

County Councillor Janet Sanderson
Thornton Dale & The Wolds

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Report for Thornton Dale Parish Council Meeting Date 2nd December 2014

Responsible Councillor Janet Sanderson

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Stronger communities The buzz word at County Hall at the moment is the “Stronger Communities” initiative and I have recently met with Sarah Robinson the lead officer for Ryedale. I am not going to wrap this up; we are still faced with having to make significant savings and there will be a range of services that the county council has traditionally provided that will no longer be available or will need to be delivered in a different way by working with communities.

Thornton Dale has a selection of vibrant groups and active volunteers who work innovatively and collectively and we are looking to support and extend these groups to identify and help the more vulnerable people within our villages. There are some start-up grants, ICT equipment and services, training and on-going specialist advice, support and development.

Sarah is based at Ryedale House and her contact details are below –
Sarah Robinson - sarah.robinson@northyorks.gov.uk - 01609 532265

Local Flood Risk Strategy The draft Local Floor Risk Strategy has now been published and is out for a six week consultation. This is an important document for all our communities but

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particularly those villages with becks running through them. The consultation

period is six weeks and given the size of this document, I have already pointed out that this is not enough time. We are told that this is a “living” document and that it is the first three sections that are the most important and contain the meat.

I think this should be a subject for the joint Ward PC meeting.

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/29725/North-Yorkshire-local-flood-risk-strategy>

Harrowcliffe
Lane

Response from Barry Mason *It is accepted that the road does not provide a through route or access to properties however, it does provide an access for agricultural traffic. The road is part of our minor rural network and is classed as a category 4 route. When it was originally identified for a maintenance, the scheme had a £63k budget attached to it in order to carry out our normal scheme standard. However, on closer inspection the local team reviewed the scheme requirements and have delivered a scheme for a total of £16k. Essentially the work that has been carried out was sufficient to ensure that the road didn't disappear under the grass. Unfortunately, as you know, there are some defects with the work that has been carried out and we are in the process of getting these sorted out.*

I explained to you that the local team are currently of the view that the route would benefit from a surface dressing in a couple of years time and I take on board your view that this is not warranted. I have copied Richard Marr into this response and he will no doubt take your views into account as part of any future considerations.

I fully appreciate your concerns about the comparisons being made between Harrowcliffe Lane and other routes in the local area. Speaking more generally, we are looking at ways that we can improve our planning and communication around highway maintenance scheme identification and delivery especially in light of the additional funding that we have and a key part of that will be ways of improving communication with local members so that you are given a full explanation of what we are planning to do and how that compares with other routes in the local area. This will be especially important for us going forward given our increasing focus on the more minor rural network and also our plans to increase the amount of earlier intervention that we carry out on routes that on the face of it don't appear to be in need of maintenance but which would constitute a much more cost effective use of funding than simply letting the route

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in question deteriorate further.

Facebook We now have over 60 “Likes” and regularly getting 40 – 50 people viewing posts.
www.facebook.com/thorntondaleforum

I have also been contacted by several young people in the village regarding input into local debates – if you know of any young people interested, please pass on my contact details.

Parish Liaison Meeting For those unable to attend, Vicky Perkin – Head of Planning at NYCC gave a presentation on unconventional gas. This was an informative and unbiased presentation. Vicky who has since answered several questions from local residents on the topic.

With the recent press relies from Third Energy at the Knapton Generating Station this topic is now very much in the foreground. It is vital that we have access to evidenced information on the subject. I have also been looking into the way in which other authorities have dealt with similar applications.

A panel of local residents have been selected to feed into the DECC risk assessment.

Janet Sanderson

28th November 2014