



Councillor Tim Grogan - Executive Member for Health and Culture

Report to Council on 21 December 2021

Environmental Services

We have agreed to commence a three-month trial of alternative fuel to fossil diesel in our waste fleet which could reduce our CO₂ production by 90%. The trial commenced on Monday 29 November using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and a report will be available thereafter. The carbon reduction for the three-month trial is expected to be about 210 tonnes and could save an estimated 840 tonnes of carbon annually.

Work has also commenced on a contract succession strategy for the Environmental Services contract which is due to expire at the end of March 2024. I will be reporting to the Executive in March on a preferred option to replace the current contract following the formation of a cross party Task and Finish group to assist with this project.

Environmental Health and Enforcement

The Council continues to support Public Health (PH) and other partners at a strategic and operational level responding to the ongoing pandemic. Infection rates remained stubbornly high across the district; however, we are currently seeing rates slowly decrease and appear to be heading in the right direction.

SDC is working with PH and other partners to support any response required to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to do so when required.

Fly-tipping

- 29 FPN's issued since 01/04/21. (5 issued since the last report)
- 12 littering
- 12 Fly Tipping
- 5 Household disposal

1 case is with legal services for prosecution early in the new year. 1 case is currently being investigated as a potential prosecution.

Gypsy and Travellers

The recent illegal encampment at Whinny Hagg Lane Thorpe Willoughby has been visited frequently by Council Officers. We have been in correspondence with NYCC who own the land but are still waiting a response.

Culture and Visitor Economy

The residents' engagement festival, Get to Know Your Own Heart, was delivered across the weekend of 16/17 October. It aimed to encourage residents to explore their district, especially its visitor attractions, and to publicise the Heart of Yorkshire website and social media channels:

- The offer included after-dark tours of Selby Abbey, guided battlefield walks at Towton, a heritage walk with Selby Civic Society, special offers at various businesses.
- Promotion, intended to raise awareness and drive traffic to the Heart of Yorkshire What's On pages, included advertising in the local press, bus advertising (on the back of 10 buses with routes across the district), partnership activity with STAG Mumbler, Google advertising, Facebook advertising and media releases. Information about the event was also sent to Parish Clerks.
- Press coverage included Selby Times, York Mix, BBC Radio York, Tadcaster Citizen, We Are Selby and Wetherby News.
- The social media reach was over 70,000 and there were over 11,000 website views.

The Visitor Economy Advisory Board have agreed to run the festival as an annual event, starting in April 2022.

Selby Stories (cultural programme for the High Street Heritage Action Zone) is in delivery:

- Artist Serena Partridge has begun a residency in Selby Abbey. She'll be working with a number of community groups and the results of her residency will be exhibited in the new year.
- Five volunteers have been trained to collect oral histories and reminiscences from local people. These will be the inspiration for much of the cultural programme for the next two years.
- Selby Community Primary and Selby Abbey C of E Primary have been working with local musician Sam Dunkley to write songs about the town. These will be recorded so they can be shared with families and school communities.

Artist Katayoun Dowlatshahi has been appointed to develop public art for the Selby Station Gateway (TCF) project. She has begun a period of research and will be talking to many interested parties before developing designs. She has wide experience of creating public art as part of large regeneration schemes, including Rochester Railway Station.

Composer Michael Betteridge has composed a new piece of music written for Selby using the memories of local people's sounds. This was premiered by the Northern Chamber Orchestra at Selby Town Hall in November and is part of an ongoing partnership with Orchestras Live and Selby Town Council.

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