



Councillor Christopher Pearson - Executive Member for Housing, Health, & Culture

Report to Council on Tuesday 26 March 2019

A review of the waste and recycling collection service has been completed to inform our future collection requirements and the fleet replacement decision. It has been approved to replace the current fleet that is almost 10 years old with a standard fleet of rear loading collection vehicles and to issue a letter of commitment to Amey plc to place orders. In addition it has been approved that a public consultation exercise will be undertaken in the summer to inform the decision making process for an alternative recycling service.

The replacement of a collapsed culvert under Portholme road was due to commence in early March, however due to unforeseen delays the Highways licence to occupy the highway for the works expired. Officers from the District and County Council with input from our consultants are working through a number of matters to ensure a new licence is issued as soon as possible so we can expedite the works.

The Council is supporting Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean which runs from 22 March to 24 April. As parish council, schools and community groups sign up to run their own litter picking events we are providing them with litter picking equipment and removing all the bags of waste. At the time of writing we already have 8 events booked in across the district with more expected. The Council has also produced new anti-litter signage which is being offered to Parish Councils as a way to reduce littering in hot spot areas. This is part of the legacy of last years Don't Be a Waster campaign.

Disabled Facilities Grant

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a mandatory means tested Grant and a statutory requirement of every strategic housing authority. A DFG is available to people who own their own home (including caravans and river boats), private tenants and tenants of social landlords to enable them to live well and independently for as long as possible in their own home.

Unfortunately DFG is NOT available to council tenants. Adaptations to Council properties have to be funded via the HRA.

Since April 2018 the full administration including means testing, design and procuring contractors to carrying out the work has been carried out by the council. Prior to that the means test and technical support role was part of a wider NYCC Supporting People Home Improvement Agency (HIA) contract including Craven, Harrogate, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Selby, delivered by Yorkshire Housing. Following reductions in Supporting People funding it was agreed to bring the service back in-house to improve delivery and efficiency.

Staff transferred to SDC through TUPE transfers and the DFG team was incorporated into the Lifeline Service in August 2018 to maximise efficiency and promote both services.

Bringing the service in house has seen real improvement. We are working closely with NYCC Occupational Therapists to streamline the processes that to-date has seen a significant reduction in days to complete down from 127 last year to just 79 (YTD). The number of completions has also increased, up 41% (YTD) that's 27 more people with their home adapted than last year (YTD total 51 completed) *The table below provides key stats*

Year	Total budget Available	Total budget spent	Applications approved	DFGs completed	Days from Approval to Completion
2016/17	£ 358,870	£ 276,600	N/A	42	129
2017/18	£ 448,206	£ 179,173	N/A	24	127
2018/19 (YTD)	£ 644,629	£ 318,621	58	51	79

We will continue to work collaboratively with NYCC to speed up delivery and increase the numbers of DFGs in the district.

Visitor Economy Strategy and Action Plan:

The visitor economy strategy and high level action plan were agreed at the Executive on 1st March 2018 including a £460,000 additional investment to develop a 3 year programme of delivery. Year one of the plan has progressed well and been in line with planned, main deliverables. In short we have:

- Secured high quality officers for 3 years to deliver the action plan.
- Invested £150k as part of the Selby 950 events to successfully bid for and gain hosting responsibility for the Stage 1 finish of the Tour de Yorkshire at Selby.
- Invested £65k to successfully bid for and gain hosting responsibility for the staged start of the Yorkshire 2019 para cycling international at Tadcaster.
- Invested £50k in match funding and officer support as part of a partnership with Selby Abbey, Selby Civic Society, Selby Town Council, Selby College, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles and Drax Power Ltd to deliver a high quality programme of events to celebrate the Abbey's 950th anniversary.

Current focus is now on:

- Delivering the two major cycle races. There is a clear emphasis on the events being safe, inclusive and locally led.
- Awaiting the outcome of applications for funding to support some of the 950 celebrations. If successful, this should attract external funding of circa £135k in the first instance. Results for this will be announced at the end of March 2019.
- Developing baseline and evaluation data to build a picture of what events and activities bring to local business and audiences.

Some success stories for the district include raising the profile of local businesses such as:

- Sweet Finkle in Sherburn in Elmet – creating gifts for SDC to present to the Tour de Yorkshire winners, and securing a contract to develop unique Braille Easter Eggs
- Stillingfleet Gardens – an award winning local visitor destination now linked to global booking systems for the German market holiday packages as part of a Discover England initiative. This should also benefit Towton Battlefield and other key local visitor destinations as the package develops.

Selby 950:

Alongside the Chairman's Charity Concert on 16th March, the official Selby950 partner events calendar kicks off on 28th March with a 4 hour Abbey Bell Peal. This marks the beginning of the celebration for our historic Abbey and also recognises some of the great activity that Selby District Council has been helping to realise through its 3 year funding investment into the Visitor Economy Strategy and Action Plan and subsequent arts, heritage and culture. We have spent a great deal of time working with local groups to support the 950 plans as well as raise the profile of the town and district with regional funders as a great place to commit investment and support local development. We should hear at the end of March about whether funding applications to enhance some of the events have been successful (totalling approximately £135k). However, the important message is also about how these events will help to create a legacy of creative community and creative business development in the district. Keep an eye on the Selby Abbey website for information on the events.

Tour de Yorkshire:

We are less than 50 days away from the Tour and final plans for the community activity are coming together. We would encourage local groups and residents along the extent of the route to use the day to celebrate and showcase themselves as a great place to live. Plans for the finish include a community fan zone in Micklegate. The content of the zone is informed by local businesses and a recent public survey about what people want. Rigid Paper have been secured as the headline sponsor for the zone. Activities include (although not exhaustive!!): a Minster FM roadshow, a Drax Power sponsored Greenpower race cars exhibition from local schools, plus a large screen which will convert into an outdoor cinema at the end of the race. The Market Cross Shopping Centre businesses have also come together to plan a community area with food, drink and socialisation areas as well as a potential screen. We want the event to be as inclusive as possible for all but recognise that this can sometimes be difficult for some to access. In conjunction with the Selby Disability Action Group we are planning a disabled viewing area close to the race finish line (this will be bookable space so keep an eye on the website for details). For those who want to be involved but would potentially need a quieter or less crowded experience, Selby Park has been designated a quiet activity zone and will be run by Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles. We really want this space to be inclusive, to offer cycling advice and information and to kick start awareness of the Cycle Information Hub launch there on Saturday 4th May.

Once again, we have seen community groups come forward to contribute to music and activity which shows the real will of our town to be involved and create a local legacy of experience and contribution. There are knitting and decorating groups planned at the Abbey Coffee Shop on Tuesdays 1pm-4pm and the Salvation Army Church on Thursdays 10.30am-12.30pm

To support this further, SDC held a window dressing session for high street business in early March. This will help to create attractive shop spaces and show how all elements of our high street are part of enhancing the celebration environment.

We are committed to delivering an engaging and safe event with Pennine Events appointed as the events management company for the Selby Stage 1 finish of the Tour de Yorkshire.

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