

**Cllr. Felicity Cunliffe-Lister Parish Report to  
Fountains Abbey Parish Council : January 2024**

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### **Transport/Highways**

I am waiting to speak to Heather Yendall about the following :

1. The installation of the speed survey
2. The installation of the white lines
3. The NY data collection equipment : needing Highways permission to install
4. The improved signage at the B6265 junction, directing NT traffic : needing Highways approval
5. Permission required for erecting a Christmas tree on the turning circle
6. Confirmation of grit bin location and options
7. Turning circle for buses/bus stop viability

I will report to the Chair as soon as I hear to further.

### **Community Partnership (Ripon)**

Ripon is one of the pilot schemes for these new networks. I attended an initial meeting today, where various local groups were represented and the role and objectives of the partnership was discussed. I will keep you posted as this progresses, in the meantime please advise if there are any areas of interest where a Ripon initiative could benefit Littlethorpe Parish.

### **Rural Broadband**

I have had a response from the Executive in response to the following queries that I raised with them regarding properties that have not been supplied with an NYNet connection :

*Now that the delivery of Phase 4 by NYNet has been confirmed, we know that approximately 1,300 dwellings within the Ripon and Skipton constituency are not going to be provided with FTTD broadband. I have also been advised that within the County, 37,000 premises fall within Voucher Priority areas, which have been identified as having a good likelihood of delivering gigabit coverage faster than the procurement route and represents good value for money. **I would just like to add for complete clarity, the Phase 4 delivery is not yet confirmed, this will not happen until the contract has closed. The figures recently sent out were based on the most recent plan.***

*Following the suspension of the voucher scheme, I wrote to the Secretary of State to request that these households are provided with some alternate form of financial support to enable them to connect to the internet, such as either via satellite or wireless signal. Most of these houses are in very remote locations, and are heavily dependent on the internet to study, operate a business or go about their daily lives. Meanwhile, those in urban locations, who will have or will be*

already benefitting from the NYNet delivery, are more likely to also have access to good mobile phone signals and easy access to public wifi such as via libraries and the NYNet market town service.

The response from the Secretary of State, Sir John Whittingdale, is attached.

Please can you confirm for me :

1. Where the 50 Voucher Priority Areas are that have been identified within the County, and how many qualifying households fall within each of these. **Voucher Priority Areas are managed by BDUK, we do not know exact locations or how many UPRN are in each. It is also unlikely that all 37,000 will be built. In addition, many of these will already have Superfast broadband.**
2. When the temporary pause on the voucher scheme will be lifted. **This should be 6-9 months after the award of the Project Gigabit contract, however BDUK are responsible for lifting the pause as they manage the scheme.**
3. Who funds the voucher scheme. If this is NYC, what budget is available and what has accrued during the suspension of the scheme. **BDUK manage the scheme and use it with funds from HMT. NYC has no role in the funding or management of the voucher scheme.**
4. With NYNet now finalising delivery of Phase 4 I am assuming that the intervention area has now been defined, but please advise if this is not the case. **The intervention area is defined by those which do not have Gigabit connectivity and will not be covered by Commercial coverage. This has been defined for a few months. However, there is no guarantee that the winner of the Project Gigabit Lot will bid 100% of the area.**
5. Please confirm, if the voucher scheme is not reinstated, whether these households will be eligible (either as hard to reach locations or otherwise) for internet connection via the gigabit scheme. My concern, based on the wording in the letter, is that the gigabit scheme will not be made available to those within voucher areas, even if the voucher schemes have been suspended. **All premises which do not have Gigabit already and have not been included in a commercial providers plans will be in scope of Project Gigabit. After the contract has been awarded BDUK will be aware of those which will not be completed. Any programmes to cover these will be led by BDUK.**
6. If this is not the case, please confirm what support will be available to these households, if they do not have access either to the voucher or gigabit scheme, or have access to the satellite capital grant.

**Council Meeting & Executive Decisions**

There was a Council Meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, where the Executive reported to the members.

- There were two motions raised by the LibDems that did not receive majority support :

To request from Ofgem : further information, action plans and a roadmap for delivery to increase electricity grid generation and import capacity across North Yorkshire

To write to the Secretary of State to express concern that the watering down of net zero targets, announced recently by the Prime Minister, including delaying the ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars will make the Council's climate change strategy more difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

- A motion proposed by the Greens, following a review at Scrutiny Committee, was approved : to recognise the role that NYC has in protecting the County's rivers and watercourses, consider the impact of pollution on them and to ask the water authorities to provide more detail when consulted at planning stage on the impact additional housing will have on sewage works, if there adequate capacity and what the impact might be on levels of sewage discharge.
- A motion by the Conservatives to increase pay to Councillors for next year was approved, but it was not supported by myself or any other LibDem councillors
- A new five year Economic Growth Strategy has been adopted for the County, which has been well received by the FSB and the Chamber of Commerce.

### **Destination Management Plan**

I recently raised queries of the Executive following my concerns about the progress of the DMP, the quality of the current draft and the impact that the ongoing lack of strategy will have on tourism in the area. I have also asked for confirmation of how the LVEP funding will be allocated now this has been awarded to North Yorkshire and York jointly, and I have asked for an update on progress with establishing further partnerships in order to promote the Yorkshire brand. This have been addressed and I am satisfied that this is in hand, albeit significantly delayed. I met the senior officer responsible for the delivery of the DMP this week to discuss progress. There are further consultations taking place this month and the final draft should be available in February for sign off in March.

### **Locality Budget**

Funding from my current budget is all allocated. Please remind your community groups to apply to me if they require funding from next year's fund.

### **Youth Councils**

I have not made any further progress with this. I am continuing to work with Cllr Brodigan in Ripon to help with the establishment of a Ripon Youth Council as a hub for rural groups.

### **Refuse**

I have had notification from the Harrogate Waste Team that, following a trial held in May 22 and April 23, there will be a roll out of blue lidded wheeled bins for plastics, glass and tins (to replace the black boxes). This has already started in some areas, you will be notified when the new bins are being delivered to your area, with the roll out due to complete March 24. We are to continue to use our blue recycling bags for paper, card and cardboard.

### **NHS Dentists**

I have written to all the Early Years providers in Masham & Fountains offering to support them with the provision of a Supervised Toothbrush Scheme. I am very concerned about the lack of NHS dental care and the impact this will have on children in particular – poor oral health can lead to infection, tooth loss and is associated with several chronic diseases. The scheme is administered by NYC, but is not being delivered to this ward as it is not a targeted one. I have sent the schools and childcare settings the links that they need to access this as a non-targeted setting, and for the costs involved (approximately £95 plus VAT/class plus £1/child for a take home toothbrush/toothpaste) I can look to my locality fund.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centres Survey**

Residents can share their views to help to develop household waste recycling centres (HWRCs). North Yorkshire Council has a legal duty to provide household waste recycling centres for residents to dispose of any additional household waste, free of charge.

There are 20 household waste recycling centres (plus mobile sites) across North Yorkshire and this service, including the disposal of the waste delivered, costs more than £5 million a year. To help address increasing costs and improve the service it provides, the council is looking at various options for HWRCs and is asking people to share their views about changes to the following services:

- Restricting the use to North Yorkshire residents only.
- Limiting access for commercial-like vehicles.
- Changes to commercial waste.

Seventeen per cent of household waste recycling centre users live outside North Yorkshire. If only North Yorkshire residents were allowed to use the household waste recycling centres, this could generate savings of approximately £140,000 a year.

Similarly, 93 per cent of visitors in a commercial-like vehicle (for example, a van or a pick-up) visit less than 12 times a year. It is believed that some waste being deposited from these vehicles could be commercial waste, which should be paid for. If the council limits these vehicles to 12 visits a year, it could bring in savings of around £370,000 and reduce congestion at sites to improve the experience for everyone.

Commercial waste, which is a paid-for service, is currently accepted at all household waste recycling centres (except Harrogate Stonefall). Although the council has no legal obligation to accept commercial waste at household waste recycling centres, it understands that this is a useful service to very small businesses that operate from home in rural areas. Therefore, people are also being asked whether they would support the accurate weighing and charging of commercial waste.

You can go online to complete the survey here : [www.northyorks.gov.uk/survey-hwrc](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/survey-hwrc) - the survey closes 31<sup>st</sup> January.

### **Local Nature Recovery Strategy survey**

Residents can share their views about the area's nature to help to shape and protect its assets for future generations. To address the decline of nature and to improve the environment, every county in England is required to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. These provide an opportunity for nature specialists, professional experts, businesses and residents to come together to find out about ways to restore and enhance nature.

The strategy will identify locations to improve nature and provide other benefits, such as capturing carbon from the atmosphere, flood regulation and access to nature-rich spaces where this is most needed for health and wellbeing. It will set out where and how to protect spaces and create a network of nature-rich sites which are bigger, better managed and more joined up across the county and across the country.

The consultation is available on North Yorkshire Council's website at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/lhrs](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/lhrs) . The closing date is Monday, February 12.

### **New grant scheme for North Yorkshire's small and micro businesses**

A new package of capital grant schemes is opening up £450,000 in funding for small and micro firms across the county. The fund, administered by North Yorkshire Council through the North Yorkshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), is focused on increasing business growth, productivity and resilience. Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 are available.

Micro businesses, with less than 10 employees, and small firms with less than 50 employees can also access free support beyond the grant through the business advisory teams at the council and the York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub.

To access the scheme : <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/UKSPF>

Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister

[Cllr.felicity.cunliffe-lister@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.felicity.cunliffe-lister@northyorks.gov.uk)

07592 114800