

ITEM 3 A CO-OPTION TO PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY - PERSONAL STATEMENT

Dear Mark,

I have lived in West Rainton and Leamside all my life. My family has been in West Rainton for generations. I attended school here, my medical practitioners are here, and my relatives are buried in the local cemetery.

To me the community is important, and I want to support the community as much as possible as the village is unique and has unique needs and strengths.

I have a background in the non-profit sector, specialising in sports administration, education, disability, and military/veteran affairs. I have worked with others on committees since my teens. For fifteen years I was a member of the Veterans Advisory and Pension Committee, the statutory body for the veteran and military community. This was a position I was appointed to by the Minister of Defence. I have been a member of the Durham County Council's Veteran Forum for over twenty years.

I was the Founding Chair of the Regional Stakeholders Network North East and a committee member of the National Stakeholders Network, a body and public appointment of the Cabinet Office.

I hold a degree and am a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and the Royal Society of Arts. I have worked with a wide range of organisations, from local charities. I have some knowledge of financial matters, primarily in the context of expenses and government issues. As the founding Chair of the Regional Stakeholder Network I worked with groups, organisations, and councils across a wide range of interests and sizes.

In my work and background, I am aware of the importance of working in a constructive, inclusive, non-confrontational and supportive manner. I strongly believe that committees should work together to deliver for their community and therefore need to work respectfully and amicably to achieve their mission.

I hope the above provides an overview of my background and my willingness to support the Council in its efforts to help the local community.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature.