

## Report for *Thornton Dale* Parish Council Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 Date

*Allong with an update of specifically local matters, I have taken this opportunity to update the Parish council on some of the broader issues affecting our area and in particular with regard to Schools and Health / Hospitals both of which have been recently prominent in the local papers.*

### **Cemetery & allotment flooding.**

I attended a site visit along with Cllr. Acomb, Porter and Mr Dudley-Smith to assess the reported flooding of this area. Highways say they do not have any records of drainage in this vicinity, I will be checking the maps held by Thornton Internal Drainage Board in January – they have expressed an interest in this matter, though I doubt they will be able to help us here.

It is my understanding that the PC will be doing some exploratory digging to excavate for drainage pipes. Richard Marr informs me that they may be able to clear these pipes if –

1. They find any
2. They are in reasonable condition.

Any pipes found may need to be replaced with modern flexible pipes.

7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013 - having drawn a blank regarding details of utilities in this area, I visited Highways area 4 this morning. The advice given was that a “section 50” licence had to be applied for from “street work” they will then contact the utilities and work will be authorised to an approved contractor.  
(John Summers County Hall 01609 532803)

### **Beck wall**

Awaiting update on this. Chased 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 **101000621676**

### **Alms House consultation**

The application for access to be restricted to residents has now gone out to consultation. I have sent in my response, supporting the proposal, but also suggesting that they include the cottages up to Balderson’s café in the permitted access and that they consult all residents and business on Chestnut Avenue, from Brook Lane end, up to and including The Buck.

### **Children and young people**

Helen Watson was appointed to the post of Director of Children and Young People’s Service on the retirement of Cynthia Welbourn. Unfortunately she gave back word so we are left with an acting director until the position can be filled. Interviews will hopefully be held in early January.

There have been press headlines relating to a letter that Michael Gove sent to North Yorkshire MPs making comments about school performance and its Academies programme. Pressure is being placed on both Local Authorities and schools for schools to move to Academy status. NYCC’s view on Academies is to leave the decision entirely to schools themselves who best know their own circumstances. Our approach is one of supporting schools who wish to become Academies to do so but also to support those schools who wish to maintain their status with the Local Authority. It is worth remembering that North Yorkshire is in the top ten per cent of all Councils in terms of school exam performance.

**County Councillor Janet Sanderson**  
Thornton Dale & The Wolds

E-mail: Cllr.Janet.Sanderson@northyorks.gov.uk  
Tel: 01751 474516

There have also been problems associated with changes to school funding arrangements; this has hit some schools in rural areas very hard. We have drawn attention to this and been promised an early review of the situation.

### **Health**

We have a new director of Public Health. Dr Lincoln Sargeant, who is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, and Cambridge University. He moves to North Yorkshire from Cambridgeshire, where he was Consultant in Public Health with the NHS.

Responsibility for public health will transfer to the county council from the NHS on 1 April, 2013. Dr Sargeant said "this will provide a tremendous opportunity for a truly joined-up approach to the really important issues. With one organisation being responsible for so many key areas, for example education and economic policy, there is real scope to make a difference to people's lives and their health."

### **Malton Hospital**

The topic of Health Care Services was debated at full council on 19<sup>th</sup> December. A motion was moved by the chairman of health scrutiny saying that they "considered there was no room to reduce the health care services currently provided to meet the immediate, urgent and unplanned needs of its local residents and its visitors, and expects 24/7 consultant-led Accident and Emergency Services"

We are fully aware of the Malton Hospital situation and doing all we can to ensure that this valued service is continued.

### **Highways communication**

Anyone attending the last two Parish Liaison Meetings will be aware that there have been communication issues with Highways Area 4. There have been a mixture of problems causing the breakdown; hopefully we will see a big improvement in 2013.

I have requested that -

1. Any electronic communication receives a standard "bounce back" automatic reply from Area 4.
2. As above for communication (including phone calls) to County Hall.
3. Communication is received regarding work schedules, including completion dates.
4. Annual work schedules are continued from Barry Mason

We are in the process of implementing a "Citizens Portal" this should soon enable all logged work to be tracked through an internet portal and will work in a similar way to the Post Office tracking system.

### **Flooding**

NYCC is leading a multi-agency investigation into the recent flooding that occurred in Malton and Norton. As part of this investigation, the public have been invited to respond with specifically local issues. The Clerk has received a copy of the press release which you may wish to consider responding to.

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**NYCC  
consultation  
On funding.**

The cut to North Yorkshire County Council's government funding is worse even than anticipated. The funding settlement announced by the Government results in a reduction in funding for the county council of £10.1M in 2013/14 and a further £12.1 in 2014/15 (5.9% and 7.6% reduction respectively). The council does not expect to have confirmation of its funding from central Government until January 2013, but consideration is already being given to where further reductions in spending might be made, because it will be necessary to begin implementing these reductions in April 2013.

Residents are to be given the opportunity to make their views known on the county council's spending plans and priorities in a series of consultation events. If you missed the chance in December in Scarborough, you can still attend the Pickering consultation at Pickering Library on Tuesday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. Senior councillors and officers will explain the financial challenges facing the authority, and how it's proposed to tackle them.

**PCC  
consultation**

I believe that Julia Mulligan – our new Police Crimes Commissioner will also be in consultation prior to this meeting between 4pm – 6pm.

**CIF application**

Not really a NYCC point, but just to let you know that the CIF panel was postponed due to bad weather and will now take place on 9<sup>th</sup> January. I am not on this panel, but will be in attendance.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a  
**Happy New Year,**

*Janet Sanderson*