



**Councillor David Buckle**

**Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**December 2020**

**High Street HAZ (HSHAZ) Cultural Consortium:**

- The application to Historic England for £10,000 to enable the Cultural Consortium to work with a creative team to begin building Selby in Minecraft (the project is called Selby Block Party) has been successful and the Minecraft team have been appointed. The project begins with 'building' Selby Abbey and Abbots Staith and volunteers from both will be supporting the project.
- The Community Engagement Plan is complete. This sets out the framework for how we will engage with residents, visitors and businesses for the next 4 years.
- The Cultural Consortium have met for the first time. Work has begun to develop the programme of cultural activity which will be delivered. We can apply to Historic England for up to £120,000. The deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Community Support:**

The Communities Team have been supporting Selby Big Local and Groundwork to take over a small piece of Council owned land next to St James Church on New Lane, Selby which has been overgrown for many years. Planning permission and lease arrangements are now in place for work to start to develop the area into an accessible community garden. The project will also link well with wider initiatives by the council, Big Local, Groundwork, Selby Hands of Hope and HSBC which include a community grow at Selby Park, green recovery and mental health projects and a newly established community fridge project at Community House.

**Regeneration**

**Selby Station Gateway Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)**

- The Selby TCF is a joint project between Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), to improve the linkages between the station, town centre, development sites and the wider Leeds City Region, and to encourage a shift to sustainable transport. Leeds City Region was awarded £317m by the Department of Transport in the March 2020 budget, with an indicative £17.465m allocated to the Selby Station Gateway TCF. The final allocation will be confirmed once the Full Business Case has been agreed by this Council's Executive and has then been assessed by WYCA in the second half of 2021.

- Selby District Council has now entered into a Partnership Agreement with NYCC for the development and delivery of the Selby Station Gateway TCF. The full package of proposals include: relocation of some parking to the east of the station, a new public space in front of the station frontage and improvements to walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure; a new pedestrian/cycle bridge across the river; and Ousegate active travel corridor and public realm enhancements. However, the extent of the proposals will be decided at Full Business Case when all the associated costs and delivery issues are established.
- Public consultation on design options is planned for January / February 2021. The public consultation feedback will help shape final designs and inform the Final Business Case that will be submitted to WYCA for approval later in 2021.
- Cushman and Wakefield have provided a report on land assembly opportunities in relation to the Transforming Cities programme with a view to the Council acquiring key sites necessary for the delivery of the programme. In addition, their report addresses future opportunities to deliver commercial opportunities in and around the Selby Station. Based on this guidance, negotiations have started with the affected landowners.
- Currently, consultants WSP are working with SDC and NYCC in finalising design options ready for the January 2021 consultation stage.

### **Market Towns Revitalisation Programme**

- The inaugural Town Centre Regeneration Board meeting took place on Friday 23rd October 2020. The Board will provide strategic oversight and guidance on the Selby District Town Centre Regeneration Projects. The Board contains a wide range of stakeholders including Councillors, representation from Selby College, York and North Yorkshire LEP, Federation of Small Businesses, Historic England and NYCC Highways. The Board will assess and monitor all essential milestones for active projects, with appropriate review stages to ensure the work progresses to expected timescales and budget/funding frameworks.
- Regular stakeholder meetings have continued to be held with Selby, Tadcaster, and Sherburn business and community representatives about future projects and actions. These have been led by Chris Wade from People and Places consultancy. Chris is now completing the final part of his work which includes finalising the Action Plans for each of the Towns. Chris will make his final presentation at the next Board meeting which will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- The Action Plan for Selby is finalised and has a focus for business marketing and digital development. It also includes promoting the development of a community and heritage engagement group for the High St Heritage Action Zone.
- The Action Plan for Sherburn is in its final draft and has recently been considered by the main stakeholder group. Work focuses on high street environment, access, and digital development.
- The Tadcaster Action Plan is currently being finalised and takes account of the successful on-line consultation undertaken in October. The findings are still to be discussed with local community groups and businesses and will inform the priorities in the Action Plan.

- A new post has recently been advertised at SDC to provide support in developing and delivering the wider work programme for our town centres. The new Town Centres Regeneration Officer role will focus on developing and co-ordinating the successful delivery of projects within the towns of Selby, Sherburn, and Tadcaster. They will act as the focal point for all town centre activities and co-ordinate the delivery of the three town centre partnership Action Plans.

### **Selby District Places and Movement Study**

- In March 2020 Selby District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, and York and North Yorkshire LEP commissioned WSP to develop a Places and Movement Study encompassing the three main settlements in the district: Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, and Tadcaster.
- The study focusses on managing access and movement to and within the respective town centres over the next 10 years, with an overarching study aim to identify and agree projects and packages for delivery in the short-to-medium term. The study will identify how to improve key road junctions, safety, walking and cycling routes and public spaces in the town centres and prepare outline cases for funding bids for the priority projects. The study provides an evidence base which identifies strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats in each area.
- A workshop took place on 3rd September to help identify relevant issues and opportunities in the centres of Selby, Sherburn and Tadcaster, as well as potential interventions – from simple tweaks to wholesale changes.
- Proposals for Selby included enhancing the key ‘gateways’ in the town, improving wayfinding and providing alternative, sustainable, transport solutions. There was a strong need to enhance the town centre by providing suitable settings for its important heritage buildings. There was a desire to improve air quality, particularly within the Air Quality Management Area.
- Within Sherburn in Elmet there was a clear need to create a true, strong identity in the centre of the village. Again, there was a strong requirement for the traffic and movement assessment to enhancing the existing public realm and help celebrate its heritage. and to facilitate varied uses.
- In Tadcaster it was felt that a restored sense of place and tranquillity in the town, could be achieved by creating a safer place to walk and cycle in. There was a clear desire to create attractive walking and cycle routes.
- Much of the analysis work, including traffic modelling, has now been completed. A series of options are now being developed by WSP, and there will be further consultation on the emerging ideas in the New Year.

### **Economic Development**

- Work is close to completion to provide a detailed report on options available for delivery of potential development on the Council-owned land at Burn Airfield. The findings from this report will be presented to the Executive for approval in January 2021.
- Selby officers have further updated proposals for pipeline project investment in collaboration with the York and North Yorkshire LEP as part of a region wide bid to government to allocate funding to the area in advance of a possible devolution

deal. These projects address a number of opportunities for transport and infrastructure solutions, communities and place, climate change and digital infrastructure and there is a very strong alignment with the Government's recently announced £4 billion Levelling Up Fund. In addition, we are also looking at our priorities and how we might benefit from bids to the £621 million Towns Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

- Selby officers are continuing to work with Selby College to promote their range of opportunities for local adults to enhance their skills. In particular, we are focusing on the government's Kickstart programme targeted at 16 to 24-year olds in collaboration with the regional DWP and Job Centre Plus.
- Over the last three months, a number of strategic site developers across the district have seen a significant uplift in enquiries for new investment in commercial space. There is an increased demand for new manufacturing space from both UK and international investors and closely reflects to Council's emphasis on bringing well paid skilled jobs into the district. These include investment in leading edge agricultural technology such as vertical farming, and manufacturing components for consumer products.
- Business engagement over the period has, as expected, been dominated by Covid related activity. Through November the interest has been predominately in relation to questions relating to lock down grants and Brexit/Covid support.
- EU Transition activity by smaller businesses across the District has been slow and is only now gaining momentum as we approach the New Year deadline. Officers are working closely with the Department for International Trade and the LEP to ensure the messages and information are reaching all businesses with extensive use of the Council's web site and social media to extend the reach.
- In November we finally delivered the 2020 Selby District Business Awards to the winners and runners up across 8 business categories and this culminated with an outstanding two page article in the Selby Times celebrating great business news in a period of unprecedented challenges. One of our category winners, The Drover's Arms at Skipwith, won our hospitality business award and then went on to be the category winner in the regional White Rose awards.
- At the York and North Yorkshire LEP's annual and on this occasion, virtual Business Conference last month the appointment of the LEP's new chairperson was announced. Helen Simpson, an experienced non-executive chair and director, will replace David Kerfoot when his term of office comes to an end next March.

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