

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

25 April 2017

Feedback from the Area Committees

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To bring to the attention of the Executive specific issues considered at the recent meeting of the County Council's:-

- ◆ Ryedale Area Committee - 22 February 2017
- ◆ Hambleton Area Committee - 6 March 2017
- ◆ Craven Area Committee - 9 March 2017
- ◆ Selby Area Committee - 13 March 2017
- ◆ Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee - 15 March 2017
- ◆ County Area Committee for the Harrogate District - 16 March 2017
- ◆ Richmondshire Area Committee - 22 March 2017

2.0 Ryedale Area Committee - 22 February 2017

2.1 Update on the A64

The Committee were updated by Simon Jones, Highways England, on planned works on the A64 in the Ryedale area and a general forward look regarding programmed work to the end of this current Financial Year and beyond. Key areas covered were:

- In regard to the Barton Hill scheme, compensation had now been agreed with the landowner and the process for handing the scheme over from Design to Delivery would commence. The scheme would now be scheduled as part of the 2017/18 programme for delivery, based on the appropriate funding being secured.
- Confirmation that the project team were in the final stages of completing its feasibility study of the Hopgrove junction upgrade. Simon Jones stated that Highways England were continuing to keep Kevin Hollinrake MP and North Yorkshire County Council appraised on how this project was progressing.
- An update on the work being carried out at Kirkham Bridge and on-going maintenance work across the Ryedale District.

James Malcolm, Area Manager Highways, advised the Committee on the proposed 7.5 tonne weight limit for Kirkham Bridge. The consultation had now finished and there had been one objection. A report would be taken to the Business and Environment Service Directorate Executive after which NYCC Highways would re-engage with Highways England in relation to signage requirements for the A64.

Members made the following comments:

- In regard to the Barton Hill scheme, could Highways England give assurances that funding will be in place.
- Mindful that all the problems at the Hopgrove junction were due to congestion into a single carriageway.
- Recognition that some progress was being made at Barton Hill, however the bigger picture was the duelling of the whole of the A64. Whilst Simon Jones recognised that the duelling of the A64 had been requested for many years and it was something Highways England continue to look at together with Stakeholders, there was an understanding that the costs involved, at present, was not feasible and the need to promote smaller sections of duelling or climbing lanes to relieve congestion was being considered by the LEP and other stakeholders. Simon Jones considered the way forward would be to promote single section solutions of improvements for the A64.
- Whilst welcoming cycle paths on the A64, was there a need for them on both sides of the carriageway and also for all the signs.
- Looking forward to the work commencing at Barton Hill, there was huge disappointment felt by local residents.

2.2 North Yorkshire Police

The Committee received a report from Acting Inspector Simon Jolly, North Yorkshire Police. He referred to the recorded crime statistics table over the last 3 years which gave an accurate picture of the crime types which were affecting the area and any continuing trends.

Acting Inspector Jolly agreed it was now accepted that the CCTV infrastructure in Ryedale is in need of attention. With advancements in technology and the falling numbers of people going to the Police Station together with a tight policing budget seeing a reduction in the time front desks are staffed, this was leaving CCTV largely unmonitored throughout evening hours.

Acting Inspector Jolly highlighted that Ryedale District Council are restructuring its service which will see the introduction of a number of Town Team Officers who will be responsible for dedicated areas. Work is underway to align each Officer to a respective Police Beat Manager and PCSO. Acting Inspector Jolly also advised that the Neighbourhood Policing Team are in regular contact with the Kirby Misperton Protection Camp.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson, the Executive portfolio member for Children's and Young People's Services had concerns with the number of sexual offences on the Recorded Crime Statistics, she asked for the numbers when any 'sexting' figures were taken out.

Members made the following comments:

- Disappointment with the Community messaging facility which did not have a "feedback" facility to send information back to police in response to appeals.
- The frustration of using the 101 number and whether the Police had a Facebook page for members of the public to use. Acting Inspector Jolly advised that the Police had a Facebook page however it was in an open area environment, members of the public should ask the Police to contact them and not disclose any information on an open site.
- Work needs to continue with regard to Community Speed Watch to ensure village speed limits are adhered to.

- A Member said that he had asked for information a year ago on the cost to Police on Fracking in Ryedale, however he was still waiting for the information. Acting Inspector Jolly said that a Freedom of Information request would be needed for the information.
- Pickering should be included in the CCTV campaign along with Malton and Norton.
- Would the 6 Ryedale Town Team Officers working with Police Beat Managers and PCSO's have any legal rights, wear a uniform or carry badges. Acting Inspector Jolly advised the Town Team Officers would be in plain clothes and given civil powers. The idea was for a joint approach by Ryedale District Council and Police and the sharing of skills.

2.3 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Update for Ryedale

The Committee received a report from Group Manager Danny Westmoreland updating Members on Community Safety Activities involving North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service that have occurred in the last financial year and providing an update regarding other issues from within Ryedale District. Key issues covered were:

- Fire Cover Review updates.
- Operational Staffing Reserve update (OSR)
- District Watch Manager – Ryedale and Scarborough District now have a District Watch Manager to support the Retained Duty System stations and one of their key functions is to support the recruitment and retention of staff.
- Working with Vulnerable people
- Road Safety Update.

2.4 North Yorkshire Stronger Communities Progress Report

Sarah Robinson, Stronger Communities Deliver Manager for Ryedale advised of intensive work being carried out by Volunteers Management Groups, Library Staff and the Stronger Communities team for the library service transformation. Projects are still on-going however the library service changes will take priority in the next couple of months.

The local Member for Norton gave her thanks for the help and guidance from the Stronger Communities team for Norton Library.

The local Member for Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley gave her thanks for the work at these Libraries which, she considered, was progressing well.

2.5 Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

The seventeenth report of the Older People's Champion, County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE, providing an update on work which followed on from last year and introducing the main focus of work in 2017.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee, thanked County Councillor Marshall OBE for her work as North Yorkshire County Council's Older People's Champion and gave their best wishes to her for the future.

2.6 Work of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Area Committee noted the oral report and powerpoint presentation by Paul Jackson, AONB Manager, who provided information on the work of the AONB.

2.7 Communications with NYCC Ryedale Highways Office – Update

James Malcolm, Business and Environmental Service gave an oral report to Committee, this included:

- Norton Level Crossing. In relation to the experimental 7.5 tonne weight limit, the consultation has now finished and over thirty comments have been received, the majority of which are opposed to the proposed experimental weight limit. A report would be taken to Business and Environment Service Directorate Executive with Officer proposals.
- The Tour de Yorkshire would be coming through Ryedale on Friday 28th April 2017 and Highways have an involvement.
- Winter gritting, no major issues this season.
- New maintenance manager, Peter Garnham would be in post on 1st March 2017.

Members made the following comments:

- With regard to the road works in Pickering, in future, could consideration be given to communication with local people on bus services.
- Concern on work carried out by Utility Companies; daily changes were confusing and frustrating for drivers.

3.0 **Hambleton Area Committee - 6 March 2017**

3.1 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service - Community Safety Update - Hambleton

Group Manager David Pitt highlighted the following issues from his report:-

- ◆ Service delivery initiatives
- ◆ Prevention activity - prevention work during the last quarter had focused on the planned activities in line with the Hambleton District Community Safety Plan
- ◆ Fire safety instruction remained at the very core of the educational programme and staff delivered key stage training packages in schools across the District.
- ◆ Response activity - a service exercise took place at Wathgill Camp in November 2016 in which ten fire engines from across North Yorkshire took part, together with a series of smaller scale exercises being carried out across the District by whole-time and RDS crews.
- ◆ Fire Cover Review Implementation - Northallerton's Tactical Response Vehicle (TRV) had been available for operational use since 13 February 2017 and was crewed by a crew of three
- ◆ The TRV located in Scarborough had been operational since January 2017 and approximately 70 incidents had been attended by Tactical Response Vehicles since being operational. Since becoming operational, the TRVs had attended a range of incidents including automatic fire alarms, limited scale domestic flooding, persons locked out, road traffic collisions and property fires. Further talks had taken place with the FBU and Senior Management and dialogue was ongoing with an agreed temporary position in place until 31 March 2017.
- ◆ Health Engagement – at its meeting in December 2016, the Fire Authority received a report setting out a proposed Health Engagement Strategy for consultation, which officers had been requested officers to develop. There were three key principles proposed in the strategy which were:-

- early intervention on health factors to reduce longer term demands;
- cost effective use of NYFRS assets to support health and social care interventions;
- utilisation of skills and assets for appropriate and timely emergency response.

Members were advised that the 'early intervention' brief had been widened to also look into 'isolation' and its impacts.

Under the heading 'effective use of NYFRS assets', combined operational use of First Responders was currently being trialled locally and nationally, starting in March 2017, for an eight week period. Members were further advised that York and North Yorkshire were endeavouring to become a "Beacon" of best practice, with a wide range of partners in collaboration, for example, with North Yorkshire Police. Ripon Fire Station, together with the Ambulance Station were to be demolished and replaced by one building for both. In Thirsk it was planned to create a joint Fire and Police building, together with Transport and Supplies being amalgamated, based in Thirsk.

- ◆ Retained Duty System Review - the Service had been undertaking a review of the retained duty system and this work had now moved into the implementation stage with a number of recommendations being considered. Those key areas were:
 - Application and selection of staff and streamlining
 - Training and development.
 - Contracts (eg. Short contracts)
 - Work routines - administration.

3.2 North Yorkshire Police Update

Inspector Dave Murray highlighted the following issues from his report:-

- ◆ Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) - crime continued to remain stable within the Hambleton area, with a downward trend in burglary non dwelling continuing (down 90 crimes for the same period last year) and there were no areas for concern at this time.
- ◆ Anti-social behaviour remained slightly up on the same period last year, however, this was on the back of significant reductions over the previous 5 to 6 year
- ◆ Staffing - DCC Tim Madgwick had retired in February and had been replaced by DCC Lisa Winward; and Acting ACC Phil Cain was currently supporting the Chief Officer Team
- ◆ Northallerton Custody Suite Closure Pilot – this was a six month pilot scheme to ascertain what was the best practice for future custody provision and had currently been running for five months. The pilot was being reviewed at a local level on a daily basis and at a strategic level on a monthly basis. At the end of the six months pilot scheme a full review of its operation would be undertaken and a reported back to the Committee
- ◆ HQ17 Alverton Court – the conversion of Alverton Court, Northallerton to replace the Police Headquarters at Newby Wiske and Northallerton Police Station continued with an expected occupancy in Summer/Autumn 2017

Members were advised by Inspector Murray that concerns continued to be raised locally about car parking at the Alverton Court site and a Silver Group had been specifically set up to address those parking issues.

Inspector Murray informed the meeting that there were currently between 400 and 500 staff working at Newby Wiske and it was proposed that there would be no parking available for those staff, who would likely have to be disbursed throughout Northallerton Town. Members were advised, however, that figure of 400-500 current staff from Newby Wiske would actually be less moving into HQ17 Alverton Court, due to some relocation of services, as well as the Agile working programme in development.

Alverton Court would be the home base for all the official Police vehicles currently located at Northallerton Station, including marked and unmarked vehicles, all the support vehicles and included Senior officer vehicles from the Station and from Newby Wiske and commented that it would be a huge challenge to accommodate the anticipated numbers of vehicles involved in the relocation.

Inspector Murray was asked about the location of the rapid response vehicles and Members were informed that they would be remaining based in Thirsk. Northallerton Police Station would not be used at all for any purpose, as all the different Teams currently based there were moving to Alverton Court. It was agreed that there was an urgent need for the Committee to be consulted on the car parking proposals and Traffic/Transport plan.

It was agreed there were major challenges which needed to be overcome, however, the developments at Alverton Court and the Prison site were economic drivers and it was considered that the benefits of those may outweigh the ensuing problems they might bring and the proposals should be welcomed.

3.3 Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

The Annual Report of the Older People's Champion, County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE.

The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of County Councillor Shelagh Marshall who was unable to attend the meeting to present her report in person.

Micky Johnson who was present at the meeting representing the Easingwold branch of the Hambleton Over 50's Forum, praised the work of County Councillor Shelagh Marshall who she felt had been an amazing ambassador for older people, not only within North Yorkshire but nationally. Members were advised that she would continue in her role as Older Peoples' Champion nationally and asked that the sincere thanks of the Forum to Shelagh Marshall be placed on record for her dedicated work and commitment to her role over the last seventeen years

The Committee echoed the comments made about the dedication of County Councillor Shelagh Marshall in her role as Older People's Champion.

3.4 Highways Matters - Update

Jayne Charlton (Highways – Improvement Manager) updated Members on various on-going highways matters including -

- ◆ North Northallerton Development - there was currently no firm start date for the 2 roundabouts which were to be built on the main routes into

Northallerton from Darlington and from Stokesley, as part of the new North Northallerton Development. The work was envisaged to take three months and the aim was to reduce the impact on the local community by carrying out the works at the same time, as the roundabout developments would have a significant impact on the Town. Members were further advised that it was the two roundabouts being built at the same time would minimise the impact of “rat runs” through Brompton and on Quaker Lane, particularly. Traffic would be controlled with traffic lights and trials were currently being carried out in Stokesley Road for the work.

- ◆ Northallerton Prison Site - Members were informed that Highways were currently in discussion with the Developers of the Prison site in the centre of the Town on highways and traffic management issues.

4.0 Craven Area Committee - 9 March 2017

4.1 North Yorkshire Police - Current Issues

Inspector Crocker took Members through the statistics circulated with the agenda, updating these with the latest position as at 9 March 2017. He reported the overall breakdown of activity: crime 21.6%; anti-social behaviour 12.1%; safety 41.6% and other matters 24.7%. Whilst giving Members an overview of the statistics, he highlighted the following:

- The increase in burglary dwelling was mainly attributable to an increase in Skipton Town where the offenders had been caught in the act thanks to diligent action on the part of the public and the availability of good forensic kit.
- The theft of unattended and insecure cars remains an issue
- It was noted that public order offences were up by 35%, whilst other anti-social behaviour has been declining from September.
- The newly acquired camera vans are proving to be a positive step forward.
- The benefit of the Community Safety Hub is coming to the fore with issues being assessed by an officer based in the District Council offices, enabling anti-social behaviour issues to be dealt with very efficiently.
- In terms of demands other than crime, public safety and welfare calls regarding vulnerable people are a significant issue.
- It was noted that Operation Compass will be embedded in MAST which looks at the incidence of young people going missing after witnessing domestic violence. Proactive steps will be taken to alert schools when circumstances arise which may result in such unexpected behaviour - this will commence from 1 April 2017.

Members commented upon:

- The absence of reference to online fraud;
- Budget reductions seeking assurances regarding staffing levels;
- The significant increase in domestic burglary;
- The good working relationship between North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire was noted, but what about Lancashire?
- Concern was expressed regarding the seeming increase in crimes against society with instances of dangerous driving going up;
- The drop in racially or religiously aggravated crimes to zero, was commended - particularly given the presence of refugees in the locality;
- The question of cyber bullying was raised.

4.2 Petition: Reduce the speed limited on Gargrave Road to 20 mph to address the road traffic issues and to find sustainable solutions to school transport and parking

The Head of Skipton Girls High School, Jen Plews, introduced the petition. She described the pressures on the location due to six educational establishments and some 3,000 children using Gargrave Road each day to get to school, and/or attend associated sports activities. She outlined the proactive steps taken by Skipton Girls' High School to help address the problem. She advised that in six weeks there had been a great response to the petition and great engagement with the local community. Closing she urged Members to support the action sought by the petition. James Malcolm, Area Highways Manager Boroughbridge and Skipton, confirmed that Highways officers would be very pleased to meet with representatives of the school to discuss the matter further. He advised that a response was presently awaited from Government regarding 20 mph zones. The Chairman urged that the Police also be involved with the meeting.

Members acknowledged the concerns raised and resolved -

- i. That the Area Committee request Area Highways Officers to meet with representatives of Skipton Girls' High School and to better understand the concerns and seek to identify steps to mitigate the safety concerns.
- ii. That the Area Committee refer this matter to the Transport, Economy, and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for investigation.
- iii. That an update be brought back to a future meeting of the Area Committee.
- iv. That the Executive Member be asked to note this issue.

4.3. North Yorkshire Stronger Communities Progress Report

Marion Tweed-Rycroft updated Members regarding the progress of library transition and she was pleased to advise that a 150 new volunteers had come forward to support four community libraries in Craven. She spoke of the great efforts being made by all to make this work, including the establishment of Management Committees. She confirmed that Stronger Communities will continue to support Bentham, Ingleton, Settle and Crosshills Libraries. She advised that a library network has been established and the first meeting held in Settle had been very well attended - enabling people to share successes and problems, she stated that the next meeting is due to take place in June. She advised that governance training is being offered particularly regarding the role of Trustees and their responsibilities.

She also spoke of Craven Dementia Action Alliance - a big public meeting had recently taken place at Craven District Council regarding how to be more dementia friendly. She confirmed that a toolkit had been shared across North Yorkshire, adding that the organisation is progressing the recruitment of a co-ordinator.

Speaking of projects in development, Marion Tweed-Rycroft highlighted Village Hall Support under which extensive research is being undertaken regarding facilities across Craven. It has been identified that 60% are used for less than 20 hours per week, reflecting poor business planning. Only 28% have sufficient volunteers and 80% want to market themselves more. Once it is understood how venues are being used and why, it should become apparent which ones need support. After this analysis, a considered view will be taken and a Village Hall Action Group, such as those in Ryedale and Selby, can be established.

4.4 Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

Thanks were recorded to County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE for all her work over 17 years as the Older People's Champion. It was also acknowledged that this would have been her last meeting, had she been in attendance, and again appreciation was shown all her hard work over many years.

4.5. Highways Update

James Malcolm commented upon Coniston Bridge noting that drilling rigs are currently in the adjacent field, a feasibility study is ongoing to look at the rock strata. The requirements for the structure and the capacity of the bridge will be brought together to enable the design and costs to be established. and cons in this matter.

He went on to provide an update regarding the Trans-Pennine corridor noting that the A6065 and the A59 are the second most trafficked roads in the region and he advised that Transport for the North are to be approached to support the project. He stated that the work will inevitably be disruptive when it is undertaken, but this work will pay dividends in the long run - boosting the economic wellbeing of the area as a result of improved east – west connectivity. He advised that Transport for the North seems supportive in principle, noting that the project will appear in a forthcoming Statutory Transport Plan which will be reported in the autumn. It was also noted that:

- the Tour de Yorkshire will be in the area once again on 30 April 201;
- regarding winter maintenance - there have been no major issues arising so far this year;
- and finally, it was announced that Kathy Stevenson, Flood Management Officer, is moving on and so will no longer attend the Area Committee.

4.6 A59 Kex Gill Realignment - Development Update

James Malcolm, Area Highways Manager Boroughbridge and Skipton, advised that a steering group has been formed with consultants to appraise the options to undertake the Kex Gill realignment. Factors under consideration are the geology, land ownership and three possible routes. Members were informed that the Department of Transport are keen to address this matter and move forward, however this is reliant upon first completing the study. It was noted that whilst such a project would normally take six years from inception to completion, there is considerable pressure to complete early within three years.

Members commented upon:

- The description of the location at paragraph 2.1 was noted ie Craven to Harrogate instead of Skipton to Harrogate.
- It was suggested that a Craven District Councillor should sit on the Working Group.
- Paragraph 4.2 regarding environmental designations and impacts was queried and James Malcolm confirmed that the issue related to protected species - concerns he felt could be mitigated at the assessment and dialogue stage.
- The impact of the closure of Kex Gill on Ilkely and Otley was noted, the Trans-Pennine A59 being the key route giving east west connectivity - particularly between ports.
- It was noted that Kex Gill is also a relief road for other local authorities. The Member felt that this situation makes the case for an integrated network of roads enabling co ordinated transport routes.

5.0 Selby Area Committee - 13 March 2017

5.1 Bus Provision – Fairburn, Brotherton, Byram Park

Fairburn Parish Councillor, Rita Stephenson, outlined the difficulties faced by local communities in that area, in terms of access to services and amenities, due to the infrequent bus services, with timings of busses not matching the opening hours of local medical services in particular. She noted that a short re-routing of the existing services would address some of these problems. Local Members echoed the concerns. Ian Pearson of Utopia Travel responded to the issues outlined but noted that the services operating in that area were commercial and there was little scope for route alteration. He did, however, agree to join the Working Group that had been established to consider the provision of bus services in that area, with a view to attempting to address some of the issues highlighted.

5.2 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service - Community Safety Update

Group Manager Dave Dryburgh provided an update report on the following issues:-

- Community Safety initiatives conducted in the Selby area.
- Fire Cover Review implementation
- Incidents of note in the area.

5.3 Annual Update of the Older Peoples' Champion

The County Council's Older Peoples' Champion, County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE, provided her Annual Update report, highlighting the following:-

- ◆ A brief history of her involvement in older peoples' issues during her time as NYCC Older Peoples' Champion.
- ◆ Future years – The Yorkshire and Humber Forum on Ageing
- ◆ Age Action Alliance.
- ◆ The Prevention Strategy
- ◆ The Campaign to End Loneliness.

5.4 Policing in the Selby District – The Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire

The Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, Julia Mulligan, highlighted the following:-

- The development of the new Police and Crime Plan for North Yorkshire, due to be published in April 2017, and the extensive consultation that had taken place in respect of that.
- The four emerging priorities of the new Plan:-
 - Caring for the vulnerable
 - Ambitious Collaboration
 - Reinforcing the front line
 - Enhancing the customer experience

- The public's priorities for policing in the Selby Area:-
 - Burglary
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Visibility
 - On-line/cyber-crime
 - Drugs
- Details of the ambitious recruitment programme for warranted officers, PCSOs and staff.
- Addressing the large numbers of calls that relate to mental health issues and responding to those in more pro-active manner.
- Addressing on-line/cyber-crime that targets the vulnerable in local communities.
- The creation of the Selby Hub to provide a more co-ordinated, multi-agency response to crime

The following issues and points were raised during a discussion with Members:-

- Tackling scam calls, particularly those targeting the elderly and vulnerable.
- Ensuring that collaboration does not lose any focus on Policing in North Yorkshire. The Commissioner re-assured Members that despite beneficial collaboration taking place with neighbouring Police Forces, there would be no loss of focus on the issues within North Yorkshire, citing rural crime in particular.
- Issues around anti-terrorism policing in North Yorkshire and policing in relation to public order matters.
- Car parking around schools, particularly in relation to determining who is responsible for enforcement action.
- The move away from having a police presence for reassurance only to ensure that crime, particularly crime that is not necessarily visible to the local community, is being addressed efficiently and effectively, whilst still maintaining a presence at strategic events.
- Issues around the increase in anti-social behaviour in the Selby District and how that is being addressed.
- The use of camera vans and the public perception that the police would rather raise money through these than tackle low level crime. The Commissioner highlighted the need to address speeding traffic, a major concern in the Selby District, the use of the vans to identify other motoring offences and noted that the police obtain £30 per person, only from those opting to undertake a driver awareness course, all of which was directed back into road safety.

5.6 Highways Update

Area Highways Manager, Nigel Smith, provided an update, highlighting the following issues:-

- ◆ The 2016/17 Highways Capital Programme was now completed and the Winter Maintenance Programme was drawing to a close. Details of the Selby by-pass repairs would be included with that.
- ◆ Details of the 2017/18 Highways Capital Programme and projected timescales would be with Members shortly.

- ◆ Consideration of projects for the 2017/18 Capital programme had already commenced.
- ◆ Tadcaster Bridge had now re-opened which was widely welcomed by the local community
- ◆ A programme of work for Cawood Bridge was being developed.
- ◆ Planning for this year's Tour de Yorkshire was underway, with a stage setting off from Tadcaster Bridge and passing through the Selby District.
- ◆ Ensuring that the road surface on the Selby by-pass remains fit for purpose, whilst continuing to pursue the DfT for the repair costs.

Members raised the following issues and points:-

- ◆ Details were requested in relation to the upgrading of the roundabout on the A162/A63. The Area Highways Manager agreed report back
- ◆ The possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing in Hambleton, with the Parish Council indicating that they were willing to meet the costs of installation. The Area Highways Manager noted that previous requests for this provision had not met the appropriate criteria, and he stated he would provide details as to why this had been the case previously
- ◆ Issues relating to an application to build a supermarket on Bawtry Road, Selby, the difficulties already faced by motorists in that area, the need to create appropriate infrastructure (a roundabout) to accommodate this and an apparent lack of liaison between highways and Selby Planning Department. The Area Highways Manager agreed to investigate the issues raised and report back.
- ◆ Consider the configuration of the roundabout on the A19/A645 at Eggborough, following a number of near misses involving cars and HGVs. The Area Highways Manager agreed to investigate the issue raised and report back

6.0 Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee - 15 March 2017

6.1 Rural Post Offices

Mark Gibson, Public Affairs Manager for the Post Office, attended the meeting at the Committee's request to outline the Post Office's strategy for service provision in the Scarborough Borough area. He summarised the national background to the current position, with the Post Office network worth several £bn to the UK economy, along with the social worth of the service it provides. Against a backdrop of competition for all of the products offered, with the exception of Postal Orders, and reducing government subsidies, the Post Office had had to come up with a radical response in order to survive.

Members were provided with details of the various categories of Post Office currently operating across the District. In most cases Post Office services were now provided as part of other retail businesses, resulting in longer opening hours to match customer demand. Where it has not been possible to find anyone willing to take on the Post Office business when an existing Postmaster leaves or local shops close,

part-time outreach and mobile provision is provided where possible. Mr Gibson confirmed that there was no programme of further planned closures.

Members discussed the vital social role of the Post Office network, and welcomed recognition of this. The challenges facing local providers in juggling the demands of the Post Office contract and making a sustainable living were discussed. The potential of a possible future role for the Council in supporting the network particularly in rural communities was raised, given its social value.

6.2 Referral to Scrutiny re Botton Village

Members heard the response of the Care and Independence Scrutiny Committee, setting out its position following the Area Committee's referral of concerns regarding Botton Village, and approved of the criteria used by that Committee in considering the referral and deciding to take no further action.

The Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services, gave a verbal update on the situation at Botton Village. He reminded members that it was not the role of the Directorate to seek to influence or become involved in questions regarding the unique ethos of the care provision at Botton. The Directorate's focus was in taking a view on: the safety of those people resident at Botton, including those funded by the County Council; whether the provision met the legal and regulatory requirements of the Care Quality Commission; and to ensure that the provision met the Council's contractual requirements for funded places including respecting individual's right to independence. He confirmed that the ongoing dispute between some of the co-workers and the Camphill Village Trust was still subject to mediation. Members were informed that it was proposed to transfer about 10 houses to a shared lives care model through the Council's preferred provider, Avalon.

6.3 Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

The Committee noted the annual report of the Older People's Champion and thanked County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE for her diligent and hard work over the years in connection with her role as Older People's Champion, both within North Yorkshire and at a national level.

6.4 Regular updates on local highways issues, Police and Fire and Rescue Services

The Committee considered an update on local highways issues and regular reports from both the Police and Fire and Rescue Services. The Committee raised concerns about the performance of the 101 service and resolved to raise their concerns in writing to Superintendent Dey and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7.0 County Area Committee for the Harrogate District - 16 March 2017

7.1 Public Questions – Harrogate Relief Road

Seven public questions and statements were registered, all related to the agenda item on the Harrogate Relief Road and were taken prior to that item being discussed.

7.2 Voluntary and Community Sector in the Harrogate District

The Area Committee noted a presentation from the Chief Executive of Harrogate and Ripon Centres for Voluntary Services concerning the work of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) within the Harrogate District area. Key issues were:-

- The Harrogate and Ripon Centres for Voluntary Service (CVS) continued to play an essential role as a valuable network and resource which made a real difference to people's lives and contribute to prosperity, health and happiness.
- That there is a very active and well supported CVS in the Harrogate District, however behind the scenes the sector is under pressure, particularly the small to medium sized charities who have benefitted from ongoing public sector funding to support their work.
- The CVS has built up an unrivalled knowledge of the hundreds of community activities and services provided by the CVS in the Harrogate District, and this knowledge is now fully accessible to all online via the Harrogate District Community Directory, known as "Where to Turn".
- Following a new competitive grant process, run on a North Yorkshire wide basis, from 1st April 2017 Harrogate and Ripon CVS will no longer receive core funding support from NYCC or the NHS to support voluntary organisations and volunteering.
- Harrogate Borough Council have confirmed that their strategic grant will remain in place in 2017/18 and this has enabled the CVS board to put in place a transitional budget.

The Chairman highlighted that County Councillors could help by using their locality budgets to support the CVS.

A Member asked, with regard to the loss of the CVS' budget and core funding, whether there was an understanding by the Authority on the impact to this organisation on what was a major shift in policy. The Chairman agreed that this information should be brought to the June meeting for further consideration by the Committee.

7.3 Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

The Area Committee noted, and thanked County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE for providing, an annual update on her work as the County Council's Older People's Champion.

7.4 Harrogate Relief Road – Development Update

The Committee received an update on the proposed work programme for the Harrogate Relief Road, it was noted that from the start of the process the County Council has made it clear that this work is about assessing the need for and alignment of a relief road.

The Committee were informed that funding from Government for any relief road is not a forgone conclusion and should the County Council decide to proceed with a proposal for a new relief road there will be a need to demonstrate that all other realistic options have been considered to justify Government funding. The Committee noted that Mouchel has been commissioned to undertake the relief road review over the next 6 to 9 months. The Committee were informed of the completion of an Options Assessment Report; the Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services (BES) in consultation with the BES Executive Members will consider the outputs of the assessment and any realistic options, if any, will be taken

forward for public consultation. The views of the Committee will be sought as part of the process.

The Committee noted the need for close public and stakeholder engagement throughout the process of the review and were informed of a relief road website which will be updated to ensure all the latest information is available.

The Committee were advised that alongside the work on the relief road review, the County Council will continue to take measures to address current traffic issues. Additionally, the County Council intend to consider a wide range of sustainable and other transport options both as an alternative to a relief road and as part of a relief road package. As part of the current work these traffic predictions will be refined and presented in much more detail as part of a Public Consultation later this year, this will allow the public and the decision makers to take a judgement about the traffic benefits of different options, including the none relief road option.

Approximately 60 members of the public were in attendance to observe the Area Committee consider this report. Members of the public who had given the required notice were invited to address the meeting.

7.5 A59 Kex Gill Realignment – Development Update

The Committee were provided with a progress report on the A59 Kex Gill Realignment. In autumn 2016 the County Council had commissioned Mouchel to investigate potential options for the realignment of the A59 at Kex Gill and to develop a business case to enable the County Council to submit a bid for funding from the Department for Transport (DfT). A Steering Group has been established to provide strategic direction and support for the scheme development process. The Committee were informed that currently Mouchel are preparing an Options Assessment Report which is due for completion in April 2017. It was acknowledged that this is an extremely sensitive environment area and that all the environmental impacts will need to be fully considered. A further report will be brought to Harrogate and Craven Area Committee to decide on a single or number of options to take forward to the next stage.

The Committee were informed that County Council has already spoken to DfT and there was agreement that there is a high risk of long term closure of the A59 at Kex Gill.

7.6 Junction Improvement at the designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Bond End, Knaresborough

The Committee noted an update on the programme of delivery for junction improvements at the designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Bond End, Knaresborough. A working group has been set up at Harrogate Borough Council for developing a draft Air Quality Action Plan which included input from key representatives at NYCC. A Public consultation had taken place from 9 January to 10 February 2017 which was very well attended by the public and constructive comments were taken. Seven options were presented and Option 1 had significant support from local residents.

The Committee were informed that results of the modelling work to date demonstrate option 3 as the best option to address Air Quality Management, but given the strong support by members of the public to option 1, further assessment work will take place before a final recommendation is made. This work will involve 24 hour data count on

week days and weekends. A new Action Plan would be taken for consideration by Harrogate Borough Council in April 2017.

Member made the following comments:

- Concern that improvements may be short term relief but would ultimately generate more traffic; that roads do not cause congestion. Would it be possible to provide alternatives such as road narrowing, park and ride or staggering school opening hours.
- Highways have to provide a safe junction and determine the safest option.

8.0 Richmondshire Area Committee - 22 March 2017

8.1 Items raised by Members of the Committee – County Councillor John Blackie re: Call for a free cash dispenser from HSBC in Hawes

Councillor Blackie had had to submit his apologies for the meeting. However, he had emailed the Committee to update them on this issue. In outline, his efforts to secure a 24/7 Cash Machine for Hawes, to be supplied, maintained, and filled free of charge by HSBC and their Agent, Cardtronics had been successful.

The cash machine would be installed on the pavement in Hawes, opposite the Market Place between Hawes Market House and the Chip Shop. Installation was planned for April.

Councillor Blackie expressed his thanks to the Area Committee for its support.

8.2 North Yorkshire Police Update

Inspector Gee's report updated Members on the following issues:-

- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Operation Checkpoint held on 8 March 2017
- Northallerton Custody Pilot Closure
- Neighbourhood Policing Team Members
- Dot Peen Property Marking

8.3 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Update

Among the points highlighted by Group Manager David Pitt from his update were:-

- The on-call hours required to be worked by Retained Duty Firefighters had now been extended to include a suite of reduced hours contracts as part of the Retained Duty System Review. It was hoped that this would encourage more people to come forward and join the Service as Retained Firefighters.
- Three Tactical Response Vehicles (TRVs) were now operational and attending incidents with a minimum of three staff. An Evaluation and Review Project Team had been set up and, among other things, its role was to analyse specific incidents to produce case studies and identify emerging trends or issues from the use of the TRVs.

Group Manager Pitt responded to a number of questions from Members. These included the approach to bogus calls; arsonist incidents; and TRV implementation.

8.4 Stronger Communities Progress Report

The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (Richmondshire) presented her report.

She highlighted a number of aspects, including the following:-

- The community libraries at Leyburn and Catterick, Richmond and Colburn would open on 1 April 2017. Whilst good progress had been made to reach this point, some fine detail needed to be worked through.
- There had been an excellent response from volunteers with 89 of the 100 being trained, of which 65 had now completed their training. This number was changing daily.
- Volunteers, the management group and library staff had been working very hard and had achieved a great deal.

A Member referred to the grant awarded to Age UK North Yorkshire. He said that the leaflet by Age UK promoting the service made no mention of the County Council's contribution and he felt the project was duplication of other services provided by the community.

The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager responded that she had discussed the leaflet with Age UK North Yorkshire and had gained assurance that the information was pre-publicity, the costs would not be met by the grant-funded project and the next production run of leaflets would include reference to the contribution.

The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager advised the project was one of a mixed economy of services, providing choice for people. She offered to meet with the Member to discuss the project in more detail.

With regard to the Library Service Reconfiguration Process, a Member expressed his disappointment at what he considered to be a lack of urgency and purpose from Senior Officers in the Libraries Service and delays caused by Legal Services not completing the required leases.

The Member concerned also expressed disappointment that Richmond Library is having to close for refurbishment for two weeks in May.

It is a recommendation to the Executive that they consider the concerns raised with regard to the reconfiguration of the library service.

8.5 Richmond Highways Office – Update

The Area Highways Manager updated the Committee on a number of issues, including:

- Amy Ellis, Highways Customer Communications Officer, would be leaving the County Council on 7 April 2017. Amy would be a big loss and the Directorate were looking at recruitment options.
- A “light touch” review of gritter routes would be undertaken to ascertain whether improvements can be made. The Area Highways Manager asked Members to let him know if they had any suggestions as to what might be done differently.

Members raised a number of issues. These included the proposals relating to the experimental road layout in Quakers Lane and cobbling in Bargate.

With regard to Quakers Lane, two Members referred to the lack of information as to what was happening. The Area Highways Manager said that he would speak to the Improvement Manager and obtain a detailed response.

In terms of Bargate, a Member said there had been no discussion about the decision not to provide cobbling, on the basis that HGVs were not now using this route.

The Member had been advised that the growth of weeds would be cleared but none of the routes discussed had been treated. The Area Highways Manager advised that he was not aware of the situation in Bargate. The weed clearing issue had been due to a miscommunication between his section and the contractor and was being looked into.

It is a recommendation to the Executive that it ascertains the latest position concerning the experimental road layout at Quakers Lane.

8.6 Older People's Champion, Annual Report

County Councillor Sheila Marshall presented her final report as Older People's Champion. Among the aspects that she highlighted were:-

- The Prevention Strategy, whereby the Living Well Team work with people who are lonely or socially isolated, had been a really good development
- The Venturer - the Community Timetabled Bus Service - had surpassed expectations and been a huge success
- She would continue her work and involvement with the Campaign to end Loneliness and her work with older people in North Yorkshire, through the Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Forum.

The Chairman stated that Councillor Marshall had a splendid record as the Older People's Champion and that the Committee were grateful to her for the work that she had undertaken. He was pleased that she would be continuing her work via the areas that she had mentioned.

The Committee thanked Councillor Marshall for everything that she has done as Older People's Champion.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 That the report be noted.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)
County Hall
Northallerton

13 April 2017

JO'D

Background Documents: published agendas for -

- Ryedale Area Committee - 22 February 2017
- Hambleton Area Committee - 6 March 2017
- Craven Area Committee - 9 March 2017
- Selby Area Committee - 13 March 2017
- Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee - 15 March 2017
- County Area Committee for the Harrogate District - 16 March 2017
- Richmondshire Area Committee - 22 March 2017