

## In Touch

August 2012

### Introduction to “In Touch”

It is an essential prerequisite of any councillor to be easily contacted and available to the communities they represent. **Thornton Dale and The Wolds** area is one of the largest rural divisions within North Yorkshire, and as such poses obvious problems of communication. Though we share many issues throughout the division, I have divided my area up into bite sized chunks which roughly equate to “The Wolds” stretching as far south as Thixendale, “The A64 corridor” which covers the villages running from Rillington to Staxton and last but not least, “Thornton Dale” the village in which I live and its surrounding villages which make up the area for which I am also Ryedale District Ward Councillor. It is my intention that these pages will update you with County issues that affect you in the Thornton Dale area.

If you are reading these pages on line, then you will almost certainly have an email account. The life of a councillor is a very full one, so email is the easiest and fastest means of contacting me. May I assure you of an open line of communication with me through this channel.

Continuing the topic of communication, I have on occasions been asked about “surgeries” my view is that if you have a problem, you have my contact details and I am happy to take your calls/email or meet up with you by appointment. I have found a more effective method of keeping in touch is to attend (where possible) community events throughout the area as this helps people to draw local issues to my attention in a more relaxed and open manner. Please drop me a line if you are holding a function of fundraiser and I will make every effort to attend.

### The Ryedale Gas Project.

The application by Moorland Energy LTD for a sour gas processing plant down Hurrell Lane was recently upheld at appeal. The efforts of the residents opposition group “Aghast!” have not been entirely unproductive in that several “conditions” have been placed on the application and a request from the company has been made offering to form a residents liaison group. I will give this my full support. NYCC are in the process of looking through the 135 page report and I will keep you updated with details of this. Should anyone require an electronic copy of the appeal decision, it can be viewed at the link below. Any comments sent to me on the report will be noted and passed on to NYCC planning officers.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planning-callins/pdf/2170416.pdf>

Should you wish to see the NYMNP debriefing on the report, please email me for a copy.

### Highways.

The A170 through Thornton Dale is in desperate need of a resurface and I am pleased to say that after a considerable amount of lobbying, the money to resurface the road has been secured. In order to avoid disrupting visitors to the village over the school holidays, the work has been timetabled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September and to break this down, £40,000 will be spent on the Wilton Road and £40,000 on Pickering Hill. Some temporary patching has been carried out at the Wilton end which had sustained the most damage.

There is drainage work at Whitbygate scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> September at a cost of just over £31,000. In addition, there is also a one off funding of £25,000 to address the pot holes throughout the whole of my division. Our highways networks are checked on an annual basis, but we rely on reports from the public for any mid-term damage. If a road is damaged to the extent that it is considered to be dangerous, it will be attended to immediately. Like every other authority in the country, NYCC are strapped for cash! In view of this fact, I think we have had fair treatment – of course it’s never enough, but how much do **you** want to pay for?

I am looking forward to Thornton Dale Show on the 8<sup>th</sup> August and hope to catch up with news and views from residents at the event. Let’s hope the sun shines for us!

*Janet Sanderson*