



Green Party
for the common good

Councillor Karen Allison Annual Report 2017 to 2018

Year Elected: 2014
Ward: Newsome

The past 12 months has been as busy as ever with no two days being the same, you never know what is coming your way until the phone rings. This past year has provided me with the opportunity to meet and support some of the fantastic people who live and work in the Newsome Ward.

Council Meetings:

As well as attending Full Council I am also an active member of:

Corporate Parenting Board

Licensing Panel

Assets Panel

Cross party IT working group

NCS Panel (National Citizenship Service)

Business Managers Group – dealing with the management of political groups and council business

External Groups:

I am on the Governing Body at Hillside Infants and Junior School, Newsome. I am now the Vice Chair and Chair of the Finance Committee, working so closely in this way gives me a greater insight into the day to day and long term management of the School. We are very fortunate at Hillside to have such fantastic hard working staff and a great bunch of kids, this makes the daily challenges in school much easier to deal with.

A new role I undertook in 2017 was to become a Board Member on the Kirklees Theatre Trust, as a Board member we play a crucial role in the governance and decision making of the theatre (Lawrence Batley Theatre)

Casework/Community:

Much of my time is taken up with helping local people with issues on a personal and individual basis. It is different every day which is both a challenge and great thing about the job of being a local councillor. Casework is varied but never ending! We have our fair share of fly tipping, overgrown vegetation, noise nuisance, street lighting problems, parking issues, off road bikes are a constant pain to the community – the list is endless!

I have a good working relationship with our local ward Police Officers, PCSO's, Estate Housing Officers and Kirklees staff which makes dealing with some of the above much easier to hopefully resolve. You can't do this job on your own you need help and advice from a wide range of folks and I am more than happy to ask for that help where needed.

Other Voluntary activities:

During the school holidays I enjoy helping out at the Lowerhouses Lunch Club. It isn't about going in with your 'Councillor hat on', it's about mucking in and doing what is needed from washing up to serving food.

In Newsome we have a wealth of talented people especially the younger people. I am lucky enough to help with the Newsome Scout Panto, to see those children sing and act and just basically have fun on stage is heart warming, for many of our children this is the one and only time they will step foot on a stage.

Surgeries:

I have joined Cllr Andrew Cooper at the regular Advice Surgery held on the first Sunday of the month at the Monkey Club, Armitage Bridge.

Training:

Licensing Training (update)

Planning Training (update)

Because the law changes so frequently and new issues are popping up all the time it is vital that Councillors are trained about these matters and how best they can be addressed.

Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow's reality
Malala Yousafzai – youngest Nobel Prize Laureate.