

District Councillor's Report

Penyghent Ward



June 2022

Councillor Robert Ogden



Resilient Communities

At the final Annual Meeting of Craven District Council, I was voted in by members of all sides to serve as the Lead Member for Resilient Communities. As the most recently elected councillor, and the youngest, I recognise that this is a great honour. I look forward to working with officers in the final months before Local Government Reorganisation merges Craven into the North Yorkshire unitary authority on the 1st April 2023.



This role covers a broad number of responsibilities, including the Ward Member Grant scheme, Leisure facilities, community initiatives and Health. Planning gain is one area I have a particular interest in, considering the Lord's Close development has a significant planning gain proposal that would deliver a number of projects in Penyghent Ward. There are examples across the district where this has increased the 'resilience' of communities, and therefore it is fitting that this should be one of my primary focuses moving forward.

I will be presenting my first report to Policy Committee later in the month, and I look forward to this unique opportunity to aid the delivery of crucial projects across Craven. It was at the Annual Meeting that I also accepted the position of Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee, a committee I have served on since I was elected in May 2022.

Ward Member Grant Scheme

The Ward Member Grants is a scheme run by Craven District Council that enables councillors to dish out small grants to local community groups. I think it is an excellent opportunity to help those small groups that make a real difference in Penyghent. The scheme for 2022/23 is now open, and it will be the final opportunity to gain grants from Craven District Council before it is abolished. I strongly encourage you or your local community group to apply for funding! To find out more, and access the application form, please visit the CDC website using the following link:

<https://www.cravendc.gov.uk/community-living/grants-community-projects/craven-district-council-ward-member-grants/>

Lord's Close Development, Giggleswick

I have (finally) received an update from the Planning department regarding the Lord's Close development (**reference:** 2021/23539/FUL) in Giggleswick, which I relayed immediately to Giggleswick Parish Council. Below is the response from a planning officer:

"This application has recently been passed to me to deal with and I have undertaken an assessment of the consultation responses that have been received. A number of issues have been identified as part of the consultation process some of which have been forwarded to the applicant's agent. However, to date I have had no response from the NYCC Highways Engineer and therefore have been unable to fully agree any amendments as they could potentially conflict with highway engineering requirements which may or may not be necessary. I am presently chasing up a response from the Highway Engineer as a matter of urgency. Regarding timescales on the application it is difficult for me to be precise other than to advise that the application will be referred to the planning committee for a decision at which time you will be formally notified of the date and time of the relevant meeting. As things stand I would anticipate another couple of months before all matters pertaining to the application can be resolved."

The anticipated timescale would place a resolution of the application in July. However, it is worth noting that this is not a firm deadline commitment. I have already written of the uncertainty for our community that further delay will bring, and I will work with the planning department to ensure this does not drag on needlessly.

As the site is allocated for housing in the local plan, I don't expect this application to be flatly refused. Regardless, I will ensure that the application is brought before the planning committee so that a full and fair final decision can be reached.

Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

At a meeting of the Licensing Committee in May, members voted for a 33% increase on all tariffs, including soiling charges and extras. This is one of the responsibilities of the Licensing Committee, and I was eager to vote through this change following reports of

Craven Taxi drivers being left with unsustainable costs after no change for a decade. Recent levels of inflation brought this to a head, and it became clear change was necessary. Whilst this does increase costs for customers, it must be recognised that failing to increase the tariff rate would lead many Hackney Carriage drivers either destitute or leaving the profession. Either is clearly not feasible, so the fair increases were brought in.

Stainforth Foss Litter Bin Provision

I am keenly aware that Stainforth Parish Council is putting in an enormous effort to try and alleviate the horrendous littering problem at the Stainforth Foss beauty spot. This is on top of the incredible efforts of individuals who have organised litter picks for a long time now, to plug the gap that large well-funded authorities have failed to deal with.

Unfortunately, the natural beauty of the site does bring with it antisocial behaviour and a waste management problem. The proposal put forward by the Parish Council early this year, to install a large bin that can be moved up the road to be emptied by Craven District Council, seems to indicate a big step forward.

For my part, I have sought assurances from Craven's Environmental Services department that the collection of the bin will not incur service charges, and will be continued after Local Government Reorganisation. Falling at those two final hurdles would of course be unthinkable, and snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

Platinum Jubilee

This past month saw the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which successfully brought the whole nation together. Our communities saw the planting of trees, lighting of beacons and jovial celebrations with family and friends.

God Save the Queen.



Clr Robert Ogden

Penyghent Ward



If you have any queries, or would like to report an issue, please contact me using my email address:

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