

## **County Councillors report June 2023**

### **Waste harmonisation**

Due to changes in the Government's legislation, North Yorkshire Council, alongside other local authorities in England, is required to introduce a free separate weekly food waste collection.

Unlike some other authorities, North Yorkshire Council already has an existing residual waste contract with AWRP SPV Ltd, which runs until 2043, and has therefore been granted an extension to bring in the changes beyond the Government's target date of 2025.

A weekly food waste collection would free up capacity in residual waste bins and open the door for an improved recycling collection service. By collecting food waste separately, it increases the amount that can be into green electricity via an anaerobic digester. It will also help to reduce the amount of rubbish requiring burning, therefore cutting the amount of harmful emissions being produced and producing a compost-like product that is beneficial to agriculture.

By running weekly food waste collections and harmonising the service across the county, it would reduce the carbon dioxide equivalent output by between 2,800 tonnes to 3,300 tonnes each year compared to the current arrangements where food waste is recovered from residual waste at Allerton Waste Recovery Park. It would also allow the council to consider further options for residual waste, which could lead to 7,000 tonnes of carbon savings every year.

The existing arrangement at Allerton Waste Recovery Park already puts North Yorkshire Council ahead of many local authorities when it comes to recovering food waste and reducing harmful emissions. The move to weekly collections would extend the environmental benefits even further.

Refuse collections in the county were previously run by the seven former district and borough councils, which along with North Yorkshire County Council, were replaced by North Yorkshire Council on April 1. As part of this process, an extensive consultation process will be undertaken to achieve the most equitable and effective collection policy for residents across the County.

### **Volunteers needed for sports-themed reading challenge**

Libraries across North Yorkshire are on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to get involved in this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Every year, young people aged between 13 and 24 help to coordinate the challenge, which is produced by the Reading Agency.

It encourages children aged four to 11 to read six library books over the summer holidays.

This year's challenge has a sports and games theme. The carefully picked Ready, Set, Read! book collection will encourage team spirit through sporty book characters.

Volunteers will register children onto the challenge, help them to choose books, talk to them about the books they have read and assist with library activities.

To find out more about volunteering and to apply, go to or contact your local library. Applications should be made by Friday, June 30.

For more information on the Ready, Set, Read! challenge, visit the website at [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

A reminder that a wide range of Audiobooks, newspapers and magazines are available free online via the Library service at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/download-e-books-e-magazines-and-digital-audiobooks>

## **Countywide plan set to help support valuable tourism industry**

A new strategy aimed at attracting more visitors to North Yorkshire will tackle long-standing issues affecting the tourism sector to boost the multi-million pound industry.

Tourism is one of the foundations of the county's economy and employs tens of thousands of workers while attracting visitors from across the globe to experience North Yorkshire's world-famous landscapes and attractions. The first-ever countywide plan is currently being developed to promote the tourism industry and help attract an increasingly diverse range of visitors, while also dealing with a host of issues that have affected the sector.

The destination management plan will aim to promote a year-round visitor economy and will also investigate ways of addressing skills shortages and increasing wages as workers in the sector have traditionally had lower salaries. North Yorkshire Council's tourism officers, who are responsible for drawing up the destination management plan, are also hoping to work with key partners to improve sustainable transport links, such as bus and train services, to provide visitors with easier access to travel across England's largest county.

A draft destination management plan is due to be finalised by the end of June, before a bid is then expected to be submitted to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Support in September for North Yorkshire to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP). The LVEP is set to involve both the private and public sectors and would need to follow a new national process to be eligible for support and potential funding from the Government. Tourism officers in North Yorkshire are working closely on the project, pooling their knowledge and expertise to ensure the strongest possible proposal for a LVEP is submitted.

The council, which launched on April 1, will also be engaging with businesses, business networks and the leisure, culture and tourism sectors across the county in the coming weeks to help develop a strong partnership. It will work alongside a new regional partnership which was established last year to promote tourism in Yorkshire, and which has already garnered widespread political support.

A marketing campaign has been launched to promote tourism and is being funded by £50,000 from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which is providing £2.6 billion nationally to help finance the levelling up agenda to tackle regional inequalities. The digital campaign runs until July and is focusing on North Yorkshire's key themes such as heritage, food, drink and retail, market towns, the coast and family activities.

Tourism in North Yorkshire is worth £1.5 billion a year in the spend from domestic visitors. It accounts for 11 per cent of the county's overall economy, and 41,200 workers are employed in the sector.

The new destination management plan is aiming to capitalise on the designation of the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks as an International Dark Skies Reserve in December 2020 to bring more visitors to the county during the traditionally quieter autumn and winter months.

Work is under way to support sectors of the tourism industry such as adrenalin-fuelled outdoors pursuits, including wake-boarding, surfing, rock climbing and mountain biking as well as family-friendly activities to promote North Yorkshire to a wider audience.

### **Changing Places facility update**

Following a successful application to the Government Department for Levelling up, grant funding was secured to install a purpose designed and built disabled toilet facility aimed at those with more extreme mobility issues, to be installed in the Limestone View facility.

After some delays during the procurement process it became apparent the original estimate would no longer meet the projected build cost. This has been due to abnormal material and labour costs but was non the less potentially jeopardising the future of the project in Settle.

Following approaches to the Leader of NYC Cllr. Carl Les and Executive Member for Corporate Services, Cllr. David Chance, I have been able to secure the shortfall in funding from North Yorkshire Council that will now see the project move forward and officers are now seeking to finalise a schedule for delivery of the project.

### **HSBC Pop-up**

As has been widely publicised the HSBC bank branch in Settle will be closing on the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

While this is regrettable and for many residents leave much uncertainty going forward as to how they may access their banking services with the HSBC, it does feel to be an inevitability to the news given the number of branch closures across the sector.

Basic counter services can be accessed through the local Post Office on Duke Street in Settle and of course the usual offering of telephone and online banking facilities.

In an attempt to facilitate those who wish to speak in person to HSBC staff I spoke with branch staff to identify a range of dates that might be suitable for a pop-up service to be hosted in Settle. Following conversations with the Leader and Executive and in consultation with volunteers at the Limestone View Library, we have been able to provisionally secure dates for a pilot scheme up to the end of the year, where HSBC staff will be available in the library meeting room.

If the scheme proves successful hopefully a more permanent arrangement might be sought, but as with any commercial decision, this will very much be subject to the take up by customers and identified need.

### **Have your say on the county's future transport priorities**

A reminder that residents are being encouraged to share their travel habits in a bid to shape a transport strategy across North Yorkshire over the coming decades.

The survey has been running from Monday, May 22 and will end Monday, July 17 and will inform the first draft of the new Local Transport Plan to guide the development and management of travel infrastructure across the county.

The plan will look at all aspects of the region's transport, including road, rail, bus, cycling and walking. It will be developed by the new North Yorkshire Council, which launched last month, alongside City of York Council.

Since the current North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan came into effect in 2016, more people are using electric vehicles, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed how people live, work and travel, and there have been advances in technology.

The transport engagement comes under the Let's Talk banner, the countywide conversation which in the past year has seen residents give their views on local priorities, county finances, devolution and climate change.

The Local Transport Plan is a requirement of the Government and will be based on Ministers' objectives for transport while reflecting local ideas and issues. It will link closely to the council's wider strategies to support local economic growth and sustainable development.

People can complete the survey online at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalkNY](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalkNY)

Paper copies are available from your local library. Paper copies and copies in accessible formats can also be requested by emailing [letstalk@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:letstalk@northyorks.gov.uk), calling 01609 536400 or writing to: Let's Talk, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD.