

District Councillor's Report

Penyghent Ward



July 2022

Councillor Robert Ogden



Craven District of Sanctuary

I presented my first report to Policy Committee in June, which was unanimously adopted by the committee. As a result, Craven is to be recognised as a 'District of Sanctuary' for its work in resettling refugees, and will work further with partner organisations to improve the resettling of refugees in desperate need of safety. The Afghanistan crisis and the war in Ukraine have underlined the importance of this work.



POL. 1188

CRAVEN DISTRICT OF SANCTUARY

Resolved –

- (1) That, the signing of the City of Sanctuary supporting organisation pledge by the Chief Executive is approved.
- (2) That, the Committee recognise and support the work of Craven Refugee Support Network.
- (3) That, joining the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network as a non-awarded member is approved.
- (4) That, a voluntary annual donation to City of Sanctuary of £250 for the next 5 years is approved.
- (5) That, working with City of Sanctuary, local refugee support groups and partners to develop an Action Plan for the council with the intention of submitting an application for the Council of Sanctuary Award is approved.
- (6) That, Councillor Rose is appointed as the District of Sanctuary Member Champion.

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.cravencdc.gov.uk/community-living/grants-community-projects/craven-district-council-ward-member-grants/>

Stainforth Foss Litter Bin Provision

Communication with the officers at Craven District Council has developed since last month. Options have been presented to the Parish Council that I have been privy to. I am not satisfied with these options, particularly relating to the cost of emptying the bin. These service charges are grossly unfair, and I made such representations to officers. The vast majority of the issue is being caused by non-parishioners, yet the charge is laid at their door. I might also note that Stainforth is a rather small village, and this cost is disproportionate to their already tight budgets. I will continue to offer my assistance on this matter. Finally, the continuing role of Reverend Dawson and the local volunteers helping keep the foss tidy must continuously be thanked and praised for their vital service.

Legacy Subcommittee

I have been appointed to the new legacy subcommittee. We will be meeting over the next few months, in order to determine how best to create a legacy for Craven of which we in this district can be proud for many years to come. I want to ensure that people in the northern end of the district are rightly recognised for their work, and support councillors from other parts of Craven in this process too. I am particularly keen, as the Member Champion for Young People, to make sure this includes that particular aspect. A further pet interest would be seeing the Civic Regalia of Settle Rural District returning home. I point-blank refuse to allow it to fall into a North Yorkshire Council treasure vault. The Terms of reference adopted at Policy Committee are attached below:

(a) To formally recognise local organisations and individuals who have carried out good work or deeds which have benefitted the Craven District Area.

(b) To establish a criteria that the Sub-Committee will consider when deciding who to recognise.

(c) To consult with Ward Members and senior officers for nominations.

(d) To meet at least twice during the financial year 2022/23 to discuss nominations.

(e) To report at Council Meetings details of successful candidates and why they have been selected.

(f) To make recommendations on the future of the Council's ownership of Civic Regalia.

Affordable Housing – Horton-in-Ribblesdale

I do have much else to say here other than to attach my angry Facebook post. It severely tests my patience that as the local ward member, I have to find out through the local paper that one of my main passions – affordable housing – is being trashed by the local authority and the National Park. It simply is not good enough, and I am genuinely angry.



Cllr Robert Ogden - Penyghent Ward ...

27 Jun · 🌐

I am infuriated by this decision. This is the first significant building scheme in Horton for years. We had one opportunity to get it right, and unfortunately the wrong decision has been made.

I will always hammer the point home that we need affordable housing if young people are to have a future in the district. In the end, it once again comes down to making £££ in the short term. No planning for the future.

Despite being the ward councillor, nobody ever contacts me to run things past me or ask for my views. It makes you wonder: what is the point of electing local representatives to represent local people if unaccountable anti-local policies dominate?

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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