

## **Report to Council May 2008 from Cllr. Natalie Warriner MBE**

### **Youth Champion**

Being your Youth Champion has been very busy, challenging and sometimes hard, particularly this past year, but I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity and hope that in some small way our young people have benefited from that input. The role is varied, from attending meetings within RDC and elsewhere ensuring that our young people are not forgotten in any deliberations that will effect them longer term. I am happy to say that we have a Charter Group of young people who are moving on apace, wanting to be more involved with our decision processes! Our Front Desk was awarded the Youth Charter for Good Service recently following a 'secret shopper' exercise where our staff scored very highly as being approachable, friendly and efficient!!

I also attended the 'passing out' of the LIFE scheme that is run by the Fire Brigade targeting hard to reach young people. This is a very intensive week of discipline training, team work and accepting responsibility for these young people led by very experienced fire officers trained to challenge and extract the very best from the participants. Unfortunately the course is very expensive and we can only offer limited opportunities. I plan to explore funding from the Youth Justice Board for this and other 'engaging' projects.

I also serve, as a volunteer Panel Member for the Youth Offending Panel, which I am happy to say for many reasons, does not meet very often

### **Our Lives Our Plans**

We have now moved on to trying to deliver some of the aspirations of our young people. The 'wheels' seem to move ever slowly, certainly as far as they are concerned, however, we do manage some 'quick hits'. Our officers are very committed to delivering in line with the NYCC Safeguarding Children objectives.

I must admit that the thinking around young people has changed dramatically since we funded that post and all credit to the officer for maintaining our profile at all levels and keeping us informed of new initiatives.

### **YCV**

**Young Community Volunteers** is being run again this year for a third time.

Previously it has encouraged young people to commit to a particular task within the aims of Safer Ryedale during the Summer Holidays that will benefit their respective communities in the longer term. When I introduced the scheme to Ryedale from South Yorkshire, it was largely aimed at young people 'on the edge', but as we have seen that many of the groups have been mixed and very inventive.

We are looking forward to a larger 'take up' this year and I would ask members that they ensure that their Wards and Parishes have knowledge, information and encouragement to enable them to access the Scheme. I believe you have all received the Poster that young people designed - a vast improvement on the ones we adults thought of!

### **SPARSE**

I have attended all the SPARSE ordinary meetings and executives, on which I service as the Northern Vice Chairman. Our sister organization Rural Services Network

which is the association of service deliverers within Sparse area of the country of which there are some 200 members.

We recently, jointly launched Sustaining Rural Communities “Call for Action” at Westminster, in the hope that our joint lobby would be more effective.

May I commend to you our Web Site, which is accessible to all members of member councils – key in your name, and authority and you will be notified of your access.

[www.rsnonline.org](http://www.rsnonline.org). There are some 400 stakeholders, practitioners and service deliverers now accessing this service, which also includes weekly update of topical subjects – please let me know what you think - good hunting!!

### **Rural Commission**

I am afraid that I have missed one of the two annual meetings this year. However, I use that forum to remind the ‘assembled’ that we Option 4 Councils have much to offer with very limited resources. I hope to be more active in the future.

### **LGA**

I have been very fortunate this year to also be the Vice Chairman of the LGA Independent Group, which has opened many doors for us, not least attending the LGA Executive and Office Holders meetings – what a learning curve! However, Ryedale often gets information before it becomes general knowledge so that is of some benefit to us.

I am also leading the Improvement Board, which is looking at Promoting Support to Councils and Groups, attracting and retaining councillors, developing skills and competencies, improving individual councillor performance and generally promoting the role of councillors

### **RVA**

Unfortunately I have not been very involved with RVA this year due to other commitments, but I have been kept ‘in the loop’ and have managed to be of some use I hope. Being one of the founder members, it was a great honour to attend their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, though not so good looking at past photos!! We are very privileged to have such a thriving community care organization in Ryedale

### **Supporting People**

Attending these meetings had been a real problem this year as they invariably coincide with full council. I don’t know if someone else might like to take that task, if not I will endeavor to contribute to the best of my ability.

### **General**

I am ‘catching breath’ now and wondering where the year has gone!!

It has been very fulfilling and I thank you for trusting me to represent you in so many places and in so many ways.

I am sorry that this report is somewhat short but time has been of the essence.