

Could you make a difference?

Who is prepared to stand up and be counted? I have 57 colleagues who are.

They maybe of different political colours, they may have differing views, but they have all been prepared to stick their heads above the parapet to ensure local democracy is best served.

Why do they do it?

I imagine I speak for them all when I say it is not for the money. In fact I bet that, with the number of hours the average councillor puts in, it works out at less than the minimum wage. And some probably don't even cover their expenses.

People may sit on the sidelines and snipe at council decisions. Many do it via letters to newspapers - some anonymously - or these days it will be on internet forums, blogs, or other forms of social media using a variety of pseudonyms.

Many national newspapers can build whole stories on 'sources close to the club' 'a friend of the celebrity' 'a company insider.' I appreciate this may be necessary to expose a real problem when national security is at risk, for example. But in most cases they are not prepared so stand up and be counted - and therefore not accountable. It's much easier that way.

By now you will be either feeling sorry for me, wondering why I do it or thinking I should just get on with it and stop moaning.

So why do I and those other 57 do it?

Because they want to make a difference for the better to those who live or work in our community. And to do that they cannot hide behind the cloak of anonymity, or snipe from the sidelines after a decision is made. No - they have to stand up and be counted....and very often shot down for doing so.

In May we have Borough Council elections. Nominations for a seat on the Council open next month.

Are you prepared to stand up and be counted?

Mike

NB: Contact elections@staffordbc.gov.uk if you want more information on becoming a councillor.