

COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2018- MARCH 2019

Councillor:	Joanne Dodds
Ward:	Great Horton
Party:	Labour
Date Elected:	May 2006
Basic:	£13,463.16
Special Responsibility:	£648.34
Other Allowances:	£3,521.04 (Basic) £3,885.96 (SRA) (West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority)

Positions held in 2018 – 2019:

Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (DCh)
Education Appeals (DCh)
Bradford South Area Committee
Licensing Committee

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

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Ch of HR Committee)
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (Exec Member)
Armed Forces Champion
Friends of Brackenhill Park (Ch)
West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Alt)
Bradford Dragon boat Committee (DCh)
Lord Mayor's Appeal Committee (DCh)
Bradford Cathedral Council
Corporate Driving Diversity Meeting (WYF&R)
Yorkshire and Humber Employers Association
Ward Partnership Meetings
Welcome to Great Horton Project
Scholemoor Beacon
Cornerstone Church Trustee Meetings
Co-op Party
FGM Multi Agency Partnership
Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership
Veterans Breakfast Club
Community Partnership 7
Bradford South CLP
Great Horton Branch Meetings

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

- To continue to work hard, with both my ward 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.

My priorities for the coming year (May 2019 to April 2020) are:

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

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

What I have achieved in the past year (May 2018 to May 2019)

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

- It has been another busy and enjoyable year with new challenges and experiences. I did ask to be more involved in the Council and so I was given Deputy Chair for Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This is a new committee where two committees have been combined into one. It certainly has given me a better understanding of the different areas of the council that come under this remit. The committee looked into Single Plastic Review which I found fascinating, not just hearing from officers from the council but also companies, charities and organisations.

I am also part of the sub group that looked into the housing and homeless strategy and also the waste strategy. The committee members were offered a site visit to the new swimming pool and leisure centre at Sedbergh, it was a great opportunity to see it while it was still under construction.

- On the Fire Authority I have continued to be an executive member. This year I have chaired the HR Committee and this also gave me membership on the Yorkshire and Humber Employers Association and the Corporate Diversity Driving Board. As always there has been some excellent training through the authority and in particular was the day course on suicide prevention.
- There is a huge amount of work goes into the planning for the bonfire period between the Fire, Police, council and other agencies. I had the privilege of attending the three key meetings that are held between the agencies. It was an amazing experience to see how it all works and feeds through together.
- I have enjoyed developing my Armed Forces Champion role. We have an active covenant partnership which meets twice a year. This year Bradford Council was awarded the silver in the Ministry of Defence Employers Recognition Scheme. This is quite a prestigious award and so it was an honour for me to go and collect the award at a ceremony in Guild Hall in Hull.

I have continued to support Age UK in their Aged Veteran's project and attend their monthly breakfast club. It is lovely to hear them reminiscing together and I have seen how much those attending do value this monthly gathering.

I have worked together with Gill Arnold from the Magistrates, Lieutenant Colonel Davies and WO2 Gavin Roberts to develop a breakfast club in Bradford to hopefully reach the younger ex service personnel. This is still early days but the hope is that it will be as successful and well used as the one in Keighley and Shipley.

In April I attended the Armed Forces Covenant in the Community conference in Newcastle. I found this even to be very informative, it was good to meet other champions and learn about what other areas are with their covenant work.

We now have an implementation officer who is funded by the Ministry of Defence but based within Bradford Council to work with all the five West Yorkshire Councils on their covenant action plan. She is going to help us review and refresh our action plan and I will look forward to working with her and seeing our plan develop.

- I continue to be the champion for the fight to eradicate female genital mutilation. The multi-agency partnership has met a couple of times this year and continues to raise awareness where they can. We organised and even on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM on the 6 Feb in City Hall. We didn't know how many would attend but it was pleasing to see so many. It was an excellent event.

Bradford College held their annual awareness session which I was one of the speakers for. This was well attended by students from Law, Health and other areas. There were some excellent speakers, hard hitting and powerful.

- I had the honour of being part of the phoenix Women project which was recreating a picture painted in 1919 showing women at work during the war at the munitions factory at Thornbury the Phoenix works. The picture 100 years on was recreating that picture with modern day working women. It was an amazing experience and a very unique opportunity.
- My community work continues with the monthly older peoples coffee morning and lunch club in Lidget Green and also the work with Friends of Brackenhill Park. I am the main organiser for the annual Great Horton Community Festival, party in the park. This year again we had an amazing event. Our theme was about celebrating our diversity and we had performances from school children and youth groups on this theme. The weather was lovely and the atmosphere on the day was wonderful.
- I have continued to support and attend community meetings and events across the ward and in particular the Welcome to Great Horton.
- I am an active member of the Dragon boat Festival committee and this year it moved from the beginning of May into the end of June It also is now held over 3 days with a youth day, Lord Mayor's charity day and a multi charity day. It has now grown to the biggest festival of its kind and is running solely on volunteers.

- I have continued to work closely with my colleagues and the street surgeries continue to be busy and appreciated by those we speak to. Following on from last year we have also completed some multi agency street surgeries in locations where there have been a number of issues. The feedback we have received has been positive and we will continue to do these with out partners.
- There have been some challenges since the alternate weekly collections came into force in the Great Horton area. I wrote a report on the issues around fly tipping, side waste contaminated bins, lack of recycling and collection points. Following this report a pilot project was developed for four weeks that saw intense support. Throughout the period there was a huge amount of waste collected and contaminated bins emptied. Officers were able to engage with the community and landlords and it really did start to make a difference in the area that it covered. Resources are limited and this intense support could not be sustained for any longer than a month. However for the time that it did run it worked and very well too it showed what education and enforcement could do.
- The challenges continue and I will be working with my colleagues to look at how we can best use our limited resources to bring some pride into our communities.
- There are some areas of Great Horton where there are anti-social behaviour problems and so I have organised a number of residents meetings to enable them to meet with relevant officers and the Police to look at the issues and work together on the solutions.
- I worked with Trading Standards and the Ward Officer for Great Horton on setting up a no cold calling zone in the Birks Fold area. They had raised concerns about the number of people they had knocking on doors.
- I went to the Labour Conference in September as a delegate. This was my second time to a conference but first time as a delegate. It is a wonderful experience, tiring but well worth it to be a part of the decision making.

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).

- Introduction to Scrutiny
- Bradford Schools Drug Prevention Initiative
- Food Hygiene Course
- Labour Conference
- Universal Credit Impact
- GDPR Training
- IRMP – WYF&R
- Treasury Management – WYF&R
- HMI Briefing – WYF&R
- LGA Peer Procurement – WYF&R
- Diversity and Inclusion in the Fire and Rescue Service
- Household Waste Site Tour
- Housing and Homeless Strategies
- Safetalk – course on suicide awareness
- International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM
- FGM Awareness at Bradford College
- Armed Forces Covenant in the Community Annual Conference