



Councillor Tim Grogan, Executive Member for Health & Culture

Report to Council on 13 December 2022

Licensing

Evening visits were conducted by the Licensing Team on the 14 October in both Tadcaster and Selby. These identified a number of shortcomings for which licence holders were advised as to their future conduct. More visits are planned to premises over the next few months, incorporating other agencies.

A self-assessment licensing scheme, known as SAVI, has involved 16 premises of which 2 have received accreditation. This success has been promoted on the Council's social media pages. Officers are also working on the Community Alcohol Partnership which uses education and enforcement to reduce anti-social behaviour and underage drinking within the district.

A new hackney carriage table of fares came into effect on the 18 November 2022, following a public consultation and work continues on Local Government Reorganisation where taxi licensing policy is now out for public consultation until 19 January 2023.

Environmental Health and Enforcement

The expertise and legerity recently demonstrated by these two departments has resulted in two successful prosecutions at York Magistrates Court:

The first involved the Parsonage Hotel, where in October 2021 a visitor received a serious Achilles injury. Following an investigation both the company and director appeared before York Magistrates on 11 November 2022, where guilty pleas to various breaches of Health and Safety legislation were recorded. Sentencing was adjourned until 23 December 2022.

The second case concerned a woman who fly tipped a bed, mattress and a set of drawers. She pleaded guilty following which when was fined £246, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £35 and costs of £250 to the Council. A moment of irresponsible behaviour cost her £580.

Enforcement has several ongoing cases and, in addition, issued two fixed penalty notices for littering, one for a fly tipping and served several warning letters. A visit to a

parish council meeting with representatives from Kirk Smeaton, Stapleton and Little Smeaton to discuss their work was well received. Work on LGR continues and officers are actively involved with a number of “Task and Finish” groups looking at the key functions of Environmental Health and Enforcement. The aim of this is to help smooth the transition to North Yorkshire Council.

Visitor Economy & Tourism:

The eximious nature of Selby District’s visitor economy businesses have been recognised in the Visit York Tourism Awards. Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens has been short-listed in the Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable Tourism category, The Drovers Arms has been short-listed as Pub of the Year and The Dovecot Barns in Kelfield has been shortlisted under the Self-Catering Accommodation of the Year category.

The Food & Drink Improvement Plan is complete. This centres on maximising opportunities for businesses to focus on food tourism, buying locally and highlighting the district’s high-quality SMEs and micro-businesses.

The Heart of Yorkshire website has new content focussing on Christmas events and activities including Riccall’s Dickensian Christmas Fayre, Selby’s Christmas Market & Light’s Switch on and Hornington Manor’s wreath-making workshops.

The dates for the next Resident’s Engagement Festival have been set for the April 2023. It encourages local communities to get out and take advantage of special offers from the District’s visitor economy businesses.

Cultural Development Framework:

Arts Council England has announced its investment in National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) for the next 3 years. NPOs receive regular investment and we have not previously had one in Selby District. However, Mediale, based in Selby, will receive £196,000 a year for 3 years (starting April 2023). The award is partly to enable the Mediale team to support our ambition for culture in the District. Arcade, who are working with the community in Tadcaster, have also been awarded NPO status.

The delivery of Selby Stories, the cultural programme for the High Street Heritage Action Zone, continues to gather pace. Multiple artist’s commissions are ongoing and work to recruit the next 6 schools for our singing project are underway. So far 255 children from 7 schools have participated, including children from Riccall, Barlby Bridge, Wistow, Brayton, Staynor Hall and Selby.

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