

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 NOVEMBER 2013****STATEMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER
COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD****Highways and Transportation****Winter**

I would like to remind Members that we officially started this year's winter maintenance service on 1 October 2013. We have made the usual preparations which has included making sure we have all our salt barns full to maximise our salt stocks for the onset of winter. We have capacity for 55,000T of salt and have access to further supplies throughout the winter season from Cleveland Potash. As is normal practice, the Corporate Director and BES Executive Members have considered any requests for gritting route amendments received during the course of the year. As a result some minor changes have been made but overall the gritting routes are as they have been in previous years. It is worth remembering that our regularly treated routes cover over 50% of the network which is amongst the highest average in the country.

Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar Bypass

The Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar Bypass (BALB) recently passed a key milestone following approval from the Secretary of State for the Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Roads Order that were the subject of the Public Inquiry which took place in May 2013. The Design and Build contract for the scheme is now out to tender with a return date in December 2013. I am pleased to say that the scheme remains on track to commence construction in 2014 and to be completed in 2016.

Parking Management Review

In accordance with the County Parking Strategy, following the introduction of Countywide Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) we have commenced a series of district based parking management reviews aimed at improving traffic management and road safety in the five new CPE districts, starting with Hambleton as it has the largest population. It is envisaged that the programme of district based reviews will be completed by March 2016 to coincide with the end date of the current Local Transport Plan. Previous countywide consultation work has shown that local residents and businesses are most concerned about parking problems in the larger market towns and outside of schools. In response to concerns about parking outside of schools, targeted enforcement and associated publicity started in September shortly after the school summer holiday.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Countywide CPE came into operation on 30 May 2013 and has now been up and running for over 5 months. The arrangements have bedded down well and provide an excellent example of joint working with Harrogate and Scarborough Borough Councils enforcing on the highway and in off-street car parks on behalf of the County Council and the other District Councils. It is accepted that there has been some teething problems with issues such as signs and lines to rectify in some places and these are being addressed as a priority. There has also been some concern expressed about the impact of the improved enforcement in areas that have seen very little, if any, enforcement in the past and, on this point, I would like to reassure Members that the Civil Enforcement Officers in the new CPE districts work to the same best practice guidelines as those used in the boroughs of Scarborough and Harrogate. The new CPE arrangements represent a step change in our overall approach to parking management and will help us to deliver improved traffic management and road safety benefits for residents and businesses.

Whitby Park and Ride

The tender periods for the Park and Ride construction contract and the bus contract have both now closed and the tender returns are being assessed. On 13 November, the Corporate Director (BES) and BES Executive Members will consider a report seeking approval to award the two contracts taking into account the very latest version of the Park and Ride Business Case. Construction of the site is planned to commence in January 2014 and the site is programmed to be operational from 18 April 2014 (Good Friday). At the time of writing, the revised residents parking zones proposals are being developed with a view to starting the consultation in mid-November with the results being reported to the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee on 29 January 2014.

Planning Services

Minerals and Waste

Following agreement to a new project plan in April 2013, work is proceeding on the joint minerals and waste local plan, in partnership with City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority. A meeting of the Minerals and Waste Plan Member Working Group took place in September to discuss issues relevant to production of the Plan, including development of a draft vision and objectives. A formal 'Issues and Options' public consultation stage is expected to commence early in 2014. As well as initial consultation on strategic policy options for minerals and waste, this will include initial consultation on sites put forward by industry for consideration for allocation in the Plan. At this stage a total of 65 sites have been put forward, the large majority of which relate to potential new sites for mineral working. Work undertaken on the Plan so far suggests that the most important issue for the Plan to address in terms of future minerals requirements is meeting the need for further sand and gravel extraction. More detailed assessment of sites put forward will take place during 2014 following initial consultation.

York Potash

The North York Moors National Park Planning Committee was due to consider the application for the mine (at Sneaton near Whitby) at a special meeting on 29 July. At the request of York Potash Ltd the meeting was cancelled. Instead the company met with officers of the National Park and other stakeholders to take stock of the issues that resulted in the cancellation and to discuss next steps. Further technical work is being commissioned by the company, and a revised timetable has been drawn-up under which 'refurbished' proposals would be submitted in August 2014.

Allerton Park Waste Recovery Park

Notwithstanding His Honour Judge Mark Gosnell considering the Application and the Hearing together on a rolled up basis on the 30 and 31 July 2013 and refusing the application for leave to apply for a Judicial Review on 2 of the 5 grounds (on the other 3, he granted permission to apply but substantively refused the application), an application was made by the Parish Council direct to the Court of Appeal on the 22 August 2013 seeking further leave to appeal. On 12 September, by Order, the Right Honourable Lord Justice Underhill considered the papers relating to the appeal and he too refused to grant leave, reaffirming the Judgment handed down by HHJ Gosnell by describing the High Court Judge's decision as 'plainly right'. However, in further pursuit of Court process to challenge these decisions, the Parish Council sought an Oral Hearing which took place in London on Tuesday 15 October 2013. The Parish Council's application for permission to appeal was dismissed as hopeless at the Hearing by Sir David Keene in the Court of Appeal. The test for the Court was whether the Parish Council had any real prospect of success or whether there was any other compelling reason why the appeal ought to be heard. It didn't and there wasn't. The legal challenge has therefore been finally and comprehensively dismissed, with no further routes of appeal.

GARETH DADD