

Application for co-opted parish councillor – West Rainton & Leamside

Malcolm Massey

I have lived in West Rainton for over 30 years since moving there from the north west with my then fiancée, after a brief stay of a few months in Witton le Wear. Our 2 children were born here and attended Belmont school, and in my daughters' case then on to Durham High School with a bursary, so that she could ensure she had the grades needed to obtain a place in medical school that she wanted as her career. She is currently living in Newcastle upon Tyne and splits her time between working in Accident and Emergency and teaching medical students. She plans to apply for GP training to start in 2023. My son stayed at Belmont school, Durham 6th Form College, and then Middlesbrough University, and is currently a co-director and shareholder in the business I started 10 years ago as an accountancy practice, with our main office in the Gilesgate area of Durham employing 2 other staff members.

Initially I came to the north east after being asked to work as the Chief Accountant, and later Finance and Administration Director, at a manufacturing company my employers owned in Spennymoor. At that time HR department also reported to me. I left there to start a contract cleaning business, but after about 6 months I was offered a job back working as an IT finance consultant for a Durham company that I knew, so my wife left her job as a prison officer and ran that business successfully for a number of years, eventually employing around 70 staff with my support in administration. I went back to being employed.

During my time in the Durham area I was a member of Round Table, and then after having to leave due to their age rules, I eventually joined Durham Lions for a number of years. I left Lions due to the amount of time I was needing when starting my accountancy practice but keep close contacts with them and usually attend 2 or 3 events still each year. More recently I have just joined one of the local Masons groups.

My son now runs the day to day work in the accountancy practice, so I am looking to spend less time working there and at the right time we plan to employ another person, and I will step back into just a planning/project role as long as he needs me.

I only saw the vacancy for a co-opted parish councillor on the Leamside notice board very recently on one of our walks around the villages and thought it may be an opportunity that I could try and give some support to. I have never worked in local government so have no experience of that but assume that as a group the parish council will be able to help me to understand what is needed.