



Councillor Christopher Pearson – Lead Executive Member for Housing, Health, & Culture

Report to Council – 17 September 2019

Future Recycling Service

Since the last Council meeting I have concluded the public consultation exercise about the future recycling service and can report that the council received a total of 6,726 responses, with 82% of responses agreeing with a two bin recycling service. This was reported to the Executive on 5th September who approved the recommendations of introducing a two bin recycling service from April next year. I have also set up an Elected Member task and finish group to support and assist the implementation of the new service and this group has met twice and has agreed a schedule of meetings for the remainder of this project.

Keep Britain Tidy

At the last Council on 16th July it was agreed to set up a Member Working Group to look at the contract with Amey PLC and ascertain whether the contractor is performing their duties in line with the contract. To inform the work of the task and finish group I have commissioned Keep Britain Tidy, the nationally recognised independent body who promote anti littering and improvement of cleansing standards, to undertake a survey of the District and report their findings. This will also help member decisions regarding the future of this service and inform future service standards and requirements as part of the contract re-procurement process.

Environmental Services Contract Task and Finish Group

The inaugural meeting of the Member task and finish group is taking place on 10th September to look at the Environmental Services Contract and will report back to full Council in due course. It is anticipated this will also help inform the future contract re-procurement process.

WRAP funded Clean Driver Scheme

I am pleased to announce that the Council's WRAP funded Clean Driver Scheme has been shortlisted for the Best Partnership Award at the LARAC Celebration Awards 2019. This was an innovative project designed to tackle roadside litter by working with local businesses to highlight positive behaviour and responsible waste management. The pilot scheme saw a reduction in litter tonnages of 40% in one of the target areas.

Purchase of a former Council House

I am pleased to report that in August 2019 the Council has purchased a former Council property that was previously sold through the Right to Buy as part of our recently extended Affordable Housing Programme. The property is a size and type that is needed in an area of high housing demand and is the first acquisition that we have completed with support

from the Homes England Affordable Housing Grant. The grant is available to support the purchase of Empty Properties and former Right to Buy homes and this property and any future acquisitions purchased using the grant will be added to the Housing Revenue Account stock and will contribute to the Council's one for one replacement target for Right to Buy properties.

Housing Revenue Account Business Plan

The Executive has approved a draft of our new Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for consultation. The HRA Business Plan outlines the key responsibilities for the Council and provides tenants, the Council and its members with clarity about priorities and direction for management of Council owned social housing in Selby District.

The draft plan has three key objectives and provides details of our ambitions over the next five years and beyond. It details how we manage and look to improve our housing stock and how we plan to deliver a financially sustainable and value for money service that meets the needs of our residents now and in the future.

Once the consultation period has concluded a final draft will be presented to full Council for approval early next year.

Tenant Participation Strategy

A draft version of our new Tenant Participation Strategy has been approved by Executive for consultation and is available now for our tenants and leaseholders to provide feedback on. The last strategy was published in 2010 and we recognise that the way in we involve and communicate with our tenants has changed therefore the new strategy and action plan provides tenants and leaseholders with a range of participation opportunities which will help them get involved and shape the future of our housing service.

The new strategy demonstrates how we will work in partnership with tenants and leaseholders building on the good initiatives already in place but recognising the need to modernise and improve our approach.

Selby 950:

The programme of events is well-underway and it is gathering a great deal of positive feedback on social media, from funders and in the press. The £135,000 funding successfully secured from Arts Council England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and sponsorship by Drax Power as well as Selby District Council's own match fund investment of £50,000 have enabled a high quality series of events to happen which brings renowned international artists together with local artists to showcase local talent in the district's creative sector and to shine a spotlight on the district's greatest visitor and heritage attraction in Selby Abbey.

Selby Sings saw 270 children, from 10 Primary Schools across the District, taking part in song-writing workshops with local musician Sam Dunkley. They then performed their songs, all of which were about the Abbey with an audience of very proud family and friends. They were accompanied by a group of GCSE music students from Selby High School. After the event many parents, family members and schools took to social media to express their pride in the children's achievements.

A short film about the project and a CD of the performance is available, if any Members should like to know more.

The *Selby 950 Parade* told the story of the founding and development of Selby Abbey and some of the history of the town, its people and its industry. The event was a huge success: more than 1000 people took part in workshops and over 200 paraded through the town with banners & puppets. The Abbey's new icon of St Germain was carried by the clergy

team, accompanied by the Abbey choir; the Thorpe United football team tackled St Germain's (giant) finger; the Selby Swans WI carried the beautiful swan puppets; 3 firefighters from North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue animated the giant St Benedict puppet; two SDC Members carried the representation of the Abbey; there were two galleons (wonky but wonderful, made by over 30 children) to represent St Benedict's travels; NUM miners and families carried their banners; children from the Theatre & Dance Academy danced as ship-builders, farmers, miners, sailors, towns-folk and swans. Re-enactors from the Living History joined the parade, as did representatives of community groups and funders.

More than 2000 people turned out to enjoy the event and the overall feeling was of people's enjoyment and feelings of pride in their town and their history.

Look North made their second visit, brought to the town due to the Tour de Yorkshire coverage. They covered Selby 950 and BBC Radio York ran their 3 hour morning show from the Market Place. Minster FM and York TV also ran excellent pieces on the event.

There is a short film about the project and an archive of photographs if any Members should like to know more.

Work continues on Pilgrim, the illumination of Selby Abbey over 3 evenings from 22-24 November. Hidden Histories is a further quirky project, which will tell Selby's stories in surprising ways across the town centre; and Selby Treasures, a community museum approach will share the stories of Selby's past including objects placed in shops and other town centre locations. Our partners continue to deliver wonderful events, including many sell-outs at the library; "Picnic in the Park" brass-band concerts with over 200 attendees in August; a full programme from Selby Civic Society (many of you will have seen the exhibition in the reception area of the Civic Centre); Selby Town Hall's Rory Bremner upcoming sell-out performance at the Abbey; and, of course, a packed programme organised by the Abbey team and the Selby Abbey Trust of organ and music recitals and celebratory services.

If Members would like to know more they can visit the special events calendar on SDC's website, or pick up a souvenir brochure.

Visitor Economy Action Plan delivery:

Successful partnership work between Selby Abbey and Selby District Council's Community, Partnerships and Customers team has secured further funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to enable the Abbey to appoint a new Community Engagement Officer who has started in post this month. The role will enable the Abbey to develop its local and international visitor offer as well as help the Abbey engage strategically with potential investors on further community events and building restoration projects.

Work has begun on developing a series of itineraries or 'niche' trails which are a key piece of delivery for the Visitor Economy Strategy to draw people around the district's hidden gems. These will showcase Selby District's treasures - the quirky, the tasty, the energising and the relaxing corners of our place - and encourage people to follow itineraries which vary from a couple of hours to a whole day. The key thing is that they'll also encourage people to do things they may not otherwise do or try new places that they've not been to. Early plans for the trails are being designed with the local creative sector and are likely to include encouraging explorative walking and cycling and will focus on heritage such as transport, brewing etc.

Selby District Council have also connected with 'The Explorer's Road' project, a £1.2 million Discover England project developing an East of England Touring Route promoting to the German markets: led by Newcastle Gateshead this is a 300 mile route from Newcastle including partners from areas such as Northumberland, York, Leeds,

Lincolnshire, the Peaks and Nottingham. The project supports a range of development support and marketing initiatives for our tourist attractions. Our position on the main road and sea travel routes is at the heart of the journey for the German and Scandinavian markets who are looking for 'hidden gem' experiences. District businesses are able to benefit from our involvement in the project which has enabled participating businesses to apply for support with enhancements to the visitor experience. Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens, for example, has successfully received a grant for additional interpretation.

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