

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 MAY 2014

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

Waste Management

At the last meeting of the Council I gave an overview of proposals to charge residents for the disposal or recycling of some types of construction and demolition waste at the household waste recycling centres in the County. I can now confirm that charging will begin on 30 June and a comprehensive communications programme began recently to ensure as many people as possible are aware of the changes. Importantly, we are also taking this opportunity to open all HWRCs to be able to accept commercial waste at a charge, meaning that local businesses will have more choice in how to manage their waste. We will keep members informed on how the charging scheme will work but being able to take commercial waste at all sites represents a major improvement in the scope of services we are able to offer to businesses as well as residents.

Public Rights of Way

I can also confirm that negotiations with the North York Moors National Park Authority have been concluded which has enabled an agreement to be signed to secure the continuation of the delegation agreement, by which the National Park undertake maintenance of the public rights of way network within their area. The agreement secures maintenance of most public rights of way in the National Park at no cost to the Council, and will be reviewed in 12 months' time to ensure it remains appropriate for both parties.

Trading Standards

Farming Food & Health

Following the fatality of a peanut allergy sufferer, our officers have been assisting police with the investigation of the supply of a curry from a restaurant in Easingwold. It is alleged the curry contained peanuts despite the customer asking for peanut free. Therefore, offences may have occurred under the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013. Following this case and in advance of the changes to allergen labelling requirements in catering establishments in December this year, the Trading Standards service has undertaken 47 formal samples of peanut free takeaway meals. Of the results currently back, 26% of those meals were contaminated with peanut in varying degrees, some at fatal levels for allergy sufferers. These matters are being followed up as formal investigations or advice as appropriate.

Investigations and Safeguarding

On 27 February 2014, Monty Croke and his two sons, Billy and Monty Junior, appeared before Teesside Crown Court to be sentenced following the victimisation of a number of vulnerable consumers for over charged and unnecessary property repairs. Their criminal activities included taking over £250,000 from a 61 year old Parkinson's sufferer for unnecessary building work and a fraudulent investment in the building of holiday cottages. It was found that the men befriended this victim in order to prolong the manipulation over an extended period of time.

Monty Croke admitted in court to deliberately defrauding the Parkinson's sufferer out of between £50,000 and £70,000 and he was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. Billy, Monty and Monty Croke junior also admitted conspiring to defraud and were sentenced to two years and one year imprisonment respectively.

Prosecutions: 116	Visits to high risk or new premises storing petroleum:	141
Simple Cautions: 66	Visits to high risk or new premises storing fireworks/explosives:	76
Informal Cautions: 99	Visits to certify the safety of 8 regulated sports grounds:	16

Economic Development

Local Growth Fund

Following submission of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Local Growth Fund Bid in March, the LEP was asked to undertake a further round of prioritisation, to rank all projects into a single list. The final ranked list of projects submitted was as follows:

Ranking	Project or Programme Name	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	Total £m
1	Business Growth Hub	0.35	0.5	2.35
2	Housing growth at Scarborough	2.3		2.3
3	Newlands Bridge Drax-M62	1.45		1.45
4	Growth at Catterick Garrison	1.2		1.2
5	Housing and employment growth at Northallerton	1	5	6
6	Housing and Employment Growth Site at Selby	11.5		11.5
7	Harrogate College	4		4
8	National Agri-Food Innovation Campus	2.3		8.3
9	Maintain category 4 Roads serving North Yorkshire Growth Towns	5	5	24
10	A1079 York - Hull Package	6.34	5.5	12.06
11	East Riding Road Maintenance Scheme	3	3	16.7
12	Askham Bryan College - Agricultural Skills	1		1
13	Askham Bryan College -Engineering Centre	0.6		0.6
14	Employment Growth Site at Sherburn in Elmet	2.95		2.95
15	York Bio-Hub	6	1	11
16	Rural Business Led Growth Scheme	3.05	1	8.05
17	Major Employment Growth in Skipton	1.5	2	3.5
18	Improvements to the York - Harrogate - Leeds Rail Line	1	0.5	6
19	Harrogate A1/A59 Junction	3		3
20	Business Growth Grants	3	3	15
21	Yorkshire Coast College	1.75	3.35	5.1
22	East Riding College - Bridlington Campus	1		1
23	Supporting new coastal growth opportunities	0	2	2

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STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER - LIBRARY, CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

LIBRARIES

World War One Commemorations

North Yorkshire Libraries now have over 200 events commemorating the First World War this year, from displays to theatre productions, and from author talks to pop-up museums. Events include performances of the play 'Not about Heroes', based on the poets Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, a display of 1914 household hints and adverts, including labour-saving devices, recipes, and the latest health crazes from the papers of 1914 (think "radium soap"!), as well as regular sessions in many libraries helping users trace First World War ancestors using the ancestry and findmypast websites.

Details can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/firstworldwar. This web page also has links to a guide to tracing First World War family history and to lists of First World War-themed books and DVDs available for loan from our libraries.

Health and Well-being

Northallerton Library hosted the North Yorkshire County Council launch of the Public Health England's (PHE) national campaign to help people with dementia live well for longer. The campaign encourages people to become Dementia Friends. This project was created by the national Alzheimer's Society to provide an understanding of dementia and the small things that can be done to make a difference to people living with the condition. Our libraries are working to become Dementia-friendly with staff being aware of the needs and demands of both individuals and carers, and this has been recognised in the form of a national award from the Society to our volunteer organiser at Northallerton. This service is supplemented by services such as 'Pictures to Share' publications designed to spark conversations around common interests such as gardening. The library's free on-line subscription service allows people to use tablets and home computers to dip into magazines on favourite topics.

A Health and Well-being Day was held at Pickering library January 2014 arranged by local staff. Over 200 people attended collecting information on slimming, reflexology, Bio-resonance as well as blood pressure checks. The doctor's surgery stated "we had 20+ blood pressure checks and out of that 10 referrals to the surgery for further checks".

Telephone Reading Group Project

North Yorkshire Libraries in partnership with the Reading Agency will be launching the Telephone Reading group project shortly. This pilot project funded by the Reading Agency will look at reaching isolated people and giving them access to a monthly reading group held over the phone. The year-long project is the first to be run in a rural authority and the results will be used as a case study to show the benefits of reading and discussion, to combat social isolation and encourage positive mental health.

Officers from the Library Service have been working with Home Library Service volunteers and the Reading Agency to help train the volunteers from Age UK and carers groups to facilitate lively discussion in a safe atmosphere around a different book title each month using a conference call facility. The service to the participant is completely free of charge. The groups will be run across the county in Scarborough, Northallerton, Harrogate and Selby areas. Each group is looking at having at least one event that will bring together the participants as well as an event with an author joining the book discussions.

Regional Flagship Library – World Book Night

Pickering Library was Yorkshire and Humberside's Flagship Library for the celebration of **World Book Night** on Wednesday 23rd April. World Book Night is sponsored by The Reading Agency and to celebrate, library staff stayed up late to host a Girls' Night In.

The event started at 6.30pm with Linda Green - bestselling 'chick lit' author - reading from her latest novel, talking about her love of books and her inspiration to write. This was followed by the latest Richard Curtis film "About Time" enjoyed with a glass of wine and chocolates. 80 women (and one man) of all ages greatly enjoyed the experience which finished with the handing out of free books by well-known chick lit authors. Books were given free of charge by the publishers, the Reading Agency.

Deansfield Court – New Library Outlet

The latest library outlet was officially launched on 2 May at Deansfield Court Extra Care Facility, Norton. The outlet is the latest addition to a new generation of library services across North Yorkshire, located in settings such as schools, village halls and extra care facilities like this. It offers a selection of items for all age groups including children, adults and those with visual impairments with picture books, latest best sellers, books in large print and audio books.

This development is an excellent example of partnership working between North Yorkshire County Council and Yorkshire Housing for the benefit of the local community offering not only access to the library but to the other facilities Deansfield Court has to offer such as a café and a shop. It also helps residents of Deansfield Court feel more part of the community through the ability to interact with people from Norton and Malton.

The library at Deansfield Court compliments the services currently offered from Malton/Norton libraries and can be accessed by members of North Yorkshire County Council's library service. Library membership is free and joining is quick and easy. Its opening hours are Monday – Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 2.00 pm.

Two volunteers help at the library outlet, maintaining stock, shelving returned books and assisting customers. There is also a state of the art self-service unit to allow customers to use the service when no volunteers are present.

ARCHIVES

Local and Family History Day

The Record Office held its fourth annual Local and Family History Day at The Pavilions of Harrogate in March. The event attracted over 500 visitors who enjoyed a varied programme of talks and workshops from visiting speakers, and displays and stalls from over 30 local archaeology and history organisations.

The event also saw the formal launch of the Record Office's online shop which provides a world-wide shop window for the goods and services available from the County Record Office.

Garrison Origins

Following the successful completion of the Garrison Voices Project in September 2013, a further bid to the Ministry of Defence's Community Covenant Scheme has raised funding of £12,680 and a follow up project, Garrison Origins is now underway. The focus is on the early years of Catterick Camp and Ripon Camp and the project is working with a number of partners, including local schools, to gather and record a visual and spoken record of the army camps in their first thirty years of life.

Roof Strengthening Work Completed

Major building work to the roof over the Record Office searchroom and one strongroom has now been completed. The work has taken three months and has involved using a combination of timber beams and steel plates to strengthen the existing structure. During this period, thousands of documents and books were temporarily rehoused and a limited public service was maintained throughout. A full service has now been restored.

CHRIS METCALFE