

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPLICATION TO BE CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN OF A SELECT COMMITTEE

Name of Committee: Community Select

Position Applied For: Chair

Surname: Quinn

Forename: Rachael

Address:

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Buxton

Derbyshire

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Information in support of your application:

(This should include details of any relevant skills, experience or personal qualities and should be linked to the Person Specification and the Role and Responsibilities if possible)

I have been a councillor since 2011 and have been a member of the Community Select Committee throughout this period, this has provided a longstanding experience of the work of the committee over the past years.

I have some experience of chairing council committees in the past as the Vice Chair of the old Regeneration committee in the past. In a wider context I have chaired meetings of the NASUWT union as the local branch president and I have also been responsible for preparing agendas and other materials in addition to chairing meetings in my role as a head of department and later faculty leader at New Mills School.

As a teacher and a historian with a postgraduate research degree I am used to considering evidence critically and analytically. In my working life and in my academic studies I am aware of the need to ask the right questions and to consider answers without prejudice in the light of other information. The work of an effective select committee demands these qualities from all members and in particular from the chair in order to make sure that the committee carries out its scrutiny functions effectively.

The work of the Community Select committee is varied and vital as it requires members to scrutinize local services that often have the most impact on daily life, waste services, street cleaning and leisure services

are used by all residents and are the front line for many councillors when dealing with residents. The committee has carried out vital functions in reforming and developing the council's services in all these areas and must continue to give committee members the opportunity to speak for their communities (regardless of political allegiances).

The committee also has the opportunity to comment on services provided by agencies such as the police, the fire service, local ambulance services and health service groups. This has sometimes been an area of concern as many of these agencies operate across the county or across county boundaries and it often seems that the interests of the High Peak are overlooked as we lie on the outside extremes of many of these areas.

Members of the committee have always put forward the views of the people of High Peak and collectively sought the best possible services, regardless of political party. I believe that I have been part of that process and would be keen to continue the role of the committee in standing up for the interests of our residents.

I also have a very personal interest in many of the committee's functions, as a teacher I am very concerned about the health and wellbeing of the young people of this area and I am keen to promote their opportunities in education, sport and leisure. I have been a football coach for Buxton JFC and I have been involved in coaching for young people at the tennis club I am keen to promote the opportunities offered by these local groups to develop all aspects of health for young people in the High Peak.

In addition to this, like all councillors, I am concerned about the availability of health care and services for all the residents of the High Peak and I believe that this committee plays a vital part in ensuring that the interests of residents are represented.

As you can see I am passionate about the work of this committee and determined that it will play an important role in the council's work. As a teacher I have the communication skills needed for the role of chair and also the organisational ability in addition to the ability to work under pressure. I am also keen to learn in terms of the practicalities of chairing the committee and I hope that everyone who knows me will be aware that I always listen to advice and opinions carefully.