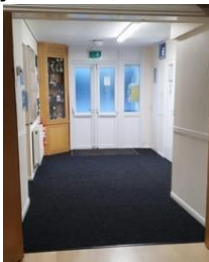


## **Councillor Ann Hooks – Rayne Ward District Yearly Report**

It has been a fantastic first year of my first term as your District Councillor (and I still thank you all that voted for me!). The year had been a positive one, representing you and the village at the District Council.

Each District Councillor is allocated £1250 in the Councillor Community Grant scheme. I am happy that funds were shared between Rayne Village Hall, the Old School Rooms and Rayne PSA.

The village hall received £350 to contribute towards the new carpets at the main entrance and the CIP entrance. The Old School Rooms were in receipt of £300 to help towards the re-insulation of the building. £595.20 bought a new notice board for the Rayne PSA, which can be seen in the school grounds.



I have attended Parish Council meetings, PC surgeries and coffee mornings, where I have met and chatted to residents about all things Rayne. I have been contacted by many residents over the past year on a range of issues including, and not limited to potholes, street lamps, dog fouling, numerous parking issues around the village, vegetation issues, graffiti and of course the encampment of travellers. I hope that I facilitated a positive outcome on some of these.



It can be a blurred line at times, as still being Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, some of the village issues overlap with both my Parish and District roles. But I thank Mike Eldred (Chair of the PC) and Hazel Godfrey (clerk of the PC) who are both supportive and we have a great working relationship, which can only be positive for our village.

We are facing the threat of two extensions to the current quarry, in the latest ECC Mineral review. I spearheaded the response and I hope that many of you gave your



opinions during the consultation period. I organised a walk, with the help of a couple of residents, to highlight the loss of a Public Right of Way, which was well attended. I also defended Rayne at a meeting at BDC, where I managed to change BDCs response to the proposal at Rayne from neutral to strongly objecting.

We now have to wait and see what sites ECC will put forward as their 'preferred sites,' later this year.

The learning curve of being a new District Councillor was steep, but I have attended member training on topics such as waste management and recycling, cost of living, devolution, community safety & PFCC, levelling up, corporate strategy and how to be an effective ward councillor, to name a few.

At the Council I was also placed on the Planning Committee, where I had to attend extra training before being able to join any meetings. This committee has meetings two out of every three weeks but as I enjoy the planning process, I find this a rewarding committee to be on. I also sit on the Governance and Audit Committee.

I also put myself forward for the prestigious NextGen course, where I was picked out of 80 applicants to be awarded one of the 18 places. I spent three weekends up at the Warwick Conference Centre, learning the ways of the Local Government Association and ultimately being given the best tools to do the elected role, as best as I am able. Within a month of completing the course, I seconded and supported a motion at BDC full council. The motion was for the council to sign up to the campaign 'Debate not Hate.' Using my newly acquired skills, I gained the unanimous support of all members to sign up to the campaign. It was an important topic to support, as sadly 7 out of 10 councillors in a recent poll have said they have suffered from abuse, intimidation and ridicule in all parts of their role.



I look forward to the next year with enthusiasm and optimism. I will continue to represent you with the same determination as I have always done.

Please do get in contact with me if you have any issues, concerns or positive comments that you wish to tell me! My email, which is my preferred method of contact is, [cllr.ahooks@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ahooks@braintree.gov.uk) I have active social media accounts and can be found on Facebook, Instagram and X. Give me a follow, to keep up to date with what I am doing for you and the village.

Thanks

Ann