

Ruth George

A Report from your County Councillor for Whaley Bridge & Blackbrook

Including Furness Vale, Bridgemont, Taxal & Fernilee



Dear Neighbour

Firstly – a huge thank you to everyone who voted for me in May – the election result was truly gratifying and I'm doing all I can to live up to the trust you've placed in me.

I've been working with a great group of local professionals, giving their time to support Whaley Bridge High Street and our shops, cafés and businesses.

We met with local traders and have produced the attached survey to ask what more you'd like to see in Whaley Town Centre, and what would encourage you to visit more.

And I've put together the attached list of almost 90 local businesses to show just how much we already have on offer in Whaley Bridge and Furness Vale.

Please do complete the survey to let us know what you think. And try popping into any of our shops or businesses you've not visited before – they'd love to see you and get some feedback.

We will hold a public meeting in the autumn with the survey results to create a plan to reinvigorate Whaley town centre, and a separate one to support Furness Vale.

If you'd like to be involved, do let us know on the survey and I look forward to working together to make our area even better.

Best wishes

Contact Ruth

email: Ruth.George@derbyshire.gov.uk

phone: 07816 935 539

website: www.ruthforwhaley.co.uk

facebook.com/ruthgeorgehp/



The Regeneration Team on Whaley High Street

Derbyshire County Council Election Result – 1st May 2025 Whaley Bridge Division

Ruth George, Independent	2662
Jacky Sidebottom, Conservative	785
Luke Norton, Reform UK	711
David Lomax, Liberal Democrat	223
Jo Taylor, Labour	168
Matthew Firth, Green	118

Thank you so much for all the support.
I work for everyone, regardless of how you voted.

Help & Advice Surgeries

Please contact me if I can help in any way (email is best as I can keep track), or visit one of my regular surgeries:

Whaley Bridge: First Saturday: 11am-12pm, Footsteps Café, 14 Market St, SK23 7LP

Furness Vale: First Tuesday: 2pm-3pm, Social Club, 1 Yardsley Lane, SK23 7PN (plus Citizens Advice drop-in, 2-4pm)

Chinley: First Wednesday: 10.30-11.30am, Community Centre, 21 Lower Lane, SK23 6BE

Buxworth: Third Wednesday: 6.30-7.30pm, Buxworth Club, Station Road, SK23 7NJ

A crossing for Macclesfield Road:

A pedestrian crossing on Macclesfield Road is much needed. We were promised one when the planning permission was given for the new estate off Linglongs. Barratts paid £10,000 to Derbyshire County Council for the crossing in 2022, but the council has failed to build it! I've been pushing the council to make sure it gets done sooner rather than later. ► *Please sign my petition to the Council to show your support: www.ruthforwhaley.co.uk/maccrdcrossing*



Site of the promised crossing on Macc Road



Thank you for all the uniform donations

School Uniform Recycling

This summer I collected donated uniforms from Chapel High School and Primary, Buxworth, Chinley, Taxal & Fernilee and Whaley Bridge schools and held sales in Chapel Playhouse and Whaley Bridge Uniting Church. Everything was £1 and raised over £300 for school PTAs and Little Cherubs in Chapel. Thank you everyone who donated and bought uniforms.

► *Leftover items have been given to schools, so do ask your school if you're in need, or Little Cherubs supply free children's clothing – find them on Facebook or call/message for an appointment: 07759-679774*

Citizens Advice drop-ins at Furness Vale

The drop-in advice sessions at Furness Vale Social Club have been very popular and often invaluable to those needing support – both in Furness Vale and further afield. I'm continuing to fund the sessions from my councillor's grants as they are so useful. Anyone can pop along – no appointment needed.

And you can enjoy the café, community shop and post office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1.30-4.30pm!

► *1st Tuesday of each month, 2-4pm: Free, drop-in advice at Furness Vale Social Club, Yardsley Lane, SK23 7PN*



With Andrew from Citizens Advice at Furness Social Club



My grandchildren love the new play areas

New play equipment at our parks

I've been campaigning with local residents for more play equipment at Mevril Road and Elnor Lane (Shallcross) parks so I'm delighted that High Peak Council has installed new apparatus in both parks. We can now use the grant from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to create a nature trail at Elnor Lane park and grow more edible native plants such as raspberries, currants and herbs for everyone to enjoy.

► *Check out the Friends of Elnor Lane Park facebook page for working party dates and social events for everyone at the park.*

Land behind the White Hart

The unregistered land behind the White Hart's car park used to be used for markets, fairs and car parking, but scrap cars have now been dumped there. I've proposed that Whaley Bridge Town Council register the land as an Asset of Community Value, so it can be cleared and used for car parking, events and relaxation by the river.

► *The more supporters, the stronger our case, so please email your views with your name and address to: townclerk@whaleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk*



Land behind the White Hart could be a great community asset