

Report for Thornton Dale Parish Council February 2018

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Thornton Dale & The Wolds Division

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**NYCC Budget
meeting**

At our recent NYCC budget meeting, we agreed to increase council tax by 4.99% which includes the ring fenced 1.99% for social care. There is no doubt that Local Government is under enormous strain, compounded in part by the pressures of an increasingly aging population and a 20% increase in children with special educational needs and disabilities. The bottom line is that we need to make £44m of savings over the next three years. We have plans in place to save £33m, leaving a financial hole of £10m. The pressures we face are national pressures and I am sure we have all seen and hold in mind the plight of Northamptonshire County Council who face dire financial problems and have taken very drastic measures, suspending all non-urgent funding. We have been working with our MPs to lobby government for a fairer deal and welcomed the news just before our budget meeting that the final position from Government on the grant that NYCC will receive next year was improved by around £3m.

**Passenger
Transport**

We were all disappointed to see the collapse of Stevenson's bus service which provided school transport and other valuable public transport services around Ryedale. NYCC received the news on a Friday and by Monday morning, transport had been arranged for all school children in North Yorkshire which is a great credit to our Passenger transport team. No commercial operator came forward to replace the 190 Malton service and the county council is now running.

**Highways
winter
maintenance**

The winter weather has dominated the late February / early March news and I was delighted to represent our village when the Look North team visited to do a piece focusing on the effects of the weather on the Thornton le Dale community. We did the first interview at 6.45am and later welcomed Harry Gratian for the 6.30pm local news slot. I received a lot of

feedback after the interview, interestingly not one comment regarding interruption to NYCC services – only my choice of hat! Many of us have seen very much worse winter weather, but the Look North presentation was a wonderful promotion of our village and you had to be proud of the great community spirit and the help offered by residents to the vulnerable people within our society during the adverse weather.

Janet Sanderson