

Name: Michelle Embleton

Please tell us your reasons for wishing to become a Town Councillor.

I love living here and really care about Newbiggin and the residents/community and businesses. I feel I can make a difference based on my recent county campaign and have the trust and respect of the community, and over the recent months understand both the issues and positives about the town.

What is your knowledge specific to Parish Councils?

The parish council is local government responsible for managing local services and amenities (I have a copy of the powers and duties), supporting communities and working with NCC to escalate anything required. The council is a way for residents to have their voices heard as they can share the best view of how a community feels to drive action.

Do you have any experience of voluntary, partnership or community work? If so, please provide details.

I volunteer every week at parkrun, and I am the admin on the Litter picking action group which I am an active participant on my own and join in with organized litter picks. I am also on the committee and a Leader in Running Fitness at Ashington Hirst RC.

What skills, knowledge, and experience do you have that could benefit the Town Council?

I work full time in a finance related role.  
Through parkrun I understand the impact of tourism on our town and the wider effects on businesses, every week we welcome guests from both the UK and abroad.

As mentioned my recent county council campaign has allowed me to build relationships in the town, get to know people I didn't previously and understand their issues. I did home visits and door knocking across all of Newbiggin and Woodhorn Village so already have gained trust. I also hosted public events for both residents and businesses to attend.

Unfortunately, under present legislation the Town Council is not permitted to contribute to the cost of councillors' childcare or care of dependants.

Are there any factors, other than exceptional circumstances, that might prevent you from regularly attending the Town Council Meetings which generally take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm?

Not usually, but I do have 4 Wednesday's over the next couple of months where I already have events

Are there any local issues that you are particularly interested in that you believe could be of benefit to the community?

Road safety and parking are high on my list, impacts everyone and our town should be safe for all residents and visitors and came up so many times when out speaking to residents.

Also promoting all the amazing community groups we have here and hopefully helping them work together.

Do you have any hobbies or interests that could benefit the Town Council?

I am a runner (I run for Ashington Hirst RC) so can support with anything relating to being fit and active. My husband and I also have an allotment at West end which we enjoy

Lastly are there any questions you would like to ask us?

As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live, work and visit. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.