

Clerk's Report August 2016

Highways Update

There have been several recent reports with Highways, details of progress / feedback received is as follows:

- Manhole on the main highway between Wensley and Redmire (near Stoneham)

This manhole was reported due to the fact that drivers are swerving to avoid driving over the top of it, it has become slippery and a significant dip has appeared in the Highway.

The Highways officer has been and inspected the manhole and has completed a repair to a pothole to the side of the service cover at the time of inspection. Report reference 101003543739

- Request for Horse warning signs to be positioned at the east end of the village (upon the 60mph sign posts)

The PC has been made aware of several recent 'near misses' with Horses being ridden on Mill Hill Lane. The PC has contacted the Highways department at NYCC requesting for Caution Horse and Rider signs to be positioned at the edge of the 60mph zone signs out of the village.

Unfortunately due to the NYCC guidance stating that 'Horse' warning signs should only be provided at locations 'where numbers of horses are frequently walked or ridden along or crossed over the road' the village is not eligible for signs to be erected by NYCC.'

Report provided by Ian Beighton, Project Engineer at Highways North Yorkshire.

- Request for the grass verge on Mill Hill Lane to be cut due to poor visibility

Following several requests from residents I have spoken to the Highways department at NYCC, regarding the over grown grass verge on Mill Hill Lane. I have expressed that the grass verge is causing the highway on Mill Hill lane and also the road up to the tank road, to be dangerous for all users of the highway due to the height of the over grown vegetation. A report was written by a Highways inspector following an inspection on 20.07.16.

The Highways inspector reported that the verge doesn't meet the criteria for any further action. The criteria states that the highway needs to be dangerous due to the overgrown vegetation which could potentially cause an accident for vehicles using the highway.

Further to a request from the council I have requested a copy of the report from the inspector. I have also requested a written copy of the criteria which they have referred to when stating that 'the verge doesn't meet the criteria for any further action'. I will ensure everyone is kept informed of further progress.

- Request for the Water running from the highway into Preston under Scar Cemetery

Further to the May and June clerks reports, I have since received the following reply from Steve Mason on behalf of Highways: 'From the attached photos there is some surface water run off which is to be expected given the different elevations between the highway and the cemetery however I do not believe that the saturation of the ground within the cemetery has been caused solely by the water run-off from the highway. The causation of the saturation is most probably ground water running from the hillside above. From a highways perspective the installation of kerbs to delineate the carriageway edge may channel some of the run-off away from the entrance but would not resolve this issue, you may wish to consider some form of land drainage within the cemetery. If you would like to discuss this in person with a site visit I will make myself available at your convenience.'

I have since requested a site visit with Steve Mason, however I am awaiting his reply. I will keep everyone informed of progress in due course.

Queens award nominations c/o Yorkshire Local Council Association (YLCA)

YLCA has circulated information on the awards by The Lord Lieutenant and Vice Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire. Please find this below.

'In 2016 we achieved our best performance since the QAVS were instigated in 2002, with three successful nominations from the Lieutenancy area. This is the equivalent of the MBE and the highest award available for voluntary groups in the UK. We are keen to build-on this success for next year.'

Could I therefore ask you to encourage groups you are aware of and who you believe are undertaking outstanding work to now apply for next year.

Please note that the deadline for submissions for the 2017 award is Friday 16th September 2016.

To be eligible, groups must have been running for at least 3 years and consist of a minimum of 2 people, the majority of whom must be volunteers. Full details of the criteria and details of the online application process are available from the clerk.

Telephone Box

Further to sending a request to BT, I can now confirm that the telephone box is now in full working order.

NYCC Broadband update

North Yorkshire County Council has agreed £20.5m to bring faster connections to rural areas.

The local authority said the third phase of its superfast broadband programme reinforced its commitment to making the area a better place.

It comes as the authority said high-quality broadband of at least 25Mbps will have been brought to 91% of premises across the county by next June. The 91% encompasses phases one and two of the project, which has cost £34.5 million. The £20.5m spent on the third phase will take the coverage up to 95-96%.

Website update

I have recently been preparing the new PC website to ensure we adhere to the digital transparency code requirements, as well as providing a central place for all residents to view previous PC meeting agendas and minutes. The website is almost complete and I will hopefully be in a position for the site to be made live in the coming weeks.

Keep Britain Tidy campaign

Further to a residents suggestion, I have recently contacted 'Keep Britain Tidy' with regards to one of their most successful dog fouling campaigns. The 'We're Watching You' campaign has been used by Harrogate and Saltburn District Councils and has proved to be one of the most successful campaigns to date. To take part in the campaign we would need to subscribe to the campaign for a minimal cost of £25.00 + VAT.
Would councillors like to consider taking part in the campaign at all?

Transparency Code Grant Application

Further to a recent request from the council, I have not yet submitted a second grant application for the digital transparency fund. I will aim to have the application submitted prior to the September meeting and will report back as required.

Banking update

Following the June PC meeting I have sought various pieces of information in relation to an alternative Current account facility for the council. I am awaiting some further advice regarding the online authorisation process and I will aim to report back fully at the September meeting.

Transforming Our Communities Consultation

A public consultation 'Transforming Our Communities ' is currently taking place until early October and involves members of the public in Hambleton & Richmondshire areas. I have placed several notices on the notice board which indicate when and where the consultations are taking place. Everyone is encouraged to take a moment to read the summary and take part in the consultation if possible.