

## **District Councillors report May 22**

As we enter the final year of Craven District Council, I feel it only right to firstly make mention of the hard work that has gone in to making the authority become the financially stable and proactive local Council it is, given the depths in which it found itself back in 2008.

And while things have not always run as seamlessly as members and residents would like, it has not been for a lack of will to make the lives of all in Craven better.

With members of the new authority elected and the process of integration of the seven District and Borough Councils into the vesting body, NYCC, it is perhaps a suitable time to remind all that the functions of the District Council and its members will continue to be carried out until the final minute of the final day of Craven District Councils existence, with the same commitment the people of Craven deserve.

For my part I will continue as your District ward Councillor, but also as you County Councillor on the new County authority. A task I look forward too as myself and my fellow Craven members make the case for an equitable and democratic future in the representation of our part of North Yorkshire Council. I look forward to continuing to work closely with both existing and new members of the Parish council.

### **Ward member grant scheme**

Craven District Council's Ward Member grant scheme reopened for applications on 9th May for one last time. Under the scheme each Ward Councillor has a budget of £1,000 and community groups can apply for support for projects which benefit the residents of the ward. Applications can be submitted until 1 February 2023; however, funding is allocated throughout the year so councillors may have already awarded all of their budget before February 2023. Full details of how to apply and lists of projects previously funded through the scheme are on our website

<https://www.cravencd.gov.uk/community-living/grants-community-projects/craven-district-council-ward-member-grants/>

### **£150 Council tax energy rebate**

We have started issuing the £150 energy rebate to all households in council tax bands A-D in Craven. For residents who pay by direct debit, payments should be made into bank accounts by 13th May. In February, the Government announced a national council tax rebate for certain households to help towards increasing energy bills. Every eligible household (in council tax band A-D) across the country is set to receive £150 this spring to help combat the cost-of-living crisis. For all other qualifying households, who do not pay by direct debit, we are in the process of issuing letters by post explaining how to claim the rebate. The payment will then be made into their verified bank account provided.

<http://www.cravencd.gov.uk/benefits-and-advice/energy-bills-rebate/>

## **Residents urged to avoid using black bags in blue recycling bins**

Craven residents are being reminded not to place recyclable items in black bags before putting them into their recycling bins. The Council is working to improve the quality of the recycling collected and to ensure that non-recyclable items are not placed in recycling bins. However, crews have recently noticed an increase of black bagged waste in the blue bins. Meanwhile, the public is also warned about the dangers of disposing of electric cigarettes, vapes and other battery-operated appliances in their household waste bins, which could lead to fires. You can find out about what you can and cannot recycle here.

<https://www.cravenc.gov.uk/waste-recycling/blue-bin-recycling/>