
MOWDEN WARD CASUAL VACANCY

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader

Responsible Director - Ada Burns, Chief Executive and Returning Officer

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To notify Members of a casual vacancy for the Mowden Ward following the resignation of Councillor Stenson (see **Appendix 1**).

Summary

2. This report details that there is a casual vacancy for a Member for the Mowden Ward and proposes that Councillor Stenson be thanked for his 50 years' service.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) The Council note the casual vacancy for the Mowden Ward.
 - (b) The thanks and appreciation of the Council be conveyed to Councillor Stenson for his 50 years' service and for a return to good health.

Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) To meet legislative requirements.
 - (b) To place on record the Council's appreciation of Councillor Stenson's 50 years' service.

Ada Burns
Chief Executive and Returning Officer

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

Linda Todd : Extension 5807

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	Mowden Ward
Groups Affected	Electorate of Mowden Ward
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget or policy framework. There is however budget implications in the cost of a by-election.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	Not applicable
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report has no impact
Efficiency	There are no efficiencies
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. Councillor Bill Stenson was first elected to the Council on 13 May 1965. He had a break in service from May 1971 to June 1973 and was re-elected on 7 June 1973. On 6 June this year he completed 50 years' service as a Councillor for Darlington.
6. As Members will be aware, Councillor Stenson has been suffering from ill health and Council, on 23 March 2017, agreed a six-month extension to his term of office as he had been unable to attend meetings since September 2016.
7. Councillor Stenson has subsequently resigned as a Councillor for the Mowden Ward, with effect from 21 September 2017, due to ill health (**See Appendix 1**).

Conclusion

8. This report details the reason for the vacancy in the Mowden Ward and informs Members of Councillor Stenson's service as a Member of the Council.

RECORDED DELIVERY

Mayor Ms Jan Taylor
Darlington Borough Council
Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT

30 August 2017
Our Ref: GWS/BL

Dear Madam

Councillor James William Stenson

It is with very great regret that I am writing to you as my last act as a councillor on Darlington Borough Council.

I have now served the council for over 50 years and have done so with great pride, honour, responsibility and at times with humour. It has been my pleasure to have served both in Eastbourne and Mowden wards as a Councillor throughout this time, serving the needs and requirements of the people and the council of Darlington. The highlight of my time as a Councillor being when I, together with my late wife Laura, was appointed as Mayor and Mayoress of the town.

The last 50 years has brought a great deal of personal pride and achievement and I have been proud to see how this council and town has developed over the last 50 years. I have, with members of the conservative party, faced a number of battles which I have enjoyed and have at all times taken my service to the town seriously and with great pride.

I wish the council, its members and you Madam Mayor all the very best for the future and would be grateful if a copy of this letter could be read out to the council at the meeting on 22 September 2017.

It is with very great regret due to my continued ill-health that I resign as a councillor with effect from 21 September 2017.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor James William Stenson (Bill Stenson)