

LEADER'S STATEMENT - COUNCIL 6 OCTOBER 2016

It is only 5 weeks since our last full council meeting - so I don't have a lot to report to you.

All the outside meetings I have attended have been around the subject of housing - the LGNY&Y Housing Board and Forum. Steve and I also attended a conference on rural housing

It is increasingly clear that there is funding out there to aid the delivery of an increased supply of new homes, we just have to be ready to grasp the opportunities.

The new buzz word is community led housing. Funding for CLH is being made available, particularly in rural and coastal villages and small towns that have a high proportion of second homes. Work is ongoing to encourage communities to take up this opportunity. so I have asked Peter Duncan, who works for the consultants promoting this concept, if he would attend our Parish Liaison Meeting on the 19th October. I am pleased to say he has confirmed he can come to Ryedale - so I would be very grateful if you could encourage the parishes that you represent to attend that meeting.

At the conference and at the LGNY&Y meeting, building firms both large and small told us of the frustrations they face in being able to deliver new build housing. The problems range from lenders being unwilling to fund development, lack of skilled labour, the intricacies of the planning system and not least the cost added to open market housing by the provision of affordable homes.

I would like to remind you that in two weeks time we shall be in the middle of our Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge (information sent out to you on the 28th September) and we shall be looking forward to the preliminary findings of the Peer Challenge. All Members are invited to the feedback session on Friday the 21st of October at 1pm. It would be good to see as many of you as possible there.

Tonight on our agenda we are being asked to agree a policy for our property assets. Our O&S committee have provided us with an excellent piece of background work to help us make that decision.

Lastly, when we get to item 12 - the Shale Wealth Fund Consultation - I hope we shall not start reliving the debate about fracking. We need to concentrate on giving relevant responses to the consultation.