



Councillor Tim Grogan, Executive Member for Health & Culture

Report to Council on 21 March 2023

In my final report to Council, I would like to reflect for a moment on almost 20 years of being involved with Selby District Council. I was interviewed in 2003 for the vacancy of Licensing Officer. I was interviewed by our solicitors at the time Peter Devlin and Peter Burns: wonderful men. I graduated to manage the Enforcement section and consider my most significant contribution to energise the investigation of fly-tipping which has yielded excellent results since 2011 to this day.

The Councillors who have impressed me most were; Maurice Patrick, Rachel Cunliffe and Wally Norton. All three outstanding and effective, but more than this they were immensely personable, warm exceptionally accommodating with an ability to inspire enduring loyalty.

Regulatory Services

Licensing

A week of action took place in February involving the Community Alcohol Partnership, Licensing Officers, North Yorkshire Police Licensing and Trading Standards. Officers visited premises to provide advice in terms of underage drinking and anti-social behaviour. In addition, Officers visited a local school and provided education around alcohol consumption.

NYCC approved a new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy on the 21 February, which comes into force on the 1 April 2023.

New fees for North Yorkshire taxi licensing from the 1 April have been consulted upon, as have fares for Hackney Carriage drivers. The North Yorkshire Executive will make a decision on both on the 21 March.

Environmental Health and Enforcement

A moment of eaucastrophe can be reported when Environmental Health secured a successful prosecution for a breach of health and safety regulations. This followed an incident where a customer received a serious ankle injury in October 2021. On Friday 17 February 2023 the matter was heard at York Magistrates Court where the company director pleaded guilty to offences breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and fines and costs totalling around £60,000 were imposed.

A further conviction took place at York Magistrates Court involving Officers from the Enforcement Team who prosecuted a woman from Knottingley who failed to correctly dispose of a melange of household waste under the Householder Duty of Care Legislation.

A third matter again involved copacetic work by the Enforcement team on a case where a man involved in breeding and selling dogs without a licence was prosecuted. He was fined £120, ordered to pay costs and disqualified from dealing with dogs for 5 years.

Visitor Economy & Tourism

The district's first Food & Drink Network meeting welcomed over 20 participants, with presentations from guest speakers. The network have a number of aims, including localising the supply chain, maximising opportunities for food tourism and encouraging collaborative trade show attendance.

A good range of food and drink businesses are also taking part in Get to Know Your Own Heart, the 3rd annual Residents Engagement weekend, which is taking place on the 1st and 2nd of April. Offers include special residents' festival menus at the Drovers Arms (Skipwith), Castle Inn (Cawood) and Burro (Riccall), chocolate and distillery product sampling and discovery sessions at the Sun Inn (Colton) and 20% off at Aagrah in Tadcaster. Other offers for local people include free heritage walks in Selby, free house visits with pre-booked afternoon tea at Carlton Towers, and half-price entry at both Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens and the Three Haggas Woodmeadow Eggstravaganza.

In company with NYCC, work has begun to develop a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP). There will be a national network of LVEPs (appointed by Visit England) to work strategically on shared priorities and targets to support and grow the visitor economy.

Cultural Development Framework

The Expression of Interest for a £350,000 Place Partnership bid to the Arts Council has been submitted. The focus of the programme is on cultural events and activities delivered in our town centres, with particular emphasis on opportunities for children and young people.

Selby Stories, the cultural programme accompanying Selby's High Street Heritage Action Zone, is progressing well and has entered its third and final year. The Minecraft event for February half-term was well attended, with over 200 children coming to the Abbey to take part. BBC Look North filmed a full segment, which included interviews with some of the young participants – Members can see this on YouTube. A further Minecraft event is planned for the Easter school holidays. The first printed scaffolding shroud, showing specially commissioned work by artist Ed Kluz, will be installed shortly.

Councillor Tim Grogan, Executive Member for Health and Culture