

Name: Sonia Simm

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

I was born and grew up in Newbiggin-By-The-Sea and lived there until 11 years ago. All my family members are residents. Newbiggin has a special place in my heart and will always be home to me.

I would like to become a Town Councillor in Newbiggin-By-The-Sea to help make a positive difference in our community. I am passionate about supporting local initiatives, having previously raised money for Newbiggin boxing club.

I think it is important to make residents voices heard and believe that by working with them we can achieve great things whilst strengthening community spirit and improving services for all.

What is your knowledge specific to Parish Councils?

I am a County Councillor for Hayden, I have worked as a Highway Development Control Technician for 10 years at Northumberland and Sunderland Councils providing responses on highways safety for planning applications to be used in committees and also have a sound knowledge of NPPF and local planning policies and planning legislations and highway law. I also have experience with planning committees.

I have many years experience working in local authorities in various departments so have a sound knowledge on how things work within them.

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

I am a school governor at Cambois Primary School. I have also volunteered in my children's schools over the years and helping out on trips going in helping with reading etc. I also completed my level 2 Teaching Assistant qualifications volunteering at Grace Darling School.

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

Qualifications & Knowledge:

I have and HNC Civil Engineering and Construction and the Built Environment Qualification.

I am a certified Development Management Engineers registered with the Institution of Highways Engineers.

I have Planning experience.

I have experience supporting vulnerable adults and children.

I have experience in fundraising within the community.

I have experience of writing reports to be used in committees.

I have a level 2 Leadership and management qualification.

I have a highway law in development qualification through the CIHT

I am a Level 2 qualified Teaching Assistant

Skills:

Teamwork

Fast Learner

Adaptability

Leadership
Excellent Communication Skills
Ability to work under pressure
Highly organised and efficient
Creative problem solving
Decision making
Excellent Customer Service Skills
Ability to diffuse difficult situations
Ability to empathise and show compassion

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?

None

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

I have a keen interest in Planning and Regeneration and working with local businesses and community groups. I would also like to tackle anti social behaviour and support residents accessing services and work with all members of the community, promoting inclusiveness.

I also have a keen interest in helping residents access courses, and finding work or setting up workshops to help people set up their own business.

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

I enjoy walking, going to the gym, getting out and meeting people. I like fundraising and helping wherever I can.

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

None at the moment, thank you.

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.