



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

Report to Council – December 2019

Portholme Road Culvert

I am pleased to advise that the work to replace the collapsed culvert at Portholme Road in Selby has been completed, which did take longer than planned but has been completed within the approved budget for the scheme.

Recycling Task and Finish group

The Recycling Task and Finish group have met on a monthly basis and have undertaken visits to a Material Recycling Facility in Leeds and the waste recovery facility at Allerton Park which has given the group a good insight into what happens to our recycling and residual waste once collected. We have made significant progress regarding a mechanism for implementing bespoke collections and have also reviewed and identified new and revised waste collection policies for approval by the Executive. A review of the communications strategy and implementation plan has been completed and options for providing a recycling box take back scheme have been reviewed for approval by the Executive. The project remains on target for the planned new service commencement in April 2020.

We have awarded contracts for the replacement collection fleet, supply of the wheeled bins and the distribution and delivery of the wheeled bins to households. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Task and Finish group for their work and input so far into this important project for the residents of the District.

Streetscene Task and Finish group

The Streetscene Task and Finish group met on 10th September to discuss and agree the scope of this piece of work and have been provided with requested background information regarding the services. A further meeting will be scheduled for the new year. I understand that Keep Britain Tidy have conducted their cleansing surveys in November and the results and output will be reviewed by the Task and Finish group.

Community Gardening project

Selby Hands of Hope have begun work on a community gardening project utilising the redundant space in Selby Park which was previously home to the old greenhouses. This fantastic gardening project sees local residents working with a qualified horticulturalist to develop transferable skills and reduce social isolation.

Fly tipping – Fixed Penalty Notices

New legislation was introduced earlier this year regarding fly tipping to enable local authorities to implement a system of fixed penalty notices subject to approval of the levels

of fines by individual local authorities. I have taken a report to the Executive earlier this month to approve the introduction of a system of fixed penalty notices for fly tipping offences which should act as a further deterrent. A communications campaign is planned early in the new year about the introduction of the fixed penalty notices to maximise awareness of the consequences of fly tipping. The Council has also received a letter of support for the introduction of a system of fixed penalty notices from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Contaminated Land Strategy 2019-24

On 5 December I presented the new Contaminated Land Strategy 2019-24 for Selby District to the executive for approval.

The strategy sets out in place the options and resources required to discharge the Council's statutory duties to:-

- Determine whether any particular site meets the statutory definition of contaminated land and what if any, remediation is required.
- Act as the enforcing authority for all contaminated land within the District, unless the site meets the definition of a "special site", in which case the Environment Agency will act as the enforcing authority

Through this strategy the Council sets out how sites will be identified and prioritised and how land will be dealt with if it is felt that harm is being caused or a significant possibility of harm is likely to be caused.

This Contaminated Land Strategy has these key aims:

- To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites.
- To improve and protect the condition of the environment and the health of residents in the district.
- To meet the statutory obligation placed on the council to produce a written strategy under Part 2A.
- To ensure that a strategic approach is used for dealing with contaminated land.
- To ensure that remedial action is reasonable, practicable, effective and durable.
- To encourage voluntary remediation.

The Contaminated Land Strategy will provide opportunities for the Council to meet its corporate priorities and would support the Council to discharge its statutory duty to set a structured approach to investigating (and where necessary remediating) contaminated land within the District.

Selby 950

The year-long programme of events to celebrate the Abbey's 950th anniversary had its incredible highlight in November with the delivery of the Pilgrim Illumination event. 8,000 spectators came out over the weekend to see the works of internationally renowned artist Nayan Kulkarni. Immediate feedback has been that the event was extremely well received by residents, businesses and partners and was a beautiful celebration of where we live. Selby District Council's contribution to the event through match funding and Community

and Partnerships team expertise has created a real discussion about how we continue to develop the Abbey as a significant destination for the town.

There are two further activities remaining for the programme. Selby Treasures saw a number of pop up sessions where local residents could bring their favourite artefacts and tell their stories. Some of those objects and owners will also be drawn, comic-book style, by the artist-in-residence for the project. A wide range of local residents have engaged with the programme and will be able to see their stories displayed alongside museum artefacts in the Abbey in January 2020.

Hidden Histories will be revealed in the town centre imminently. It is a further quirky project, which will tell Selby's stories in surprising ways across the town centre.

Members received an all-member briefing on Selby 950 and the visitor economy strategy and action plan to keep up to date on progress with the wider strategy. The slides for this are available on the Members' Intranet.

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