

Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister Parish Report
Fountains Abbey Parish Council : November 2023

Transport

I have carried out, with the Community Office, extensive research into the viability of the provision of a community bus in the Masham area. The indication is that when resources permit, the MCO will be able to make progress with this. Now that schools are back I am making contact with the sixth form colleges and NYC to establish what routes are viable for sixth form students from the Grewelthorpe area and what public bus routes need to be improved to assist with this.

Community Partnership (Ripon)

Ripon is one of the pilot schemes for these new networks. I am on the Steering Committee to represent those villages that fall within the hinterland of Ripon. There have been some initial meetings but it is not yet up and running, but I will keep you posted – please advise if there are any areas of interest where a Ripon initiative could benefit Fountains parish.

Local Plan

Please can you let me know if the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has reached you and, if so, what your views are on this.

Rural Broadband

I have not made any further progress with this. I am aware that the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has launched two consultations, one on the Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) – which is legislation proposed to give eligible UK addresses the right to request a ‘decent’ broadband connection - and one setting out its proposed policy approach to connecting Very Hard to Reach (VHTR) premises across the UK, which NYNet will be responding to.

I will continue to press for funding from NYC to assist remote households with the cost of satellite connection while we wait for Project Gigabit to be delivered. NYNet have now finalised which households will and won't receive a connection under the current and final Phase 4 scheme, for residents that want to check on this please email them on : communities@nynet.co.uk

Council Meeting & Executive Decisions

There is a Council Meeting on Wednesday 15th November, where the Executive will be reporting to the members.

Destination Management Plan

There is now a new Head of Tourism at NYC who I am hoping to meet soon. I am not aware of any progress being made with the DMP which concerns me, I will continue to chase.

Highways/Roads & Flooding

I look forward to hearing further from you on progress with the speed survey and any other relevant updates. I have no other Highways issues in the Parish that I am aware of.

Locality Budget

Can I remind all community groups that my budget needs to be allocated by the end of the financial year and there are still some small sums available.

Youth Councils

I am waiting to hear further from RGS and YMCA as to how the Ripon Youth Council is progressing and how young people from surrounding villages will be able to contribute and take part. If any young people are interested in getting involved in this please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Household Support Fund

The fourth phase of the Household Support Fund has been rolled out to just under 22,500 people across the county who are eligible. It will provide a one-off payment in supermarket e-vouchers to ease the pressure of global inflation.

People who will receive the Household Support Fund payments are:

- Residents who received housing benefit on, or between, January 26, 2023, and February 25, 2023, but did not qualify for the cost of living payment made in April and May 2023 for people on low income benefits or tax credits. They will receive a single e-voucher for £450.
- Residents who were getting the maximum discount to pay their council tax bill through the means-tested Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as of August 14, 2023. They will receive a single e-voucher for £110.

NHS Dentists

NYC have reported on progress that the ICB is making to try to counter the problems with accessing NHS dental care. With regard to NYC's obligations to deliver the public health element of dental care, there are a number of oral health improvement activities including a supervised toothbrushing scheme being delivered in Early Years settings and Special Schools, and supply of oral health packs through the Healthy Child Service. Unfortunately the Early Years providers in Fountains & Masham are not included in the targeted toothbrushing scheme, but there is support available for those who want to participate and I will circulate

this and offer my Locality Budget to assist with any costs involved. I will also encourage the Early Years and Schools that are not currently involved in the Healthy Schools/Early years scheme to sign up.

Commuted Sums & CIL payments

I was expecting to have seen a summary of CIL allocations for the parish by now, has this reached you? Have you established with Kate Dawson if there are any Commuted Sums due to the Parish?

Long Course Weekend

Regarding the announcement about the Long Course event in September 2024, being held in Pateley Bridge and surrounding area, I understand, via Cllr Murday, that the organisers have advised that the first event (next year) will only attract a few thousand, not the 45,000 reported on. The three day triathlon style event will be held in Pateley every year for three years. The organisers will be holding a public meeting in Pateley about the event should this be of interest.

NYC Local Plan – new portal

I have previously reported on the consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement, which will begin this month. The Statement will set out how it will consult people on planning, as well as early engagement about the local plan. It has now been announced that an online portal has been created to manage the process of the development of the new Local Plan. Everyone who registers on the portal will receive important information such as when consultation and engagement will take place and how they can have their say – to register please go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/localplan

Primary School places

NYC have announced that parents and carers with children due to start primary school in North Yorkshire in September next year can apply for their places now. Primary applications for children born between September 1, 2019, and August 31, 2020, must be submitted by January 15, 2024, and it is advised to list up to five schools in order of preference. All the information on North Yorkshire primary schools is available at www.northyorks.gov.uk/admissions online. Allocated school places will be announced on National Offer Day, which is April 16, 2024 and for further information please email schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk or call 01609 533679.

NYC Budget consultation

A countywide consultation is being launched to glean the public's views and pinpoint the key priorities for North Yorkshire Council's budget for the next

financial year. Residents are now being encouraged to have their say on the council's priorities by taking part in the Let's Talk Money survey. Feedback received will inform decisions on the 2024/25 budget and the Council Plan covering 2024 to 2028. The council's priorities are set out in its Council Plan, which can be read at www.northyorks.gov.uk/councilplan The Let's Talk Money survey can be completed at www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalkNY online. Paper copies and copies in accessible formats can also be requested by emailing LetsTalk@northyorks.gov.uk, calling 0300 1312131 or writing to Let's Talk, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD. The survey will close on Monday, December 18.

I would encourage residents to raise any issues of concern, and areas which they would suggest need more or less funding, to my attention. It would be very useful to know where their priorities lie.

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