



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

Report to Council - 16 July 2019

Update on Phase 2 Housing Development Programme Consultations

Consultation have been undertaken during the 17th – 24th June 2019 in the locations forming the Phase 2 Housing Development Programme; Sherburn, Hambleton, Camblesforth, West Haddlesey and Burn. These consultations provided residents with the opportunity to view initial scheme designs and were well attended with residents sharing a range of opinions with regards to the proposed location, design and tenure of the schemes. All attendees were invited to fill in comments sheets, from this many took the opportunity complete at the event, some attendees preferred to take the information away and have returned their comments to the development officer through email or in person at the civic centre.

Sherburn in Elmet

From the comments returned so far; a design review has been required for the Sherburn in Elmet scheme. Residents expressed concerns regarding the loss of open space and a proportion of the attendees mentioned about a previous 3 unit bungalow scheme which had been proposed, this layout is now being reconsidered in conjunction with other comments received from residents.

Hambleton

The scheme was well received by attendees to the event which the provision for bungalows being well received. The main cause for concern is existing issue of parking provision within the locality. These issues will be raised with County Highways.

Camblesforth

The scheme was well received by attendee's to the event, however comments were made by 2 adjoining owners who have constructed access in the boundary.

West Haddlesey

Some residents expressed strong feeling that Affordable housing is not required in the village. However, in terms of the housing register a need can be demonstrated. Many comments related to the community's concern regarding the former George and Dragon Pub.

Burn

The scheme was well received by attendees to the event, the main cause for concern is the existing parking provision within the locality.

In order to allow residents adequate time to return their comments sheets, the post consultation review reports will be issued w/c 15th July 2019, these will summarise the comments from residents into core themes and form part of the design brief to make amendments to schemes, where required, before holding pre-planning meetings for the sites.

Selby 950

The programme for Selby950 progresses well with over 25 community events being delivered by a range of community groups, the Abbey, the Library and Selby District Council. Events such as choirs, talks, art and history exhibitions, film and brass bands show there is something for everyone in celebrating this 950th year. It was fantastic to get the announcement from the Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Drax Power Ltd for their investment in the programme resulting in £135,000 in additional funds for the programme. We have also supported the Abbey to secure a further £45,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to fund a community development worker to further the Abbey's legacy in the local community and as an important visitor attraction for the town. This represents significant external investment into the town on top of the £200,000 committed by this Council to celebrate this year.

High quality events such as Selby Sings on 4th July with hundreds of school children, the Parade on St Germain's day on 31st July and the Illumination event from 22-24th November are pairing excellent renowned artists to the local creative sector to leave a lasting legacy for visitor and creative sector development. Keep up to date on events through the council's special events calendar on the website.

Tour de Yorkshire

The Tour de Yorkshire was delivered as part of the Selby950 celebrations and despite the rain offered a fantastic first stage finish. Feedback from local businesses has been mixed which is not unusual for an event of this size. Some had excellent trade for the day, particularly in the food and leisure industries, where other retail say they did not. Residents turned out in their thousands and gave positive feedback and although a wet day, families danced to the local band, ate local food and drink and enjoyed the outdoor cinema experience; something which we will work with local businesses to present again. We await the final evaluation information from Welcome to Yorkshire on the success of the Tour and will finalise our own learning report on the day shortly. The Tour will also be part of a wider evaluation of the Selby950 programme to understand the economic and social impact of the work. This will be due early next year.

Yorkshire 2019 Para Cycling International and UCI World Race Championships

There is now less than 100 days to the para cycling events staged start in Tadcaster and race routes through the west of the district, this September. The local disability action group, Tadcaster TEMPT events group and SDC officers are planning an interactive event for Tadcaster to raise awareness of inclusive sport and to showcase the first ever point to point version of this race. This is likely to attract both local and international attention.

A business and community roadshow will be held in Tadcaster on 15th July by the Y2019 team alongside SDC, North Yorkshire Highways and representatives from TEMPT. We are working with British Cycling and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles to understand what legacy

plans this can bring for Tadcaster and the district to keep a focus on active and healthy lifestyles for all.

Future Recycling Service Consultation

The Council conducted a four week public consultation exercise about the future recycling service that commenced on 30th May 2019 and concluded on 26th June 2019. The consultation was launched with a specially commissioned animation to help explain to residents the options that are being considered. Alongside this was a media release issued to local press and radio stations as well as all Members and Parish Councils, and social media posts on the Councils Facebook and Twitter pages. We received 6,726 responses of which 44 were hard copies giving a 99.3% online submission rate compared to hard copy. We are currently analysing the responses which will be reported to the Executive in due course.

I have also set up a cross party member task and finish group to support the Council with the development and implementation of a new recycling service. The groups first meeting is scheduled for 17th July.

Regional Housing Board

On Monday 24th June I attended a meeting of the Regional Housing Board in Thirsk. Guest speakers on the agenda included representatives from the Regional Homes builders Federation who talked about their current work across the region. Other agenda items included a discussion on the Future of the REACH Community Led Housing Hub where it was agreed to develop into a community led hub in order to secure future funding. It was noted that North Yorkshire County Council would be undertaking a review of the North Yorkshire Young Person's pathway and all Councils agreed that they would ensure they were involved in the review. The latest permissions and completion and rural housing figures were also discussed however these are yet to be confirmed and finalised as some LA figures were not available. The Housing Association representatives provided an update on the work to develop a collaboration framework for the region. Homes England reported that they are currently restructuring to ensure they are better set up to deliver strategic plan and aim to have this in place by end 2019. They reported that they are currently encouraging bids across a range of programmes, some of which have already been of benefit to Selby District Council.

Progress with the Empty Homes Programme and Council House Buy Backs

On 13th June 2019, I was pleased to present to the Executive a revision to our Affordable Housing Programme which enables the Council to Buy Back Ex Council houses, as part of the Council's Housing Development Strategy for increasing its supply of affordable housing stock and Empty Homes programme

The Council can now purchase empty properties and former Right to Buy Council properties where the Council has first refusal. Subject to favourable business cases, these purchases when completed will be returned to the HRA stock and will contribute to the Council's one for one replacement target for Right to Buy properties.

Following the approval officers are actively working on the purchase of the first Buy Back property in Selby and will also be seeking grant to support the purchase from Homes England.

In addition to bringing 24 empty properties back into use in 2018/19 with the support of the Council (of these 24, 9 had been empty for over 2 years) we have already brought a further 14 into use during the first quarter of 2019/20.

We remain focused on identifying the properties that would be suitable for acquisition and are currently exploring a number of options, including properties that have been sold under the Right to Buy. Any property we purchase would be added to the housing stock under the Housing Revenue Account and would increase our affordable housing portfolio.

The empty homes programme is also identifying properties which may be suitable acquisitions for the Selby District Housing Trust.

Progressing towards the acquisition of an empty property through the use of compulsory purchase powers, which was approved by the Executive in December 2018 is being made. The owner has not accepted our offer to voluntarily purchase the property and therefore we will proceed with the compulsory acquisition.

Any acquisitions will be purchased with the assistance from the Homes England Grant and section 106 monies and are subject to financial viability assessments.

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