

1) Grass clippings from the Barrasford bees site. This site used to be cut on a regular basis. Now the site has a more naturalistic approach and is left for wildlife to thrive in. The site is still cut by NCC. Last time the team cut the grass they took the clippings to Codlaw farm where they make great compost. Unfortunately, this wasn't a very economical and so I contacted the first school in Barrasford and they have now agreed to take the clippings for their compost. I think this will be a great benefit for the kids to learn about the wildlife the long grass provides throughout the year while also seeing first hand how beneficial composting is. It feels like a full circle operation.

2) Last meeting I spoke about the council tax scheme that is changing. A new banding scheme making less work for officers and a simplified model for people to follow. Less people getting 100% support. Now some people will see a certain percentage increase in their bills depending on what band they fit into. Their earnings will determine this.

We had a budget meeting on the 18th of February.

Our council tax and social care precept go to the county council. The parish precept goes to the parish council and the police and crime precept goes to the police and crime commissioner.

To calculate next year's council tax they add this year's council tax and social care precept together and increase the total by 2.99%.

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The police and crime precept will be increased by 9.45% of itself.

Please let me know of any questions you have.

3) Last meeting you asked how long the contract for the bus service will be Arriva has a contract of 5 years.

Before I was councillor Nick Morphet had submitted a spreadsheet to NCC with peoples suggestions from the whole ward. I was elected to represent NCC on the local bus board which is a requirement in order to for NCC to receive it's share of £163.5m in funding through Bus Service Improvement Plan. I found out that they don't meet very often which is why I called for a meeting with two members of the Bus team at NCC. They are still working on how they can implement these suggestions made from the spreadsheet. I suggested that some more engagement work with communities might be really beneficial so the team can really know what is working and what isn't so that more money can be invested in what

would really benefit communities. I would like to organise some dates and possibly host something at the mart. I am open to any suggestions. What do you think?

4) The library consultation. The consultation for the library services is now open and it think it is really important as a rural community, that we comment on the mobile library service that has seen a considerable cut to services over the years.

At my inequalities working group meeting I asked the question 'will these savings cost us in the long run, in terms of people's well fair and mental health'. The response was that this is something they are working on to try and avoid. They suggested that working with other community groups would be a way forward. This felt quite vague and so I will continue pushing to see how this might look. I have been addressing every PC within the ward to comment on the consultation because we in rural communities need mobile libraries in place. We shouldn't feel like we need to travel into urban areas to access these services.