

North Yorkshire County Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2019, commencing at 10.00 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillors Angus Thompson (Chairman), David Blades, Caroline Dickinson, Bryn Griffiths, David Hugill, Carl Les, Heather Moorhouse, Karin Sedgwick, John Weighell OBE and Annabel Wilkinson; together with Co-opted Member, Malcolm Warne.

Apologies were received from County Councillor Helen Grant.

In Attendance:-

County Councillor David Chance.

Officers:-

Andrew Davies (Area Highways Manager), Darren Griffiths (Highways Engineering), Emily Mellalieu (Flood Risk Management Team Leader), Victoria Ononeze (Public Health Consultant) and Dale Owens (Assistant Director of Commissioning and Quality Health and Adult Services).

There were two members of the public and one representative of the press present.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

60. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. He noted that, unfortunately, due to significant parliamentary issues, the local MP, Rishi Sunak, was unable to attend today's meeting and Co-opted Member, Malcolm Warne, would take questions on his behalf, later in the meeting.

61. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

62. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

63. Public Questions and Statements

Councillor Yvonne Peacock, Richmondshire District Council, outlined the following:-

She highlighted some issues relating to smaller roads, which were maintained by the County Council, having significant issues in terms of repair requirements. She highlighted roads in the Gayle and Askrigg areas. She stated that there were a number of small roads within the

Upper Dales area that required attending to and would provide an appropriate list to Highways officers.

She thanked the County Council for the work that had been undertaken previously in that area, in response to problems on local, small roads, and requested that similar attention be given to those roads that were in disrepair.

She also noted that a number of roads were subject to flooding due to gullies and drains not being cleared effectively. She stated that unless addressed, the flooding would lead to problems in terms of potholes and surface breakdown in the winter months. She asked that the County Council, together with the Environment Agency, consider the issues raised and undertake the necessary work to address those issues.

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Peacock for the details she provided. He noted that, currently, the Upper Dales did not have an elected County Council representative and it was good that she was picking these issues up on behalf of those communities. He stated that he would ensure that Area 1 Highways provided a response to her, on those issues, in due course. The Chairman stated that he would also ensure that she received an appropriate response.

64. Public Health Priorities, Services and Challenges

Considered -

The report of Victoria Ononeze, Public Health Consultant, providing Members with an overview of some of the Public Health priorities, services and challenges in the Richmond Constituency Committee area.

She stated that she had been working in Yorkshire since January 2019 and worked closely with local public health providers, including the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG.

She apologised to Members in terms of the content of the report, as, at the time of its preparation, she was unaware of the boundaries of the constituency area and had concentrated on details relating to Richmondshire only. She stated that she would provide the details in relation to the Hambleton District for the next meeting of the Committee, however, she emphasised that many of the details were very similar to those arising in Richmondshire.

She highlighted the following from the report:-

◆ Local health profile

The overall health and wellbeing of people in Richmondshire was good although there was a wide variation in life expectancy and the number of years spent in good health of both males and females between electoral wards within the District.

The 2018 Richmondshire Health Profile showed three indicators where rates in Richmondshire were significantly worse than England rates:-

- Breastfeeding.
- The proportion of individuals killed or seriously injured on roads.
- The proportion of adults aged 17 and over diagnosed with diabetes.

◆ Healthy Child Programme

A mandated universal preventative child and family health promotion programme delivered by Health Visitors (0-5 year olds) and school nurses (5-19 years old).

The current contract expired in March 2020 and work was progressing to re-procure the programme, with NYCC seeking to enter into a partnership with an NHS Trust to deliver that.

◆ Breastfeeding

Due to low levels of breastfeeding in Richmondshire a strategy and action plan had been developed in partnership with York focusing on:-

- Increasing the initiation of breastfeeding.
- Increasing breastfeeding of 6-8 weeks.
- Reducing the gap between breastfeeding rates in the most deprived areas/population groups in the York and North Yorkshire averages.

◆ Preventing unintentional injury to the under fives

This was recognised as a high impact area with unintentional injury rates in North Yorkshire, in the 0-4 age group, being significantly worse than England and the highest rates observed being in Richmondshire.

A partnership with the Early Help Service, 0-5 Healthy Child Service and the Child Accident Prevention Trust delivered an event in February 2019 to focus on ways of improving these figures. A large range of partners were involved in the event. Since then a local partnership had been established to explore the themes and ideas from the workshop and how these could be translated into local actions.

◆ Childhood Obesity

The Healthy Choices (North Yorkshire Child and Young People Weight Management Service) provides a confidential family-focused package offers support for children and young people in North Yorkshire aged 4-19 who were above a healthy weight for their age and height. This provides a 12 week personalised programme in their home or local community venue. Following that, continued support and guidance through telephone calls and follow-up appointments was provided.

The School Zone Concept (SZC) was also used to complement the individual and family-based interventions. A programme had so far focused on secondary schools in Scarborough and Selby but would eventually be rolled out to other areas.

◆ Adult Weight Management Service

A North Yorkshire Adult Weight Management Service for people aged 18 and over, with a BMI over 25, was launched in Richmondshire in January 2018 following a successful pilot programme. Clients were supported to achieve a 5% weight loss at 12 weeks and sustain a 5% weight loss at 24 weeks. Weekly weigh-ins, structured nutritional advice and free facilitated physical activity were provided by the service.

The current contract for the Richmondshire service was due to end on 31 December 2019 and all new referrals into the service had now closed. The procurement and mobilisation of a new service would take place over the course of the coming months.

◆ Tobacco Control

The Living Well, Smoke Free Service, provided countywide, to assist with those who wished to stop smoking, was provided alongside GP and pharmacy contacts.

Public Health awarded South Tees Hospitals £2,000 to contribute towards their smoke free campaign and the provision of signage at the Friarage Hospital.

◆ Drug and Alcohol

The North Yorkshire Horizon Service provides a specialist adult drug and alcohol service in the county working in partnership with the Council, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and various other partners. The service is accessed through a single point of contact and provides support to GP practices that deliver drug mis-use shared care and pharmacies that deliver needle exchange supervised consumption.

COMPASS reach, part of the Healthy Child Programme, work with children and young people from age 9-19 who require targeted support interventions in relation to their risk taking behaviour.

◆ Sexual Health

The North Yorkshire Sexual Health Service (Your Sexual Health - YSH) provides open access sexual health advice, supported treatment for young people and adults in Richmondshire. Specialist community clinics are provided at Harewood Medical Centre and Infantry Training Centre, Catterick Garrison working closely with the Catterick Integrated Care Campus Project.

The Council also contract directly with GP practices to provide targeted sexual health services.

A North Yorkshire teenage pregnancy partnership meets quarterly and drives actions to reduce teenage pregnancy in the county. The Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG is the lead commissioner for countywide termination of pregnancy services. Work is planned to review the service to ensure that it meets the needs of women in North Yorkshire.

◆ Road Safety

North Yorkshire continued to have significantly high levels of people killed or seriously injured on local roads and Richmondshire has very high rates.

The 95 Alive Partnership established in 2004 had an overall aim to enable safe and healthy travel for all residents and visitors to North Yorkshire and is a multi-agency group involving York and North Yorkshire Councils, North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Highways England.

A number of initiatives to improve road safety in the county included:-

- Social media campaigns.
- Junior Road Safety Officers.
- Drive Alive.
- Bikeability training.
- Drink drive events.
- Older driving refresher courses.
- Motorcycle safety.
- Cycle safety.
- Age well driving.
- Union Cyclist Internationale (UCI) legacy work.

Public Health priorities for road safety included:-

- Working with Highways and Transport and Policy Planning Teams.
- Integrating road safety into wider policy areas.
- Continuing work with the 95 Alive Strategic Partnership.
- Supporting continuing analysis and interpretation of data.

◆ Age-Friendly Community

The aim of the age-friendly community programme, being rolled out by North Yorkshire County Council and its partners, was to foster healthy and active aging through making it possible for people to stay in their homes and to participate in the activities that they value and contribute within their local communities, as long as possible.

The programme was progressing well.

In relation to this Public Health had developed a unique loneliness risk test, alongside Community First Yorkshire.

◆ Dementia

Richmondshire had a higher rate of people estimated to have dementia being diagnosed when compared with England.

A Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Dementia Strategy Group and the CCG were leading work to improve diagnosis rates. A key area of work was around improving diagnostic pathway and support for people with dementia - key actions included:-

- Mapping the diagnostic pathway for pre, during and post diagnosis.
- Reviewing the results from a national memory service audit.
- Best practice pathways review.
- Work with local collaborative groups.
- Review deep dive reports.
- Communications plan for raising awareness of dementia.
- Produce diagnosis heat map.
- Support CCGs to promote the DEARGP tool in care homes.

◆ Diabetes

Richmondshire has a significantly lower diagnosis of diabetes than England, which indicates that there are likely to be a large number of undiagnosed cases and, therefore, untreated. The NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme aimed to identify those at risk and NHS health checks routinely test for those.

◆ Armed Forces Community

A significant presence in Richmondshire, home to Catterick Garrison, with a large number of ex-service personnel and their families also located in the area.

Public Health are working with partner organisations and local communities to ensure a holistic approach to identifying and addressing needs at both the community and individual level, an example being collaborative working to ensure that every child in the armed forces community gets a good start required to lay the foundations of a healthy life.

Following the initial presentation a number of issues and points were raised as following:-

- ◆ A Member stated that she looked forward to seeing the Hambleton data at the next Committee.
- ◆ Concern was raised regarding the injuries to under-fives, and some of the causes of those injuries and again it was stated that Members would consider the details from the Hambleton District in relation to those details.

- ◆ Extra care housing facilities and extensive countryside in the area would assist people diagnosed with dementia.
- ◆ A Member noted the reduction in teenage pregnancies, which showed that the current strategy was working. It was asked whether work was being undertaken within schools in relation to this matter. In response it was noted that the basic sexual health provision covered this matter and would be included within the school curriculum in subsequent years.
- ◆ Members raised further concerns regarding the issues raised in relation to injuries to under-fives. It was asked how often the situation was monitored to determine whether the services provided were having an impact in reducing these figures. In response it was noted that the data was updated every two years and that there had been little change to the Richmondshire figures in the intervening period. Health Visitors were endeavouring to reduce the incidents outlined and support was in place to address the situation. There was also social support provided in some areas, for example Catterick Garrison. It was also noted that the figures provided were a little out of date and there had been a reduction in those, however, the Richmondshire and Hambleton areas were still high in comparison to the other districts within North Yorkshire and measured against the England comparison. Specific measures were being undertaken to address these issues in the constituency area.
- ◆ It was again emphasised that the details for the Hambleton District would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee. In relation to that issue it was suggested that the wording of the recommendation, relating to the constituency area, be altered as the Hambleton figures were yet to be provided.
- ◆ The Executive Member with responsibility for Public Health, also a Member of the Committee, outlined the extensive work being undertaken by Public Health in the area and the impact that this was having on local communities. She noted that the details provided were extensive and that it was probably of an advantage to the Committee to have the Richmondshire and Hambleton details separated between two meetings, allowing Members to assimilate those more effectively.
- ◆ A Member referred to the data provided in road safety and suggested that separating out details (numbers killed and seriously injured on trunk and non-trunk roads) would make the information more meaningful and would provide valid comparisons. In response it was stated that this would be taken account of for future reports.
- ◆ Members agreed that the report was beneficial and it was good to see organisations with an input into Public Health working effectively together.

Resolved -

- (i) That Members note the report and some of the Public Health priorities, services and challenges in the Richmondshire District.
- (ii) That a further report outlining the Public Health priorities, services and challenges for the Hambleton District be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

65. Unpaid Carers and Community Based Care - The Role of Unpaid Carers and the Support that is given to them

The Assistant Director of Commissioning and Quality, Health and Adult Services, Dale Owens, gave a presentation providing details of the role of unpaid carers and the support given to them. The presentation outlined the following:-

◆ Caring for Carers Strategy

- Launched in 2017.
- Developed as a recognition of the vital work unpaid carers do in North Yorkshire.
- Ideas for the strategy submitted by over 200 people.
- Developed alongside several existing carer group as well as dedicated group who volunteer specifically to represent carer views.
- Extensive consultation undertaken on the draft at the start of 2017.
- A strategy implementation group meets on the two monthly basis to bring key stakeholders together.

- Vision
 - carers can live long and healthy lives and be able to continue to care as long as possible and as long as they want to.
 - to encourage more carer friendly communities to promote carer issues across wider societies.

- Key messages from carers:
 - recognises experts in the care they deliver;
 - help managing finances as a carer;
 - continuing caring but be able to stay healthy themselves;
 - more options for having a break from their caring role;
 - better and more accessible information about the caring role and support available.

- Key themes and priorities for improving in the strategy
 - improving identification of carers;
 - improving information and advice;
 - enable carers to take a break;
 - improving carers health and wellbeing;
 - enhancing financial wellbeing;
 - involving carers as experts.

◆ Carers Information and Advice Service

- Organisations commissioned across the county - Hambleton and Richmondshire Carers Centre provides for the ACC area.
- Service jointly commissioned with Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG to ensure a more seamless experience.
- NYCC and CCG invests around £113.5k annually in commissioning the service with the contract running until 2021.
- NYCC also commissions a Carers Information and Advice Service for children in Richmondshire run by the Carers Centre.
- Services offered by the Carers Information and Advice Service include:-
 - confidential information, advice, emotional support and representation;
 - a carer assessment on behalf of NYCC;
 - benefits advice;
 - regular information by way of circulars, bulletins or newsletters;
 - referrals to other specialist support organisations;
 - information sessions, courses and other related activities;
 - help for carers who need support to continue working and caring.
 - Work in partnership with carers, carers group and other organisations to improve services.

◆ Carers Sitting Service

- CCG commissions carers sitting service across the county.

- NYCC and the CCG invest £46.2k annually across Hambleton and Richmondshire commissioning the service.
 - The carers sitting service gives a chance for carers to have a break from their caring responsibility while a trained sitter takes their place, This is for a short period of time and the sitter can provide companionship, support and assistance that would normally be provided by the carer inside or outside the home.
- ◆ Other North Yorkshire County Council Carers Activity
- As part of the strategy NYCC are currently reviewing their offer to carers, including assessments, support, short breaks and carers grant - an enhanced offer is expected to be put in place over the coming years.

Following the initial presentation a number of issues and points were raised as follows:-

- ◆ A Member asked when the results of the review would be available. In response it was stated that engagement would take place over the next six months and results would be brought back to Members once that had been evaluated and published.
- ◆ It was noted that there were a number of child carers in North Yorkshire and the Assistant Director stated that he would provide details, in terms of numbers, for Members information.
- ◆ It was asked how dissemination of information was managed, to ensure that those who required it were obtaining it appropriately. In response it was stated that regular reviews were undertaken through the Carers' Resource Centres to ensure that engagement with the appropriate people was taking place. In relation to this it was asked whether there was an awareness of people who were not engaging and would benefit from the information and support. It was stated that specific work around that, taking account of mental health issues, did take place, however, it could be difficult ensuring that people engaged when they specifically removed themselves from that.
- ◆ A Member asked how carers qualified for the carers' sitting service. In response it was explained that a threshold was set, in terms of the needs of those being cared for, which had to be met, for the service to be accessed. It was emphasised that the sitting service provided a short break from caring responsibilities and did not provide an alternative to those caring responsibilities.
- ◆ It was asked what specific resources were made available for child carers. The Assistant Director explained that advice groups and drop-in sessions were provided for child carers through specific work undertaken in conjunction with Children and Young People's Service, where the needs of the child carer could be taken account of. The Member noted that it was difficult for children trying to juggle school, social and caring needs and required as much support as possible. In response it was emphasised that the impact on child carers was taken account of and every effort was made to lessen the burden on the child carer.
- ◆ It was asked how it was determined that a carer was no longer able to cope with the situation and that the care was taken out of their hands. In response it was stated that a social worker would be working closely with the carer and those being cared for and would determine whether the situation was manageable. When it became apparent that additional assistance was required a range of options were available, including providing assistance within the home and residential care if that was necessary. Assessments were carried out around mental capacity, in line with the Mental Capacity Act, to determine whether a person could decide for themselves how their care was provided. If that person was deemed not to have mental capacity then the courts would be used to determine how best to provide their care. The Assistant Director emphasised that this was only put in place as a final course of action, when

it had been determined that those providing the care were unable to cope, and family and carers were fully included in this process.

Resolved -

That the Assistant Director be thanked for his presentation the contents of which be noted.

66. Recent Flooding Events in Swaledale and Wensleydale

Area Highways Manager, Andrew Davis, and Emily Mellalieu, Flood Risk Management Team Leader, gave a presentation in relation to the recent flooding event in Swaledale and Wensleydale, highlighting the following:-

The Storm Event - Some Statistics

- ◆ A line of storms from Malham to Ripon developed on the afternoon of 30 July and moved north westerly during the afternoon. A storm cell initially located over Leyburn, Middleham and the Middle Ure elongated to cover an area that stretched from Middleham into the Tees Valley. Reeth and Arkle Beck were located in the centre of the storm cell which persisted for a number of hours.
- ◆ Between 3 pm and 5 pm the rain gauge at Arkle Town recorded a total of 85.6mm in two hours.
- ◆ In three hours almost 112mm was recorded, almost twice the average for July.
- ◆ This has been calculated to be a 1 in 1,000 year event.

River Levels

- ◆ River levels were monitor on Arkle Beck just downstream of Reeth Bridge and also on the River Swale at Grinton Bridge.
- ◆ Grinton Bridge continued to record data through the storm and recorded the seventh highest peak in a 25 year record.
- ◆ Arkle Beck gauge appeared to have been out of range and did not record the peak, however at the time the gauge failed it was already the highest recorded level.
- ◆ Pictures of the impact of the flooding were provided.

Impacts

- ◆ Flooding was reported in Grinton, Reeth, Fremington, Langthwaite, Arkle Town, Bellerby and Leyburn.
- ◆ Current estimate was that 252 residential properties were affected, 83 businesses and 35 farms - the figure was as yet unconfirmed.
- ◆ Ard Rock Bike Festival was cancelled and ground flooded.
- ◆ Several roads closed due to debris and bridges damaged.
- ◆ Road bridge between Grinton and Leyburn (B6270) collapsed.
- ◆ Road bridge on Codgen Moor collapsed.
- ◆ Fire station in Leyburn flooded.

- ◆ North Yorkshire National Park Authority surveyed 140 miles of pathways and report that 11 footbridges and 3.2km of footpath had been lost.
- ◆ Further flooding was reported to five properties in Grinton following heavy rainfall on Sunday 4 and Friday 9 August.
- ◆ Significant geomorphological impacts on the watercourses.

The Multi-Agency Response

Tuesday 30 July

- ◆ 16.25 - NYCC Resilience and Emergency Team (RET) contacted by Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) who were dealing with 78 flood related calls in Leyburn, Reeth, Fremington and Bellerby areas.
- ◆ 17.20 - flood warning issued by Environment Agency.
- ◆ 17.20 - a response to major and critical incidents notification sent to all partners.
- ◆ 17.45 - major incident response team volunteers set up a rest centre in Leyburn - multi-agency teleconference was organised for 20.00 and 00.00.
- ◆ 18.45 - NYCC RET suggested that multi-agency teleconference be convened to co-ordinate the response.
- ◆ Environment Agency aware of impacts.
- ◆ 19.00 - 50 sandbags sent to Whaw but could not divert water away from homes.
- ◆ 20.30 - multi-agency control centre set up at FRS HQ, Northallerton.
- ◆ Rest centre remained open until 23.00.

Wednesday 31 July

- ◆ Multi-agency teleconference at 09.00 agreed North Yorkshire Police would stay in response due to forecast for further rain.
- ◆ Roads and bridges inspected by NYCC Highways.
- ◆ Health and Social Care checks continued relating to vulnerable people.
- ◆ NYCC RET liaison with Yorkshire Water to support properties with impacted service.
- ◆ Power cut in the area reported - Northern Power Group restored power.
- ◆ Incident handed over to Richmondshire District Council (RDC) mid-afternoon to lead recovery (as per protocol).

Thursday 1 August onwards

- ◆ Local Resilience Forum Ready For Anything volunteers deployed.
- ◆ Rubicon volunteers deployed at the request of RDC.
- ◆ County Council Leader, Carl Les and Rishi Sunak MP attend Reeth hub to meet the community.

- ◆ Skips continue to be delivered for household item disposal by RDC and NYCC.
- ◆ Gullies and drains checked and emptied by NYCC Highways.
- ◆ Traffic management assessed and refined by NYCC Highways.
- ◆ NYCC and RDC continue to support recovery with partner agencies.

NYCC Resilience and Emergencies Team

Work still ongoing:

- ◆ MIRT co-ordinated British Red Cross and other volunteers to carry out welfare checks on homes identified in Leyburn, Reeth, Bellerby and Arkengarthdale.
- ◆ RET and MIRT supported residents affected out of the Reeth and Bellerby hubs with housing issues and community reassurance.
- ◆ RET officer co-ordinated and managed community hub in Bellerby.
- ◆ RET deployed and co-ordinated Ready for Anything volunteers to carry out initial welfare checks, distribute information about funding and other support.
- ◆ RET, MIRT and RFA volunteers help with the delivery of food and essential items to homes affected.
- ◆ RET Team helped compile a list of affected properties and residents without insurance alongside delivering support information.
- ◆ RET co-ordinated Rubicon's volunteers in Bellerby.
- ◆ RET supported RDC in Richmond throughout the recovery response.
- ◆ RET officers continue to attend public meetings and continue to work with communities to create ongoing community plans and action groups.

Local Highway Authority Response

- ◆ As of Tuesday 27 August £100k of works had been placed onto the system across 50 orders - predominantly reactive jobs with regards to initial response eg sandbags, signage, sweeping, gully cleaning, etc.
- ◆ Expected that the number would increase by approximately 30% as final costs come through.
- ◆ Responses included supply and drop off of sandbags to the community and RDC.
- ◆ Project Engineers continued to visit sites of storm damage to scope out works.
- ◆ As of morning of Tuesday 27 August repair works being assessed as above were expected to be in the order of £325k with an additional £55k for traffic management. This value was spread over 24 specific locations and would require up to 36 works orders, all to be confirmed, with better values on this available towards the end of the current week.
- ◆ Damage predominantly due to intensity and force with lots of impact damage to walls, culverts and highway structures.

- ◆ Teams have worked extremely well together across partnerships.

Bridge Repairs

- ◆ Grinton South (Moor)
 - Structure completely washed away by flood water - temporary road being constructed immediately upstream using a steel pipe as a temporary bridge.
- ◆ Grinton Beck (B6270)
 - Structure undermined and partial collapse making the bridge unsafe.
 - Temporary bridge placed on the road over the existing with two way lights to control traffic.
 - Temporary road being built upstream using a steel pipe as a temporary, allowing two way traffic to get around the bridge so that a permanent bridge (or replacement) can be carried out.
- ◆ Landslip (B6270)
 - Water washed away embankment, undercutting the road causing a partial collapse of the road.
 - Works complete with road open, some minor works still required which will be done under two way lights.

Grinton Beck Clearance

- ◆ Grinton inspections undertaken by FRM team of Grinton Gill, Arkle Beck and beck in Bellerby.
- ◆ Beck clearance required in Grinton and Arkle Beck due to the scale of the debris deposited in the village and the associated heightened flood risk. Estimate of volume of deposit - 1k tonnes.
- ◆ NYCC has no responsibility to act to maintain watercourses, which remain with riparian owners. There is however powers under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) for NYCC to undertake works to reduce flood risk. Given the heightened risk in Grinton and the abstracted riparian ownership, NYCC agreed to co-ordinate works on behalf of the riparian owners. The Parish Council is committed to doing the same for Arkle Beck. The Environment Agency was responsible for main rivers. Bellerby did not experience problems on the same scale.
- ◆ A dam had formed in the confluence of Grinton Gill with the River Swale. The Environment Agency therefore began works on the downstream section first to ensure that water could flow. The cost of the Swale clearance was approximately £30k which was funded by the Environment Agency.
- ◆ Work on Grinton Gill was co-ordinated by NYCC with works completed on 27 August.
- ◆ The cost of the works co-ordinated by NYCC was approximately £30k.
- ◆ NYCC/Environment Agency presently storing the material with a local farmer/builder.
- ◆ Disposal of material to commence this week - cost estimated at approximately £20k. It must be used in the local catchment area by agreement with Environment Agency.

What next?

Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act (2010) - formal event investigation:

- ◆ The FRM Engineers were undertaking commitment to work on the Section 19 report into the events working.
- ◆ Must be acknowledged that the rainfall was extraordinary and above design standards applied to drainage systems.
- ◆ Report would involve empirical data analysis from data collected from all risk management authorities to understand mechanisms of event and response.
- ◆ Drainage studies would be undertaken in Reeth, Grinton, Bellerby and Leyburn to ascertain condition and capacity of surface water systems.
- ◆ Community engagement was key - evidence of those who experience events vital.
- ◆ Public meetings had already been held in Bellerby, Leyburn, Grinton and drop in in Reeth attended to introduce the process to communities and close engagement will continue through establishing of flood groups.

Working towards a publication date of January 2020

- ◆ Report would recommend possible mitigation against future flooding including:-
 - Resilience planning and physical property level measures.
 - Any potential slow the flow or natural flood mitigation/upstream measures.
 - Drainage improvements or maintenance required.

Following the initial presentation a number of issues and points were raised as follows:-

- ◆ The Leader of the County Council thanked officers for their presentation, which he considered pulled the various strands together, highlighting how co-ordinated action had been undertaken to address the exceptional situation. He noted, on his visit to the area, that he could not believe what he had seen, despite being advised of the severity of the incident prior to attending. He stated that he had agreed with the Chief Executive that the reparation works would be carried out and then the necessary finances would be obtained. He highlighted the work undertaken by the local MP and the benefit his position in Government had brought to addressing the situation. He paid tribute to the NYCC officers and their reaction to the incident and praised their ability to provide solutions in days and weeks in what could take months and years, bearing in mind the enormity of the incident. He noted that there had been a significant impact on local communities and he had been pleased that officers of the County Council had responded so effectively and efficiently. He noted that long term solutions were now being sought, with the full involvement of those local communities. He emphasised that while this was a 1 in 1,000 year event, there was every likelihood that similar incidents would reoccur, somewhere in North Yorkshire, in the future.
- ◆ The Member, whose electoral district covers Leyburn, supported the statement made by the Leader. She noted that she had been out in Leyburn during the time of the floods and paid tribute to the work of the Fire Service for their response to the events. She noted that local farmers had lost a great deal in terms of animals, crops, buildings and walls and noted that concerns had been raised by local farmers regarding the amount of topsoil that they had lost.

She noted that Highways Team Leaders had met with local residents and had provided assurances in terms of addressing the flooding situation and carrying out work to try and prevent that in the future. She welcomed the interventions from those officers.

She stated that a public meeting had been held, which had been well attended, and rather heated at times which was understandable given the severity of the situation.

She noted that concerns had been expressed regarding the flooding of classrooms in the nearby schools.

She also noted that concern had been expressed regarding people being responsible for their own culverts, noting that it only took one person not to undertake this and flooding issues would occur.

She emphasised that this had been an awful, unprecedented event, with repercussions likely to be felt for a long while to come. She noted that 20 households had been displaced by the flooding and it had been difficult to obtain their location to advise them of the recent public meeting. She emphasised the need for extensive support in the coming weeks and months to assist local communities in overcoming the difficulties caused by this.

- ◆ In response, the issues raised were acknowledged and it was noted that the Highways Authority had the power to request that homeowners cleared out their culverts, particularly where this was an area of high flood risk. It was noted that enforcement action could be undertaken where requests were not being met. It was also noted that a study was undertaken to diagnose whether culverts were indeed blocked, which involved jet hosing the culverts themselves, which on many occasions cleared them out. It was emphasised, however, that many people were unaware that they had the responsibility for clearing out culverts that lay within their curtilage of their land.
- ◆ A Member asked whether consultation would be taking place alongside the Environment Agency to consider the flood zone ratings for these areas as a result of the extensive flooding that had taken place. In response it was stated that consideration would be given to this matter, alongside the Environment Agency, and views would be relayed to the various planning authorities in respect of this. It was emphasised, however, that should account be taken of the recent flooding event, then everywhere would require to be designated as a flood zone, therefore, the issues had to be considered in proportion to what had taken place. It was emphasised, again, that this had been a 1 in 1,000 year event and that planning, in relation to flood zones, took account of 1 in 100 year events. It was also noted that, in terms of planning matters, NYCC was a statutory consultee. In terms of the flood zone ratings it was again emphasised that proportionality would have to be taken account of. It was unlikely that zone ratings would be changed based on a 1 in 1,000 year event.
- ◆ A Member noted that similar 1 in 1,000 year events had happened before in North Yorkshire, noting, in particular, the incident that took place at Hawnby near Helmsley and the widespread flooding in 2012 where the whole of the Vale of York was affected. He considered that North Yorkshire was particularly vulnerable to flooding problems and noted that these were happening on a regular basis. He suggested that mitigation was required and lessons should be learnt from recent flooding events to appropriately provide that mitigation. He emphasised that the risk would not be eliminated, however, careful planning could assist in lessening the effect of such incidents.
- ◆ The Chairman noted that, in his electoral division, there appeared to be issues in relation to cross-boundary flooding, whereby signage from the neighbouring authority was not provided in North Yorkshire, which led to issues when trying to use local roads, as motorists were not aware that the flooding had taken place. In response officers noted that a much closer working relationship was being developed with neighbouring local authorities in terms of flooding arrangements. A focus group had been developed to ensure that collaborative working did take place when flooding

occurred, cross-boundaries. The group also looked into the impacts of flooding and how collaborative work could be undertaken to address the situation.

Resolved -

That the officers be thanked for their report, the contents of which be noted.

67. Friary Hospital, Richmond - Update

Considered -

The update report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) in relation to the current situation regarding the Friary Hospital, Richmond.

The report noted that the Area Constituency Committee agreed to keep a watching brief on the future of the Friary Hospital, Richmond at its meeting in November 2018. In relation to that the latest statement from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG highlighted the following:-

“The urgent temporary changes at the front of house at the Friarage Hospital at no way related to the Friary Hospital.

It is understandable that public concerns about the future of the Friary Hospital may surface but can we assure you that our position has not changed since we addressed the issue with Richmondshire District Council in January 2019.

We are continuing to work closely with NHS service providers, Queens Road and Quaker Lane GP practices, on determining a positive future for the provision of NHS primary care services to patients in Richmond and wider communities in the surrounding area.

We understand how valued the Friary Hospital is to the town of Richmond.

Our commitment to care closer to home remains paramount and at the core of the NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG.”

Resolved -

That the update be noted.

68. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

This matter had been placed on the agenda at the request of the Chairman of the Committee, County Councillor Angus Thompson, and related to the details of the protocol for local communities purchasing vehicle activated signs (VAS) as agreed by the Executive in March 2019.

A copy of the report submitted to the Executive and the protocol, were provided to assist with Members’ consideration of this matter.

Highways Engineer, Darren Griffiths, was also in attendance to assist with the discussions.

The Chairman explained his recent meetings with representatives of a Parish Council in his electoral division regarding their wish to have a matrix sign located in their parish. He outlined the process undertaken, through contact with Darren Griffiths, who undertook a site survey and met with the representatives of the Parish Council to provide costs and details of the erection of the matrix sign. The site survey enabled the Parish Council to determine where it was most appropriate to erect the sign, through the advice provided by the officer.

A Member asked if the protocol had been circulated to all Parish Councils. In response it was stated that this had been widely circulated to all County Councillors and a large number

of Parish Councils, but not all. In relation to this it was noted that Hambleton District Council undertook a number of local forums where representatives from Parish Councils attended, together with representatives of NYCC's Highways. It was asked whether it would be possible to provide details of the protocol at those meetings which would assist in eliminating the need for individual contact with the officer, in relation to how the protocol operated. It was suggested that this would be beneficial in terms of Parish Councils knowing the costs of the scheme, as this may be prohibitive for a number of them and would save a great deal of time in relation to them seeking that information.

Details of the costs for the provision of matrix signs were outlined and it was expected that these would be £2,600 per sign and £500 for a mounting post, however, that could be eliminated should the sign be able to be attached to an existing street lighting column.

A Member further suggested that a meeting with all North Yorkshire's Parish Councils could alleviate the need to have individual meetings in relation to the provision of matrix signs, however, it was emphasised that there was a significant number of Parish Councils within North Yorkshire and arranging a meeting of that size would prove to be problematic.

It was outlined that details of the protocol were able to be shared with Parish Councils and liaison with them was in place to address their requests in terms of the provision of VAS.

It was clarified that the provision of VAS in a local community was not time limited, however, it was emphasised that these were located on a temporary basis for the maximum impact to be delivered.

A Member also noted that Parish Liaison meetings for Hambleton District Council were taking place later in the month and that these were usually well attended by both Parish Councillors and District Councillors. It would seem an opportune time, therefore, for the protocol to be presented. She stated that she would speak to those that organised the forums in relation to this.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and that further investigations be carried out as to having the protocol presented to larger forums to better target representatives of Parish Councils.

69. Questions to the Representative of Rishi Sunak MP

Co-opted Member, Malcolm Warne, took questions on behalf of local MP, Rishi Sunak, who was unable to attend the meeting on this occasion due to parliamentary business.

The following issues were raised:-

- ◆ A Member referred to the recent closing of gaps on the A19, noting that the one by the Cleveland Tontine had recently been closed, and asked whether there were plans for further closures within North Yorkshire. In response it was noted that the local MP had been in contact with Highways England regarding the closure of a number of the turning gaps in the A19 and it was noted that there were further proposals to close some of these within the coming year. Consultations had begun in relation to those and progress was taking place. The Member emphasised that consultation was important as many issues had to be addressed in relation to those gaps in terms of local users and use by local farmers.
- ◆ A Member asked for an update in relation to the progress on the development of the Coast to Coast footpath and whether that was to be given National Trail status. In response it was stated that the current focus was on the Coastal Path which was due to be completed in 2020 and, upon completion, the focus would switch to the Coast to Coast footpath. Members welcomed the information, but continued to have concerns in relation to where the Coast to Coast footpath crossed the A19, noting that until the path was given National Trail status the issue of the crossing would not

be addressed, leaving that particularly dangerous. Local Members emphasised the need for the crossing to be addressed as a priority, and asked that further representations be made in relation to speeding up the process of identifying the footpath as a National Trail. It was noted that there had been no incidents reported of accidents at the crossing location, however, a Member noted that there had been incidents on the nearby A172.

- ◆ A Member referred to issues around Mainsgill along the A66, also affecting East and West Layton, emphasising the need to address the issue of motorists cutting through the local communities to gain access to the A66. He suggested that there could be a requirement introduced that allowed access for residents only, to prevent motorists using that as a rat run. In response it was stated that the issue had been raised with Highways England and they were giving consideration to the issue and the roads around that area. Members welcomed the approach and considered that action was required in the short term to prevent a serious accident from occurring.
- ◆ A Member raised concerns regarding the relaxation of planning conditions in terms of the numbers of caravans and tents that could be accommodated on campsites, without planning permission having to be sought, which was creating concerns in her electoral division. The issue raised was noted.

Resolved -

That the questions raised would be fed back to Rishi Sunak MP and taken account of.

70. Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee - Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing a draft Work Programme for Members to consider, develop and adopt.

Information regarding the current scrutiny work programmes was also provided for Members to consider in terms of developing the Committee's work programme.

It was requested that the issue of the potential development of a bypass, either eastern or western, for Northallerton be added to the Work Programme for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Resolved -

That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the additional item suggested.

71. Next Meeting

Resolved -

That the next meeting of the Area Constituency Committee take place on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 10 am at a venue to be determined.

The meeting concluded at 12.15 pm

SL/JR