

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 FEBRUARY 2013

### STATEMENT OF RURAL SERVICES, WASTE DISPOSAL, PUBLIC PASSENGER TRANSPORT, TRADING STANDARDS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

#### Waste Management

The Secretary of State has considered whether to call in the Council's planning committee decision to grant planning permission for the Allerton Waste Recovery Park and decided not to call it in. The permission can now be issued subject to prior completion of a legal agreement. Clearly, this is an important milestone on the path to delivering a long term solution for waste management in York and North Yorkshire.

Waste prevention campaigns are now gearing up ready for the Spring when we will see a renewed focus on home composting and reducing food waste. We have recruited a further 10 new volunteers to help with this work. Plans are also well underway for a Choose2reuse fair at the Spa in Scarborough on Saturday 2nd March which will see almost 50 stallholders showcasing their products all made from reused or recycled materials.

#### Public Rights of Way

I am pleased to announce that the terms of a revised delegation agreement with the Yorkshire Dales National Park for public rights of way work has been finalised. Whilst all work on the Definitive Map will return to the County Council, the National Park Authority will continue to undertake day to day network maintenance on our behalf. The revised agreement will come into force in April and we look forward to continuing our positive working relationship with the National Park Authority. Similar discussions are continuing with the North York Moors National Park Authority with a view to agreeing a new delegation agreement effective from April 2014, and I will keep members updated on the progress in due course.

#### Trading Standards

##### **Investigation on horse DNA found in beef products:**

On 16 January, 2013 the Trading Standards & Planning Services (TS&PS) became aware via media reports that Dalepak were one of three companies that were under investigation as a result of horse DNA found in beef products. In 2012 the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) carried out a targeted sampling programme in Eire to examine the authenticity of a number of beef products. The results of the survey appear to have been released to the media on 15/1/13. The results showed a number of beef products that tested positive for horse DNA and pig DNA. A number of supermarkets that sell the affected products have taken action to withdraw the products from sale. Both the Food Standards Agency (England) and the FSAI made it clear it is not a food safety issue. The issue is one of a compositional standard which is horse meat or pig meat being sold as beef which has presented a public confidence issue.

Dalepak is a food manufacturer based in North Yorkshire and is part of the ABP Food Group trading as Wessex Foods. This producer supplied Iceland with 3 products which were sampled. To put some context to the overall picture, one product showed no horse DNA, two products were positive for pig DNA (trace only) and horse DNA. The horse DNA was detected at 0.1%.

TS&PS are the enforcement body in this matter and liaised with the Food Standards Agency (England) and Hambleton/Richmond Environmental Health on 16/1/13 prior to visiting the Dalepak premises. TS&PS officers carried out an inspection of the Dalepak premises on 16/1/13, securing supply chain documentation and taking samples of raw materials. These samples have been submitted to the Public Analysts for analysis for the presence of pig and horse DNA. The results of these tests have been received and showed that there was no horse or pig DNA present in the seven samples taken from Dalepak.

### **Economic Development**

A previously reported the Local Enterprise Partnership is being asked to create a 5 year strategy for growth which will bid for a national government single pot and also be aligned with future European Funds. Whilst timescales and bidding details have not yet been published by government, the strategy planning is taking place. Importantly, it will cover employability skills in our young people, together with transport and housing alongside the core business growth issues.

At a community level, the European funded Leader programme is now fully invested. Whilst a future round of funding is expected from the new EU programme, there will be a gap of c. 1 year. The leader programmes in North Yorkshire primarily cover the Dales and the Moors and we have secured transition funding to retain capacity in the communities for when the new funding arrives.

### **LEP Progress Report**

In the last year the LEP has;

- Supported over 1300 Businesses
- Secured £2.2m of Skills Funding covering key issues from apprenticeships through to leadership and management.
- Recruited 79 Free Business Mentors
- Completed the masterplanning for the FERA site at Sand Hutton identifying the potential for c.800 new jobs
- Linked over 135 businesses into the proposed potash mine as part of a supply chain development programme.

Planned future activity includes;

- An Improved Website simplifying support for business
- A free Telephone Helpline
- Free Online Webinars
- A bid for Regional Growth Fund money
- Working with all regulation bodies, including trading Standards on a Better Regulation Programme
- Delivering Local Business Seminars – 21 confirmed, 70 in development
- A programme working with Welcome to Yorkshire to maximise the potential of the Tour de France
- Rolling out Apprenticeship Hubs across the region

CHRIS METCALFE

# **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**6 February 2013**

## **STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE**

### **Libraries**

#### **Events**

A broad range of events and activities continue to be delivered across libraries and, in March, Scarborough library will host a student conference. This will provide the opportunity for young people aged 16-18 to work with established writers with a national profile and explore their own reading, writing and creative potential.

Scarborough will also host its 7th annual Literature Festival by bringing an exciting line-up of authors to North Yorkshire. This event, which is organised and run by library staff, is now firmly on the cultural calendar for the region. This year, the programme includes David Lodge, Penny Junor, Susannah Gregory and John Gordon Sinclair and will also give authors, poets, musicians and others from across the Yorkshire region to showcase their own talents as part of a high profile event.

In addition to the above, the Library Service will participate in an exciting regional initiative linked to the coming Rugby League World Cup when author events and workshops will be linked to the sporting spectacle, with a particular emphasis on encouraging reading amongst "Dads and Lads".

#### **Library Outlets**

The service continues to expand the number of volunteers that are supporting its work. Of particular note are the 20 people who have recently stepped forward to maintain the opening hours at Kirkbymoorside library. On the same theme, the volunteers group at Tadcaster library has extended opening hours further and are now providing late evening openings on Wednesdays.

The latest library outlet to launch is at St Hedda's School in Egton Bridge where the Library Service is working with the local community and school who are enthusiastic to reach more people and, in particular, to increase access to books and reading for local children.

#### **Apprentices**

As part of the apprenticeship scheme for NYCC, libraries now have 20 apprentices in post who are being trained and supported to develop new skills and improve their longer term employment prospects. Throughout this year, library apprentices will be gaining experience of front-line delivery of services, developing customer care and technical skills, as well as undertaking projects that will benefit both the service and their own personal and professional development.

## Registration

Members of the public wishing to order copies of registration documents on-line will now be able to do so via the County Council website. This service went “live” at the end of January, and the facility enables customers to order and pay for copy birth, death, marriage and civil partnership certificates on-line at any time of day or night. Within a week of the “soft” launch of the service, 80 on-line orders were made, including one from Australia. It is anticipated that numbers will increase further once the service has received further marketing. Members wishing to view the new facility can do so at: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/copycertificates](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/copycertificates).

## Archives

Agreement has been reached to place over 3,000 parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials on-line with a commercial publisher. “Find My Past” will digitise registers from a consortium of Yorkshire Record Offices and will market the contents to family historians worldwide. A royalty will be payable per page downloaded from North Yorkshire’s registers, which derive from about 300 parishes in the Dioceses of York, Ripon and Bradford, and public access to the service will be provided from the County Record Office and through selected libraries.

The MOD-funded “Garrison Voices” project, to create a people’s history of the Garrison, continues to gather public interest and support. A travelling mini exhibition has so far visited Catterick library, The Station at Richmond and Richmond Town Hall, and a “drop-in day” at Catterick library is planned for half-term week on Thursday 21 February.

The county’s archive holdings continue to draw media interest, and the Record Office scanning facilities were featured in an ITV news report about the supply of an authentic copy of the “Yorkshire Gazette” newspaper to the makers of “Downton Abbey”. Other parts of the collection were featured in articles on the successful “Tour de France” bid. The Record Office’s annual Local and Family History Day will also take place at The Pavilions of Harrogate on Saturday 16 March, and speakers will include Dr Kate Williams, royal historian and co-presenter of BBC TV’s “Restoration Home”, which featured the Record Office in a programme about Coulton Mill last year.