

11 January 2017

**Issues raised by Members of the Committee
County Councillor John
Blackie**

(iii) BT Payphones in the Upper Dales and Richmondshire. BT Proposals to remove over 40 public call boxes/BT Payphone Service

Councillor Blackie had advised he will provide a verbal update on this matter.

iv) The Better Health Programme – Threats to the 24/7 Critical Care Services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital

The Better Health Programme - Threats to the 24/7 Critical Care Services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital

Following the debate and resolution on the above subject at the last meeting of the Richmondshire Area Committee, as recorded in the Minutes, the following Notice of Motion was put to the November meeting of North Yorkshire County Council:

NOTICE OF MOTION

NHS acute services across the Tees Valley, South Durham and the northern part of North Yorkshire are currently being reviewed as part of "The Better Health Programme". The Review includes

- 24 / 7 Accident and Emergency (A&E) services
- 24 / 7 Consultant-led Maternity services
- 24 / 7 Consultant-led Paediatric services

These services are accessed at the Darlington Memorial Hospital by North Yorkshire residents in the north of the County, and the 24 / 7 Consultant-led maternity and paediatric services at the hospital were specifically committed by the NHS as an important alternative provision when the similar services were downgraded at The Friarage Hospital in 2014.

North Yorkshire County Council -

- calls upon the Better Health Programme review to take into account the needs of its residents and communities, many of them rural in nature, that rely upon

these critical care services remaining at the Darlington Memorial Hospital

- and expects the review to honour the commitment to maintain them at the Darlington Memorial Hospital in line with the assurances given to residents in the County during the review of services provided at the Friarage Hospital in 2014.

Proposed by

County Councillor Carl Les

Seconded by

County Councillor John Blackie

The motion was strongly supported by every Member of the County Council present at the meeting, bar one member (CC John Clark - Liberal) who abstained.

Since then I understand that Darlington Borough Council and Hambleton District Council have passed motions expressing very similar support for maintaining the 24/7 Critical Care Services to the Darlington Memorial Hospital. My proposal that Richmondshire District Council should also support the Darlington Memorial Hospital was passed unanimously at the July meeting of the Council.

After 8 months of campaigning led by me on behalf of the communities of the Upper Dales, and the remainder of Richmondshire, in conjunction with County Councillor Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire County Council, I am pleased to say that we have made significant progress in getting the NHS to get real with its Better Health Programme (BHP) which is seeking cutbacks in emergency healthcare provision.

Working hard both at the seven (7) Council Joint Scrutiny Committee of the BHP draft proposals (on which I am a member with two other County Councillors, CC Jim Clark, Chairman of the NYCC Scrutiny of Health Committee and CC Caroline Dickenson, a Northallerton member) and at the County Council, we have all argued very strongly that the proposal to have just one hospital, the James Cook University Hospital, be the provider of the only full 24/7 Accident & Emergency, Consultant-led maternity and paediatric services (these are called **Critical Care services**) serving the region was totally unrealistic.

This proposal would have seen both the Darlington Memorial Hospital and the University Hospital of North Tees at Stockton stripped of their 24/7 Critical Care services.

It would have also left the James Cook, a centre of excellence for complex healthcare

provision, completely swamped in having to deal with between 200,000 - 250,000 A+E attendances and 10,000 live births every year. In short we all would have lost out, both those communities on Teesside to whom the James Cook is their local hospital, and all the rest of our communities in North Yorkshire who use the James Cook for complex healthcare provision and would have found the expertise and first rate care offered by the hospital simply overrun by the weight of numbers using the hospital, its facilities, and the car park, which is totally inadequate for the current numbers of patients/ visitors to the hospital, and could not cope with any increase.

Please remember that the BHP proposes absolutely no increase in capital resources so there would be no physical expansion of the built environment of their James Cook to accommodate the increase in numbers using the hospital that would inevitably follow the loss of critical care services at both the Darlington Memorial Hospital and the University Hospital of North Tees at Stockton.

Just before Christmas, at a Scrutiny Committee in Northallerton, in answer to my question, it was quietly announced that the BHP proposals when they are announced in June 2017, will have 2 hospitals retaining their 24/7 critical care services, the James Cook (a given) plus either the Darlington Memorial Hospital or the University Hospital of North Tees. This was confirmed in the Strategic Transformation Plan (STP), a part of which is devoted to rationalising these 24/7 Critical Care services, which was published in late November.

Common sense and realism has prevailed, but this still leaves a fight for us to make sure that in addition to the James Cook we keep the 24/7 critical care services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital. Please do not think it is a matter of course, as although the Darlington Memorial Hospital wins in terms of geography and does have a sufficient critical mass of numbers using it, not least the 110,000 who live in Darlington, the University Hospital of North Tees in Stockton has an even greater number of people using its services and they are more disadvantaged in terms of their healthcare needs.

Further their elected Councillors think the 6 miles those using the University Hospital of North Tees Hospital would have to travel to reach the James Cook is a very long way to travel !! When I mentioned at a Committee meeting that some of us from the Upper Dales, if the Darlington Memorial Hospital lost its 24/7 Critical Care services, would have to travel 60 miles to access them in an emergency at the James Cook, I did notice their jaw dropping somewhat !!

The NYCC Richmondshire Area Committee has resolved that it is essential for the peace of mind and emergency health provision needs of all those residents living in Richmondshire to retain these Critical Care services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital. It is inevitable then that it will have to join in a united broadside with North

Yorkshire County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council, Hambleton District Council, and a large number of Parish and Town Councils to argue very strongly for the Darlington Memorial Hospital if these services are placed under threat of removal in the BHP.

The battle will start in June, unless the BHP decides that the case for retaining the Critical Care services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital is compelling (as I think it is) and gives way ahead of the official consultation being launched. Ensuring this will not be easy as the County Council Election, with all its restrictions in press and media reporting between late March and early May, will intervene. However losing sight of the focus of the campaign for the Darlington Memorial Hospital during this time would be at our future peril.

Please note Councillor Blackie has also indicated that he wishes to raise a matter in connection with Agenda Item 5, North Yorkshire Police update, as follows:-

Please note the exchange of correspondence **copied below** between Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council and Sgt Stuart Grainger, and the approved minutes of the Parish Council meeting in October in regard to the appalling car parking near Hawes Youth Hostel. I should add this exchange of correspondence and a photograph (attached) was sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Julia Mulligan in October, but there has been no response whatsoever from her to our concerns. **I have also included a photograph of the car that was parked so inconsiderately near the Youth Hostel.**

I should say that Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council has every confidence in Sgt Stuart Grainger and a great deal of respect for his work in the Parish over the years he has worked from Leyburn Police Station. Clearly he has been forced to peddle the Police line in his response to the incident near Hawes Youth Hostel, but it was a very disappointing response to a serious issue of pedestrian safety. At the January meeting of Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council, there was a suggestion that the standard item on the Agenda, Police issues, be removed from future Agendas as there was no point in having this item on as the Police do not respond meaningfully to the concerns of the local community they are there to police, and the PCC is clearly not interested either. I said as Chairman of the Parish Council I would have an opportunity to put this suggestion to the Police at the next NYCC Richmondshire Area Committee.

So I will ask at the Richmondshire Area Committee tomorrow - how does Inspector Mark Gee respond to this suggestion ??

From: Cllr. John Blackie]

Sent: 20 October 2016 08:58

To: Grainger, Stuart; Hunter, Nick; Gee, Mark

Subject: Appalling car parking by Hawes Youth Hostel

Dear Stuart,

I now turn to another traffic / highways matter brought to your attention at the Parish Council meeting you attended. **This is the obstruction of the footpath by the YHA Youth Hostel on Turfy Hill by cars belonging to visitors staying at the Youth Hostel.** There has been a constant stream of complaints to the Parish Council and to me directly about this inconsiderate car parking this year, so much so that I called in to see the Hostel Manager (Lorna) in July and discussed the concerns with her. She agreed that there was a problem and promised to try harder when guests are booking in to impress them that parking on the pavement is simply a non-starter.

I said if matters did not improve the Parish Council would report the matter to the Head Office of the YHA and to the local Police.

However complaints have continued to arrive and on Saturday 15th October in the late afternoon I was passing the Youth Hostel and spotted the car **I have photographed (as attached)** completely blocking the pavement. I called in and asked to see the Manager but she was not available, but instead spoke at length with a Relief Manager, Annette, who in fairness was at her wits end dealing with the issue of car parking on the pavement by the Youth Hostel. **She said the offending car had been parked on the pavement since Friday night, and she herself had received other complaints as well as mine that day, from a mother with a pushchair and a group pushing a disabled person in a wheelchair, all of whom had to walk in the road where it is particularly narrow and busy to get around the vehicle.**

I said we would be taking the action I had outlined in my meeting in July with Lorna, and reporting it to the YHA Head Office and the local Police, and this e-mail to you is the official Parish Council complaint to you.

As I left the Youth Hostel on Saturday I met PCSO Don Foster who was investigating a complaint about the car parked on the pavement received via the NY Police switchboard. I accompanied him to meet Annette, having explained to him what I had said to her just minutes before. I then left him to discuss matters with her.

I trust the driver of the vehicle has been booked for gross obstruction of the pavement. Please confirm this as I will be reporting the whole matter to the Parish Council meeting on Monday. I will also ensure the involvement of the local Police and the outcome of this particular event is reported in the press report in the

D+S Times and sent to the excellent Richmondshire Today website.

I am forwarding this-mail and photograph to Colin Dales at Richmondshire DC who is coming to the meeting on Monday in the hope that he will alert the Scarborough based team of Parking Enforcement Officers to monitor this particular location when they visit Hawes. A few more car parking tickets would not go amiss but better to have no more of this appallingly inconsiderate car parking that frankly threatens the safety of pedestrians using the footpath there on what is a popular circular walk around Hawes and Gayle.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

John Blackie

From: Grainger, Stuart

Sent: 22 October 2016 17:55

To: Cllr.John Blackie

Subject: RE: Appalling car parking by Hawes Youth Hostel

Dear John,

Thanks for submitting the speed referral forms, that should get the process rolling so we can assess the speed profile.

With regards the YHA, the offending car was not ticketed by police. As a rule we don't tend to do 'hit and run' tickets like traffic wardens anymore. The car was insured for 3 persons to drive it so who do we prosecute? The driver was not present (it had already been parked there since Friday) and it wasn't something that we have the resources to wait for him or her to return for. Nor would the offence be something we would pursue by driving ourselves across to see the driver in Marske by the Sea, or by asking a Whitby or Cleveland officer to do on our behalf (they would refuse).

Ticketing one driver will not stop the problem in any case. It needs a problem-solving approach to design out the problem so that it polices itself or is resolved once and for all – otherwise a situation that relies on enforcement is doomed to fail if we are unavailable and we will forever receive photos of cars parked on the footpath. Ticket one driver and all the other random visitors to the YHA will be none the wiser and simply continue in the same vein. Design the problem out and it ends the problem without the need for it to be resource intensive.

I will therefore go and visit the YHA and assess it.

I will ask Highways for their thoughts. I appreciate yellow lines would not be preferred, but other options may be suitable.

This should in theory be quite easily resolved once and for all.
I will keep you updated.

Regards,

Stuart Grainger
Sergeant
Leyburn and Dales Policing team

Approved Minutes - October 24th meeting of Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council

5. Inconsiderate car and minibus parking near the Youth Hostel in Hawes

Parish Councillors felt the response from the Police to the recent photograph of a car completely obstructing the pavement by the Youth Hostel completely inadequate and wondered whether it was worth reporting any incidents to the Police in the future. It was a half-hearted and lack lustre reply, containing ludicrous statements such as booking the driver would not prevent the incidents happening again, and would lead to a constant flow of unwanted requests for attendance by Police Officers to book other drivers who were also committing the same offence.

Parish Councillors concluded that the pathetic excuses offered in the letter were merely a fig leaf for the simple fact is that the Police could not be bothered to pursue these offences to their natural conclusion.

Meantime Parish Councillors observed that local residents including some with babies in push chairs or disabled people in wheelchairs were forced to compete for road space with 44 ton HGVs, speeding motor-cyclists leaving Hawes, at a generally busy traffic black-spot in the town.

The Chairman said that he was now receiving weekly complaints of parking on the pavement by the Youth Hostel and asked that people reporting them should take a picture on their mobile telephone. If they could forward the picture to his mobile phone or e-mail, he would then forward them to the Police for comment.

It was suggested that the Youth Hostel should put up a notice to advise that any car parked illegally will be booked.

Resolved: The Parish Council was extremely disappointed by the reply from the Police, the failure to book the offending driver and the totally inadequate reasons given for not pursuing the offender. It unanimously supported the Chairman in whatever action he took to highlight the events in the public domain.

