

Leader's Statement - 4th September 2014

On the 9th July I visited the site above Pickering to see the progress being made with the flood defences, and I am pleased to report that progress is good. The valve which will control the flow of water is a much bigger structure than I imagined, but little of it will be seen once all the soil is replaced. It was good to see the results of what for a small district council was a massive investment for the benefit of our community.

On the 18th July I was elected Chairman of the Local Government for North Yorkshire & York; a job which I am sure will be easy compared to chairing meetings in this council!

I also represented the council at the opening of the new extension to Rosti McKechnie at Pickering. The factory is amazing - like a tardis – much bigger from the inside than it looks. We are lucky to have companies who are investing so heavily in our district.

Although not in an official capacity, I went to the Ryedale Show. What a wonderful event and a real credit to the district and many thanks to the people who put so much effort into organising the show, and indeed to the organisers of the many other shows in Ryedale.

The Malton Stables Open Day which the Chairman of Council and I attended last Sunday was a real eye opener. The sheer size of the yards and the number of people employed is amazing, yet they are such an independent sector of our economy that makes a massive contribution to the success of our district.

You will also all be aware by now that SLM have been appointed to manage our leisure services, and that the savings made through this contract are quite extensive. At the same time we are going to have some substantial enhancements to the services we offer to the public. You are all invited to attend a presentation by SLM prior to the P&R meeting on the 25th of September.

Planning permission has been given for the development which will provide a site for the relocated livestock market, which has got to be good news for the farming community of Ryedale. The decision has to be referred to the Secretary of State, because of the size of the proposed development. It was unfortunate that the bid for money to the Local Growth Fund for the improvements to the road network at this location was unsuccessful, but the award of planning permission will help when this scheme is resubmitted. It is hoped that there will be another round of funding before Christmas. Of course the good news was that the Food and Environment Research Agency application at Sand Hutton was successful.