

District Councillor Andy Brown

Report to Bradley Council's Annual Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Covid continues to be a huge issue with over 200 deaths still taking place nationally every day and large numbers of people in Bradley currently being infected. I volunteered at the Silsden Vaccine centre for the bulk of the last year and am still delivering groceries and papers to people in my village who are responsibly isolating despite the removal of all required precautions.

I've remained an active member of the planning committee and was able to help a resident on Westview Close to avoid having a nearby extension removing light. That decision was upheld on appeal despite officers originally recommending approval. Problems continue with the speed and the reliability of decision making within the planning department. The canalside half built structure now has permission to be completed but action to require prompt completion is legally difficult. The council has limited powers of enforcement.

Traffic nuisance continues to be a big issue. There are now over 100 Parishes that have signed up to the 20s plenty campaign and it is to be hoped that the strength of this alliance will result in more priority being given to the concerns of so many residents. The absence of a local speedwatch volunteer group remains a missed opportunity.

Local government re-organisation has taken up a great deal of officer time and attention. It is now certain that Craven District Council will cease to exist on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and the new North Yorkshire Council will take over all responsibilities. What is less certain is what attitude the elected members will take to the size of the local areas where issues like planning will be determined. I continue to argue that Skipton and Ripon parliamentary constituency is much too big to be the smallest area of local decision making other than a Parish. I am also arguing for a committee system instead of cabinet decision making within NYC as this creates a more collaborative atmosphere and tests decisions more carefully.

I remain keen to hear from anyone who has issues they'd like me to take up on their part and I can be contacted via [andy.brown1951@outlook.com](mailto:andy.brown1951@outlook.com) and 07886858038

Cllr Andy Brown