



# Whitby

## Town Council

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An open letter from the new Town Mayor of  
Whitby, Cllr Bob Dalrymple, to the residents  
of Whitby

09 May 2023

Dear residents of Whitby

I am thrilled to be writing to you as the incoming Town Mayor. I am proud to have been elected by the council to fulfil this role. As we move forward together, I am keen to ensure that our community is fully engaged with the work of the town council. I believe that working together and connecting with our community is the best way to create a thriving and sustainable future for Whitby.

One of the key areas that we will be focusing on in the coming months, as your local council, is the Neighbourhood Plan. This plan will help us to shape the future of our town and ensure that we meet the needs and aspirations of our community. We will begin the processes of collecting evidence and sharing ideas about policies that could form part of the plan. I urge you to get involved in this process, to share your ideas and to help us to shape the future of our town.

In addition to this, I would like to encourage you to consider setting up neighbourhood speed watch groups. North Yorkshire Councillor Phil Trumper has made a commitment to support these groups and has been talking to residents in Ruswarp to build on their experience and share it with groups that might develop around Guisborough Road and elsewhere. The town council can work with communities to access support from North Yorkshire Police to develop speed watch groups as an effective way of promoting road safety in Whitby.

Another idea that I would like to float is the establishment of community gritting partnerships. North Yorkshire Highways promote this through parish councils. With the winters becoming harsher in recent years, this could be a valuable initiative that would help us to keep our roads and paths safe during the colder months. It depends on people volunteering to keep paths clear close to where they live. I would be interested in hearing your views on this subject.

Volunteering is a fantastic way to get involved in our community and make a positive contribution. Your nineteen town councillors are all volunteers, and we are committed to Whitby and to making our town as good as it can be. I would like to extol the virtues of volunteering at the gallery and museum and at Pannett Park. These are wonderful places to learn about the history and heritage of our town, and to help preserve these important resources for future generations.

At the council, we are committed to engaging with the Whitby community through the North Yorkshire Council vision of a community network. We believe that this network should

help us to better understand the needs and aspirations of our community, and to work together to create a more vibrant and sustainable future for Whitby.

In the last twelve months, we have polled the community's views to help us shape our double-devolution bid. Your input has been invaluable in helping us to understand the priorities and concerns of the community, and we will continue to seek your input as we move forward.

Finally, I would like to point out that the council's Finance, Policy and General Purposes Committee will be reviewing opportunities to make our meetings and processes more accessible and open. We are committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to understand the work of the council and to get their views known by councillors.

I hope that these all provide opportunities to increase your engagement with the town council from across Whitby and build on what we have been doing in recent years.

Developing that thought, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible work done by my predecessor, Cllr Mrs Linda Wild, during her tenure as the outgoing Mayor of Whitby.

Since 2020, Linda has worked tirelessly to encourage and support our community, especially during the challenging times brought about by the pandemic. Linda's dedication and leadership have been instrumental in helping us navigate the many challenges that we have faced over the past few years.

Like Linda, we should all take the time to be true champions for our town, and her efforts have not gone unnoticed. She has publicised Whitby's concerns regionally and nationally, ensuring that the voices of residents are heard loud and clear.

With your help, the town council can continue to be an incredible advocate for our community, supporting local people and local businesses, promoting the arts, and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our town. We must share our passion for our community and further the ideals that are an inspiration to us all.

I believe that by working together and engaging with our community, we can all create a bright and prosperous future for Whitby. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Best regards,

Cllr Bob Dalrymple  
Town Mayor of Whitby