

## Report on Eden District Council Meeting, Thursday 16th May 2019.

This meeting was mostly taken up with the appointment of councillors to various posts. The outcome of the local council elections was: Conservatives: 14, Independents: 10, Liberal Democrats: 10, Labour: 2, Greens: 2. Over the preceding week the Independents had talks with the LibDem/Lab/Green group and the Conservatives and had eventually decided to form a coalition with the former group. As a result the so called rainbow coalition has 24 members against the Conservative 14. So the coalition dominated the voting with Liberal Democrat, Virginia Taylor appointed leader and Independent, Mary Robinson, deputy Leader. Prior to this Andy Connell, Liberal Democrat, had been appointed Chairmen.

Virginia gave a speech. She said she would not want to be an autocrat and that we should be respectful and nice to each other. She said that her hobby horse was the well being of future generations. She talked about an Act passed in Wales in 2015 which stated that the needs of the present are met without affecting future generations negatively. There should be a clear fit for concerns about climate change and financial problems. She said this is called sustainability. We need to look at rurality where services are needed regardless of location. The NHS Success Regime has achieved excellence in rural and remote communities. How do we do this? We need to start with institutions. We need to examine our own practices and look at other models. We need a change in our thinking and concentrate on housing, waste and the need to review services. We need to improve housing practices. We have got to concentrate on things we need to do. The Beacon Village Project does not stand up to examination of sustainability so it's unlikely to go ahead.

Following Virginia's speech, councillors to on the executive were confirmed with Lissie Sharp being appointed to it. There followed allocation of seats to various committees. Lissie was appointed to the Human Resources and Appeals Committee. I was appointed to chair the Housing and Community Scrutiny Committee and as a member to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and the Environment and Economy Committee. This was followed by appointments of members to represent the council on outside bodies. Lissie was appointed to Alston Moor Partnership. I was appointed the representative to the Cumbria Council Health Scrutiny Committee and the Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum.

After the appointments various annual reports were presented: Planning Services, Licencing Committee and Scrutiny Annual Report.

The next Council meeting will be on the 11th of July.

As a result of Alston Labour group joining forces with the Liberal Democrats, Independents and Greens, we have been able to take power. As a result, Lissie has been appointed to the executive and I have been appointed chair of one committee, a member to various other committee and representative to the county wide Health Scrutiny Committee. All of this means Lissie and I should be able to bring considerable influence to bear in favour of Alston Moor in the next four years.