forum (Armed Forces leads & Champions)
West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee

My priorities for the past year (May 2019 to April 2020) were:

The challenges continue and I will be working with my colleagues to look at how we can best use our limited resources.

My passion is for communities and people, and to make a difference. I will continue to work with the community and partners to develop projects, initiatives to try and make the Great Horton ward a better place to live, work and play.

**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)**

With the run up to May we were still in lockdown and it is really difficult to set down priorities in a time that is fast changing and so different to normal. My priorities are to get through this year and be as supportive as I can to all and work hard to keep everyone safe.

**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)**

Another busy year but certainly a different one from March 2020. I also had a different year in that I took the decision to come off the Fire Authority and concentrate on other things; it wasn't an easy decision and I have certainly missed being involved and working with all the people involved in West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue.

Armed Forces Champion - I have continued to develop the role of the Armed Forces Champion. We now have an excellent Covenant Officer who is supporting all the five West Yorkshire Councils with their Covenant work. This has enabled the West Yorkshire Councils and their Champions to work closer together and share good practice with each other through a good practice forum.

Our Bradford District Armed Forces Community Covenant partnership is also working well together and our membership is increasing. One of our partners in the Royal British Legion and I visited their branch in Leeds to have a look around their offices and drop in centre and meet some of the team.

I have continued to support Age UK's monthly Veterans Breakfast club in Bradford but it was recognised that something was needed for the younger ex forces personnel who probably would struggle to access a club during the week. The Armed Forces breakfast clubs are a great way to help and support the Armed Forces community.

I worked with Gill Arnold from the Magistrates, Lieutenant Colonel Davies and WO2 Gavin Roberts to develop a breakfast club in the Bradford City Centre which was held on the first Sunday in the month. For what-ever reason it didn't work, so the decision was to create a hub, a one stop shop for ex services. We were due to launch in June but sadly all the arrangements changed with the arrival of the pandemic and Lockdown, this is now on hold.

I have also continued to support the cadets and this year as well as my regular visits to the Sea Cadets I also visited the Air and Army Cadets.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – I have continued to raise awareness of FGM and champion the cause to eradicate this horrific and brutal practice. Working with Yemi Fagboran MBE is amazing, she is such an inspirational person to work with. It has been difficult in the past trying to make connections and to understand who is doing what! This year I really felt that we were starting to get somewhere and we made some really good contacts. The government have funded a couple of clinics across the country, one of which is in Leeds so I arranged to go and visit their clinic. I also visited with Yemi Bevan House who do some fantastic work with asylum and refugees. The multi-agency partnership has met a few times this year and has grown with some really good dedicated people attending. In February we held our annual conference for the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM and once again it was a success. We had some amazing speakers and a great networking opportunity. The future plans we had, were put on hold with the start of the lockdown.

Regeneration & Environment Overview & Scrutiny committee - I have enjoyed the committee again this year. To aid my development as Deputy Chair I attended an LGA weekend course, Leadership Essentials, Effective Scrutiny. I found it to be very informative and interesting, and especially working closely with Councillors from different parties and areas, sharing good practice.

The committee had a visit to Bowling Back Lane waste centre to see how our general, recycling waste is managed. It was very interesting and the workers on the sorting belt work really hard. The other visit was a return to Sedgeberg Leisure Centre now that it's built and finished, to have a look around before the grand opening.

Ward, Community - I have continued to work closely with my colleagues and the street surgeries are still popular and well used. We have had a number of resident groups meetings to look at antisocial behaviour and environmental concerns.

We have a number of cold calling control zones across the ward and this year we added another on Haycliffe Lane. Some residents had raised concerns that they have had some bogus callers and so we set up the scheme together with Trading Standards to help the community feel safer.

Great Horton festival in 2019 was a great success we expanded slightly and took over more of the park. We were blessed with a beautiful day and again the community loved the day. The Lord Mayor Cllr Lee attended and so did our MP Judith Cummins. The Friends of Brackenhill Park have worked hard to try and encourage more people to get involved and commissioned a survey to look at why people won't use the park and ask for suggestions. The work with the two local Primary Schools was excellent they fully engaged in the consultation. We were encouraged by the report and were looking at how we could take forward some of the suggestions when the pandemic came.

I have enjoyed my year on the Cathedral Council, and especially during their centenary year.

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).

CP7 Workshop
CLLD Briefing
Corporate Parent Training
Clean air zone briefing
Dementia Friends & Best Practice
Healthy Minds Digital doorway launch
Homeless & Rough Sleepers Strategy
Housing options overview & visit to day shelter and hostels
Ice Programme Visit (Health & Wellbeing Summer school)
Introduction to Migrants, working with Migrants
International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM
LGA Scrutiny Course
Licensing Training
Materials Reclamation Facility visit
Prevent Training
Safer Communities drop in
VCS Infrastructure Review
Welfare Advice Workshop
Winter Maintenance Review