

9 January 2014 – Responses to Supplementary Questions

Questions on the Leader's Statement

From Cllr Ward

“Cllr Mrs Cowling you talk about the role out of the Superfast Broadband helping existing business and helping to attract new business. The last time I heard anything about that was quite frankly a very disappointing presentation at a Parish Liaison meeting some months ago and I just wonder whether you could update Council on what progress if any has been made?”

A confidential response was circulated to Members.

From Cllr Clark

“In view of the fact that these wagons at 4 miles per gallon will be going round collecting green waste from those members of the public who are going to pay how much does she expect the distances travelled by those wagons to be reduced because of what changes her group has made?”

“It is expected that uptake by residents subscribing to the garden waste service will be somewhere between 25% and 35%.

Calling at fewer properties will mean that, during 2014, collection rounds will need to be rationalised, which inevitably will reduce the number of miles being travelled.

In busy summer months, collection vehicles sometimes have to travel back and forth to tip off at various composting sites twice, or three times in one day, in order to complete their rounds. With a reduction of tonnages being collected from fewer properties, these ‘turnaround tip’ cycles will also reduce significantly.

With fewer properties to service, time and fuel savings will be made. Based on “opt-in” forecasts, vehicle mileages are likely to reduce by up to 25%, though this is very much dependant on property distribution across the District.”

From Cllr Wainwright

“My question refers to Broadband, my comments are this - that back in July I had an email from Jos Holmes that said that the Hovingham exchange would be on Broadband by the end of September and we are still waiting. Please could the Leader inform all the Councillors how much of Ryedale is on Broadband and when are the expected dates to implement the remaining exchanges to be on Broadband?”

A confidential response was circulated to Members.

From Cllr Paul Andrews

“It arises from the comments in regards to the applications at Kirkbymoorside and the supermarket on Wentworth Street Car Park. To that end you say that resources are being put into the planning department to ensure that we have the capacity to deal with this unprecedented workload. Now I understand that the resources as far as Wentworth Street Car Park are concerned is a retail consultant and I understand his name is Mr. England and I am concerned we are not getting into a situation whereby we appoint somebody who is going to give us the answer that we want, as opposed to a clear and independent view, so I have to ask these questions. I don’t necessarily need the answers at this time but I would like the answers in writing within the next 7 days. First of all who is Mr. England, how was he appointed, who appointed him, who recommended him to whoever for appointment, what other councils has he worked for, what process of selection was gone through before he was appointed and were any Members consulted before he was appointed and if so which Members? I don’t expect a full answer at this time but I would like a written answer within 7 days?”

“In relation to Wentworth Street Car Park application the Council has employed Dr. John England of England and Lyle Planning Consultants to deal with both retail and planning matters relating to the application.

Dr John England MBE, BA(Hons), Dip TP, PHD, MRTPI is a Director of England and Lyle Consultants. England and Lyle are employed by the Council to give expert retail and planning advice on the application.

John England has 40 years experience in planning, including 20 years in consultancy. He has particular expertise in retail planning, including retail and town centre studies and has a wealth of experience in writing reports on proposals for retail development, particularly food stores. He is very familiar with the application of retail policy. He has extensive experience and has advised numerous Councils in respect of retail planning matters in recent years including Hambleton District Council, Leeds City Council, Rotherham MBC, Barnsley MBC, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Eden District Council, Tamworth Borough Council, North Lincolnshire Council and Bassetlaw District Council

He has a PHD in Retail Impact Assessment and is the author of the book ‘Retail Impact Assessment: A Guide to Best Practice’ published by Longmans.

He is also a Director of Action for Market Towns and in 2009 was awarded an MBE for services to retail planning.

England and Lyle were chosen following a procurement exercise carried out in 2013. Tenders were received from several consultancies and these were assessed by a panel of officers in the usual manner. The tenders were assessed on the basis of both quality of submission and price criteria.

England and Lyle are a consultancy on a Framework Agreement that Ryedale District Council is a party to, along with Scarborough and Selby Councils'.

Members were not consulted or involved in any respect in relation to this appointment."