

Worksheet 1.20a: What does a councillor do on a typical day?

1. Hansa is a local councillor. Read her blog below.

Hansa's blog

I'm in a rush today because I've got an accountancy exam this morning at work, which finishes at 2pm. I've then got to get to the town hall by 3pm for a committee meeting.

One thing we're discussing in the meeting is that there aren't enough local primary schools in our area. Around a hundred children due to start primary school this year will end up being sent about half an hour's car journey away! This isn't fair on families without cars. Just think how hard it'll be for little children to make friends nearby, too.

Last Saturday I met lots of local people at the park cafe. I go there on the first Saturday of every month, so that local people can share concerns with me. Lots of them were really upset about this school situation, so I'm determined to put their views across well at today's meeting. The other main issue people raised was that there have been three homophobic assaults recently outside a new nightclub. That's awful, isn't it?

After the committee meeting, my husband's going to make tea for the family. He'll put the kids to bed while I tweet about a local teenager, Jason. Jason's sent me a media clip of how dangerous the road outside his house is. I want to make sure he gets more followers on Facebook to promote his cause. When I've done that, I'll catch up on emails. I've got six in my inbox from local people, all about different issues. All the emails have a valid point too. One man's pointed out that some of the buses' wheelchair ramps are broken.

After checking my emails I need to sort out my travel expenses. I've been doing a lot of train travel recently. I've visited two schools that have used grants to improve their sports facilities. It's been really interesting.

If I'm not asleep at my computer after that, I'll try and get some preparation done for the next local election! It's in four months. Time will just disappear between now and then, because I'm so busy with my full-time job and with being a parent.

I hope I'll be elected again. After eight years as a councillor, there are too many highs to count. I found it rewarding meeting our Chief Executive and persuading her to make foster children's rights a higher priority. I also enjoyed voting 'yes' to plans for the playground for over-70s. I'll never forget how I felt when one of my friends got elected as a local councillor. I'd suggested that our area would benefit from people with hearing impairments (like him) representing the wider community. I was so happy the day he was chosen to join the cabinet. Diversity within local councils is something I'm very passionate about!

2. Highlight the parts of Hansa's day that are related to her role as a councillor.