

LEADER'S STATEMENT – COUNCIL, 9 OCTOBER 2014

What an interesting time since we last met as Council.

The result of the Scottish Referendum has continued to set ripples through various regions and sub regions. The discussions taking place about devolution and devolved powers are taking place more regularly than ever at Leaders' meetings at the regional and sub regional level. This is linked to the other agendas including Combined Authorities and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP about proposed joint committees are discussions we continue to consider for and about Ryedale District Council.

We continue to work with the LEP via Julian's good offices to promote rural schemes particularly those most closely linked to Ryedale and those which have a wider impact on the surrounding area.

At the Local Government North Yorkshire and York (LGN&Y) meeting the Director of Public Health's Annual Statement and Report was presented. A copy of this report is in the Members' Room if you are interested. There are 7 main recommendations to the report which have an impact on Ryedale. Another interesting report was the City of York's Local Plan which as a near neighbour is important to us in terms of highways infrastructure and housing.

Tonight we concentrate our energy on the Budget Strategy for the Council and I would personally like to place on record my thanks to Peter and the team for firstly preparing this Strategy and for getting a clean bill of health from the Auditor and the Audit Committee. A great achievement under lots of pressure.

This weekend is 'War Weekend' in Pickering so another opportunity for Ryedale to promote its many opportunities and attractions including the Book Festival in Malton.

I have attended a couple of events at Derwent Training Association. The first was to meet the new intake and the second was last night to help present some of the awards to apprentices who are progressing through their apprenticeships.

There is increasing interest from Authorities within North Yorkshire and York on alternative methods of delivering appropriate housing for local people who cannot afford to buy houses. This issue was discussed at the LGNY&Y Housing Board and a housing summit was proposed at the LGNY&Y Board meeting.

Last but not least those of you who managed to attend last Thursday will have seen the presentation from our new leisure provider, SLM – Active Lifestyles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board and staff of CLL for providing a splendid service to our communities over many years and for a smooth handover to the new operator.