

Personal Statement

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I wish to apply to become a parish councillor for West Rainton and Leamside. I have lived in the village for the past 3 years but have long standing connections with the area as I was born at Rainton Bridge, confirmed at St Mary's and attended 1st West Rainton brownies and guides.

I am a graduate in plant science and I also hold post graduate qualifications in management, teaching and counselling. I am also qualified at degree level in clinical hypnotherapy and have run my own business. My C.V. includes around 40 years working in local government and latterly the NHS where I was a senior manager answerable to the chief executive on public participation and involvement. (My detailed cv is available if you wish)

In local government I worked in social care for several local authorities, managing a variety of services, setting up social enterprises, a collaboration between the local authority and a charity on North Tyneside where we raised money to build a new countryside centre as well as a day service for disabled, the community and those with mental health problems all of which I managed, recruiting and training staff and managing budgets. I was chief verifier for the National Council for Hypnotherapy and acted as consultant to training schools for the level 5 qualification. In the NHS I worked with local community groups to improve patient experience and encourage access and involvement among disadvantaged and ethnic minority groups.

Since moving to West Rainton I have become involved in several local groups, the Thursday Zumba gold, Tuesday walks, the green group, where I have participated in litter picks, maintaining the community orchard and a tree survey. I also help out with friendly faces. All of these have helped me to learn about the village and the local community. I am interested in the impact future developments will have on the village, and the maintenance and retention of public footpaths and public amenity spaces in the village.

I would like to feel that I can use my background knowledge and experience to contribute towards maintaining the beautiful and friendly village that we live in. I understand that there is a need to work with the local authority and I have experience of joint working.

I realise that my knowledge of parish council procedures is limited and I am happy to undertake any training so that I can fulfil my duties more efficiently should I be co-opted.