

North Yorkshire County Council**18 July 2012****Statement of Rural Services, Waste Disposal, Public Passenger Transport,
Trading Standards and Economic Development****Portfolio Holder County Councillor Chris Metcalfe****Waste Management**

Since the last meeting of the full Council, we have begun the process of applying for planning permission for two new waste management facilities. The first is a new household waste recycling centre to replace the existing site at Catterick Bridge. This site serves a large area of the County including Richmond and Catterick Garrison, and struggles to cope with the amount of waste currently delivered to it. The new site will be on the nearby Gatherley Road Industrial Estate, and will be bigger and offer an improved level of service.

The second development is a new waste transfer station to serve the Ryedale area when the landfill site at Knapton Quarry closes in 2015. The new transfer station will be at Kirby Misperton, immediately behind the existing highways depot.

The County Council is leading the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership in a joint procurement process to let a framework of contracts for the composting of green garden waste. It is expected that this process will save the partners up to 10% of their current costs – expected to be in the region of £140k overall.

Public Rights of Way

June 2012 saw the opening of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, the fourth National Trail in North Yorkshire which will help provide a boost to the visitor economy. We have also commenced work with Natural England on delivering the North Yorkshire section of the national Coastal Path which aims to provide access around the entire English coastline and which should further enhance both tourism and local access opportunities in our coastal communities.

Dementia Alliance

North Yorkshire County Council's Trading Standards officers have pledged to support a dementia action alliance by raising awareness about the dangers of dealing with doorstep callers. People suffering from dementia are often targeted by scams and cold-call offenders who use tricks and frauds to obtain as much money as possible from their victims. Statistics show they will seek out and target the most vulnerable, including the very elderly and those with health problems.

For this reason, County Council officers have agreed to back the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Dementia Action Alliance, a group of stakeholders committed to improving the lives of people with dementia and their carers.

The alliance, which consists of a mix of private, public and voluntary organisations, is designed to share best practice, build links with other stakeholders and promote public awareness and support for those with dementia.

To help the work of the alliance, the County Council has donated to the Alliance £1000 from the monies recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, thus ensuring money made from criminals defrauding similar vulnerable people and recovered as proceeds of crime, is used effectively to prevent further crimes being committed.

Cold caller sentenced

Following an investigation by Trading Standards and Planning Services, George Thomas Sonny Knowles, 33, was sentenced at Bradford Crown Court on 22 June after targeting an elderly, vulnerable resident in the Skipton area for gardening work.

Knowles was found to be out of prison on licence and as a result of this offence was recalled to prison by the Probation Service to service the remainder of a 15 month sentence.

Knowles was subsequently sentenced to a further 13 months and ordered to pay £600 to the victim in compensation and £750 towards County Council costs.

Government Consultation on Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products

The trading standards service has long been involved in the enforcement of controls surrounding the supply of tobacco products, particularly in respect of underage sales and bans on advertising. The county council has now been invited to respond to a government consultation on whether or not to introduce standardised packaging for tobacco products.

The standardised packaging of tobacco would mean that all tobacco products would be required to look the same. All brand names would have to be written in a standard typeface, colour and size, and all other trademarks, logos, colour schemes and graphics would be banned.

In the county of North Yorkshire, the estimated smoking population is 97,600 (16%) and each year it is estimated that smoking costs the county around £152.3 million. In 2011 there were 1,044 smoking-related deaths. Now that almost all advertising promotion and sponsorship have been prohibited, packaging has become the primary promotional tool for the tobacco industry in the UK. This consultation represents an important opportunity to protect the health and wellbeing of children and young people and limit the future burden placed on health and care services.

CHRIS METCALFE

North Yorkshire County Council

July 2012

Statement of the Portfolio Holder Library and Community Services

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe

Libraries

Members will be aware of the work that has been ongoing across the county with communities with libraries in “Category 3”. These communities have established groups of volunteers working towards a “community ownership” model of service delivery and, as a result, six “community libraries” have now opened at Great Ayton, Bilton, Gargrave, Embsay, East Ayton and Barlby during May and June. The celebratory events have been attended by local Members, and the Chairman of the County Council opened the latest at Barlby. The communities have all demonstrated real drive and determination by ensuring that their libraries remain in community ownership with ongoing support from the Library Service, and I would like to give my personal thanks on behalf of the Council to all of the groups concerned.

Libraries Change Lives Award

I am also pleased to inform Members of the Library Service’s most recent success in winning the 2012 “Libraries Change Lives” Award. Library Services have achieved this award in partnership with the County Councils’ Youth Service and NYMAZ (North Yorkshire Music Action Zone) by demonstrating the powerful and positive impact that libraries have on their communities. The award is made annually by The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), and the ceremony took place this year at the House of Commons where Culture Minister, Ed Vaizey, presented the winners with their trophy and a cheque for £4,000.

The winner, “Library Songwriters: Skipton Rewind Club” offers teenagers the chance to meet with library staff and a youth worker to develop their song writing skills, using the library as a cultural centre. The project has encouraged continued engagement with the public library, curbing the decline that usually occurs when children enter secondary education and provides youngsters with a safe space to build their confidence and friendships and through developing and delivering their own events. The teenagers have learned vital transferable skills that will help them in an increasingly competitive jobs market.

As a reward for all of their hard work, the teenagers performed a song written especially for the occasion at the Houses of Parliament for The Minister, MPs and ceremony guests.

Archives

The County Record Office has secured a grant of £48,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to open up the archive of Cochrane & Sons, consisting of more than 100 metres of records on the Selby Shipyard, as a community resource. The project held a popular display as part of the BBC's 'Great British Story' stand at the York Family History Fair on 30 June. The most recent event, which was attended by over 100 people, was an anniversary session at Selby College on 3 July to mark 20 years since the last ship was launched from Cochrane & Sons and to give people a chance to explore a selection of records from the company's archives. Further events will be held throughout 2012.

**COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT, JULY 2012
LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES**