

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**14 NOVEMBER 2018****STATEMENT OF THE ACCESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR
DON MACKENZIE (INCLUDING HIGHWAYS, ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT,
BROADBAND, MOBILE TELEPHONY)****Winter Gritting Service**

Preparations for winter are complete. We hold 55,000 tonnes of salt in our barns and all grit bins and heaps are full. We have 86 modern gritters, some bought recently from a Ripon-based manufacturer, as well as snow blowers. They are all ready to go. We have held refresher sessions with our winter service teams, all totally committed to the delivery of this high-priority service. The County Council also relies on more than one hundred farm contractors to deliver the service in some rural locations.

Our winter maintenance budget is £7m. We routinely treat 54% of our roads, one of the best winter services in the country. As part of our drive to reduce costs and boost efficiency, we delayed the start of the service standby until 15 October, but still delivered the necessary treatments on the weekend of 6/7 October when road surface temperatures fell below zero.

Details of our winter service, including info videos, are here: www.northyorks.gov.uk/gritting

A59 at Kex Gill

Work on permanent repairs to the A59 at Kex Gill started on 8 October and is expected to last for eight weeks. At a well-attended public meeting on 25 September, local residents and business owners received the positive news that most of the work takes place with the highway open to one-way traffic under temporary lights. There will be just one week of closure at the end of November whilst the road is re-surfaced and its drainage is upgraded.

In July the Executive approved the adoption of a preferred diversionary route for the A59 away from Kex Gill, and work to finalise a bid for funding continues. If successful, it is hoped that the new road can be completed by early 2021.

Bond End, Knaresborough Air Quality Improvement Scheme

These works, which started on 10 September, are proceeding well and are due for completion within the next day or so. The scheme involves a fundamental change in the traffic management and layout of this complex, historic junction. All traffic lights have been removed and replaced with two mini-roundabouts. Weekly updates on progress have been published throughout the duration of this scheme, and can be found here: www.northyorks.gov/bond-end-junction-improvements

UCI World Road Cycling Championships and Tour de Yorkshire 2019

The UCI World Championships have been held every year since 1921 (except 1939-45), and consist of road races and time trials for both men and women as members of national teams. Recent host towns include Florence, Richmond (Virginia), Bergen and Innsbruck. In 2019 Harrogate will host the event and have the honour to welcome cyclists from all over the world between Saturday 21 September and Sunday 29 September 2019.

North Yorkshire County Council has gained valuable experience in hosting cycling events, and this includes close partnerships with the districts. The county worked closely with Harrogate Borough Council during preparations for and execution of the Grand Depart of the

Tour de France in 2014. The World Championships will be on an entirely different level, involving nine consecutive days of races and time trials, all ending in Harrogate. The County Council is cooperating with event organiser, Yorkshire 2019, to prepare for the impacts on residents, businesses, schools, health and social care providers and everyone else likely to be affected by road closures and parking restrictions.

Other North Yorkshire towns involved with the World Championships include Northallerton, Richmond, Ripon and Tadcaster, which will all host a start. 80 percent of the event routes lie within our county boundaries.

The fifth year of the Tour de Yorkshire will be taking place over four days from 2 to 5 May 2019. Scarborough, Selby and, for the first time, Bedale, will be host towns.

Access Fund

The County Council bid to the Government's Access Fund in 2017 and was awarded almost £1m to pay for schemes to encourage sustainable travel in Harrogate, Scarborough and Skipton. This three-year programme began last year with the *Open Harrogate* project, which has targeted secondary schools, colleges, businesses and new residential developments, with the aim to increase levels of physical activity in every day lives through cycling and walking, and the use of public transport and car-sharing schemes.

The *Open Scarborough* project was launched a few weeks ago, supported by an intensive advertising campaign. Much early progress has been made with Scarborough Hospital, Scarborough TEC, and Coventry University at Scarborough, and a travel event was held a few days ago for residents of Middle Deepdale. *Open Skipton* will be launched next April.

Broadband and Mobile Telephony

Phase 3 of the County Council's Superfast North Yorkshire project is underway. Valued at £20.5m initially, with the option to be increased up to £33m, this latest stage, which incorporates largely Fibre to the Premise technology, will bring to over 180,000 the number of businesses and households connected up to superfast broadband since 2012. That will leave about 20,000 properties still to be done.

Members of the public can check the broadband status of their property on the SFNY website. If any member would like to receive a spreadsheet listing all 14,239 premises identified in Phase 3, please get in touch.

We are mindful that householders and business people, who make up the final 5% of properties not upgraded so far, have been waiting for some time for Superfast to arrive. I am pleased to confirm that we have secured additional funding, from our own resources and externally, to continue towards achieving 100% provision. Details will be announced soon.

In the meantime, SFNY has recently published a leaflet outlining subsidies available under the Better Broadband Scheme to those households and businesses with less than 2Mbps availability to pay for an installation other than by fixed line broadband. Alternatives include wireless, satellite and 4G. To access the leaflet, visit: www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com

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