

Report for Thornton Le Dale PC
4th July 2017

Responsible Councillor - Janet Sanderson
Thornton Dale & The Wolds Division

e-mail: cllr.janet.sanderson@northyorks.gov.uk

Telephone: 01751 474516 Mobile: 078 3355 3014

Cold Callers This is a regular topic at PC meetings so I have appended a report from
Doorstep Sales NYCC entitled "Crackdown on doorstep criminals".

PC Item 9 With regard to this agenda item, I am aware that as part of the Thornton
Village Beck Group work, Cllr. M. Sanderson has submitted information regarding
Maintenance maintenance issues on Beck Isle and Priestmans Lane. In addition, I
Issues would like to highlight maintenance issues I have received from residents
in the hope that we can combine PC, RDC NYMNP and NYCC forces to
address some of these long standing concerns.

Village Footpaths adjacent to roads

- Whitbygate footpath – ivy growing over the wall and restricting the foot path.
- A170 parking area below the church – as above.
- Maltongate – grass growing over the footpath

Village walk footpaths

- Path along the stream by the mill – hedge now restricting the tarmac footpath.
- On the same footpath by the river – the willow hedge is also encroaching the footpath.
- Footpath from Church Lane overgrown with nettles.

It may be helpful to ascertain if any of this work is covered by the village care taker. I will also forward this report to David Smith NYMNP so work can be co-ordinated.

You can read the report here: [Link to Report](#)

Parish Portal This is now live and early reports from other parish councils have been very positive. If you have not already signed up, you will have to register “Thornton Dale” before individual PC members can sign up.

It is a very powerful tool and can give you very detailed information – such as who owns which street lights. The more it is used, the more the parish picture will be built up and help to direct services to where they are most required. The Parish Portal is only available to PC members but other members are still able to report online.

**NYCC
new web site** Our new web site went live last week and is much more user friendly – which seems to translate as “getting where you want with less clicks”

**RDC
application
16/10965/FUL
(Marishes)** I have asked for more details regarding the Highways Officer report on this application as the assessment has been made giving speeds southbound at 50–55 mph and northbound 25-30mph. I would like to see more clarification in that the speed limit is 60 mph and there have been several significant accidents in this area. I have called for a speed survey to be undertaken prior to the application being considered. I am mindful that the

PC have already put in an objection to the application on Highways grounds.

Appendix 1

Crackdown on doorstep criminals

Doorstep criminals targeting vulnerable and elderly victims in North Yorkshire were the subject of a week of robust enforcement action by Trading Standards, Police and other agencies between 8 and 12 May as part of the national initiative, Operation Rogue Trader.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team, Operation Gauntlet, based at North Yorkshire County Council trading standards, together with police resources across the country, undertook arrests, seizures of high value assets and charging of offenders throughout the week. Awareness raising and educational events were also undertaken to increase awareness of both those at risk, and those in a position to protect them, of the nature and risks of such offenders and effective methods of protection.

The team worked with police officers from Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, and officers from Cambridgeshire Trading Standards, to secure the arrests of two suspects in an on-going conspiracy to defraud and money laundering investigation after a vulnerable lady in her 80's from North Yorkshire was defrauded of over £90,000 for works undertaken to her driveway, roof and gardens. The suspects were also served with restraint orders under the Proceeds of Crime Act freezing their assets and high value assets including vehicles were seized. The investigation is continuing.

In a separate operation, the team secured the arrest of a further male in Cleveland, with assistance from officers from North Yorkshire Police. This investigation followed repeat offending against three vulnerable victims for roofing works to their homes, with two victims being defrauded of £17,000 and £18,500 respectively. The arrest followed three previous arrests and restraint orders being served on two suspects for conspiracy to defraud and money laundering offences. The investigation is continuing.

Two males from the Selby area were also charged by officers from the team with conspiracy to defraud in relation to a separate on-going doorstep crime investigation. This followed the defrauding of an elderly male in his 80's of £2,450 for non-existent roofing works to his home. The case involves five further victims across three counties.

Awareness raising sessions by trading standards officers and financial investigators from North Yorkshire Police were held in four banks throughout North Yorkshire during the week, to educate bank staff and customers about doorstep crime and distraction burglaries and other frauds and scams targeted at vulnerable and elderly people. Advice was provided to protect vulnerable residents against such offending, including the use of No Cold Call Zones to prevent cold callers and the installation of digital call blocker devices to prevent phone frauds. Sessions were also held with an Alzheimer's Society group in Skipton and at an Age UK event in Northallerton. A mobile police office was also situated in Harrogate to provide advice to residents. An urgent No Cold Call Zone was also set up in an area of Whitby by trading standards and local police officers, to help deter cold callers after a vulnerable family was defrauded in relation to roof repairs.

North Yorkshire Police also deployed Roads Crime Team officers and Rural Crime Team officers to conduct patrols and target vehicles of interest and suspicious activity and to provide advice to residents and small businesses following spates of tarmac and fish seller incidents.

'Greedy' brothers jailed for defrauding victims of more than £100,000

Two “greedy and unscrupulous” brothers who defrauded elderly and vulnerable residents on park home sites across the country of more than £100,000 were jailed at Newcastle Crown Court on the 28th April 2017 following an extensive investigation by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team at Trading Standards. The case involved 27 victims of Nathan King, 38, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and John King, 34, of Coventry, who traded together as Guardian Park Homes Ltd. They had earlier pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud and money laundering offences on the first day of their trial at Teesside Crown Court. The frauds involved the deliberate targeting of park home property owners on sites across the country from North Yorkshire to Northumberland and down to Somerset.

The majority of victims were elderly and vulnerable. Park home are notoriously difficult to keep warm and the brothers claimed they could fit external under-floor insulation to park home properties to help prevent heat loss. They also made claims that jacks supporting the properties needed replacing and, in some cases, frightened victims by telling them their homes were in danger of collapsing if the work was not done. Victims were charged grossly inflated amounts for poor-quality and unnecessary work, or work that provided none of the claimed benefits.

The brother’s foreman, Leon Williams, 29, (also known as Falcnor), also of Coventry, was also sentenced after pleading guilty to his part in the frauds by leading the gangs of workers, suggesting additional works to properties, completing company paperwork and taking payment from victims.

Williams was arrested with other workers in March 2015 at the home of an 82-year-old vulnerable woman living alone in the Skipton area. Attempts had been made to defraud her of £7,000.

The brothers were subsequently arrested in August 2015 during joint arrest and search operations with Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Lincolnshire police.

The court heard victim impact statements in which a number of the victims described their loss of confidence, the impact on their health, the extent of their financial losses and their loss of faith and trust in engaging traders. Many now face further costs for remedial works required to their homes.

The victims included:

- A 68-year-old woman with hearing problems living alone in North Yorkshire, defrauded of £2,700. She was subjected to high-pressure sales techniques and was intimidated into agreeing to the work.
- A 79-year-old widow from Lincolnshire defrauded of £8,300.
- A 65-year-old woman living alone in Lancashire, defrauded of £9,500.
- Two victims living in Lancashire, each defrauded of £6,000.
- A 55-year-old woman living alone in Gloucestershire, defrauded of £5,500.
- A 64-year-old man living alone in the Bath area, defrauded of £11,700 by the Kings and subsequently by their associate.
- A 71-year-old woman living alone in Cumbria, defrauded of £6,000.
- A 74-year-old man from Lancashire, who had been widowed the previous month, defrauded of £17,400.

Sentencing the men, His Honour Judge Ashurst told them: “This is in my judgement a bad case of its type. You are brazen, greedy and unscrupulous men.”

Nathan and John King were each sentenced to 30 months’ imprisonment. Leon Williams was given 10 months suspended for two years and ordered to undertake 200 hours of unpaid work for the community. Nathan King was also disqualified from being a company director for five years.

An agreement was reached with the defence for £112,930 to be paid from the Kings’ frozen bank accounts to compensate all 27 victims in full immediately, prior to full confiscation proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act to remove the Kings’ assets.

The Kings were also imprisoned for four months in January 2017 after pleading guilty to contempt of court for breaching Proceeds of Crime Act restraint orders in the case.

Janet Sanderson