

Parish Liaison Meeting

held at Ryedale House, Malton on
Monday 8 December 2008

Present:

Councillors Mrs Cowling (in the Chair), Acomb, Andrews, Bailey, Cussons, Mrs De Wend Fenton, Mrs Frank, Hawkins, Hemesley, Hope, Jackson, Mrs Shields, Ms Warriner, Wainwright, Mrs Wilford, Keal, Windress and Woodward.

The following Town/Parish Councils and Parish Meetings were represented:

Great Barugh, Wombledon, Helmsley, Rillington, Ampleforth, Amotherby, Kirkbymoorside, Thixendale, Hovingham, Swinton, Habton and Rosedale.

In attendance

Mrs L Carter, G Housden, N Irving (NYCC), Mrs M Jackson, Ms J Johnson, J Rudd, Ms L Sandall, Mrs C Slater and Miss J Waggott

Minutes

90 **Draft Proposals for the New Council Plan 2009-13 and The Council Budget 2009-10**

A workshop session was held on the Proposals for the New Council Plan and also the Council Budget 2009-10.

All those attending the meeting were given the context for the current community engagement activity being undertaken by the Council about making sure it reflects the priorities of Ryedale's communities and how it resources these priorities.

The Head of Transformation then introduced 'Council Conundrum' as follows:
A game for 2- 8 Players with the aim of the Game being to spend 10 units of resource (9 Chocolate coins) on the things Ryedale District Council can do or influence. The four aims represented on the four corners of the game board are as follows:

Housing Need To meet housing needs in the Ryedale District Council area

Economic Success To create the conditions for economic success

High Quality Environment To have a high quality, clean and sustainable environment.

Active Communities To help all residents to achieve a healthy and active lifestyle, in communities where everyone feels welcome and safe. The centre area is available for any thought you have of something you think is important but is not covered by the 4 aims on the board. Please put this idea on a star shaped

sticker on the centre of the board.

Task One was undertaken as follows:

To spend your resources on those aims which you value most highly, putting the largest amount on the one that is most important to you and your community, making it a better place to live, and fewer resources on those aims that you value less highly. Remember you must allocate all of your coins!

Complete this task as an individual. When everyone on your table has finished, add up the total amount of coins on each aim, but leave them in position. Await instructions!

And Task Two as follows:

Now as a group, discuss which aims need the most resource because they need the greatest improvement to be made in your community, to make life better for everyone. Try to agree on the levels allocated as a group. Please record the reasons you agree for amending the level of resource allocation to each aim. Please nominate a spokesperson who will feed this back to the room, along with the other groups.

Each of the six groups around the room fed the outcome of their discussions back to the room at the end of Task one and Task two. The feedback from the game will be used to inform the Council's budget and the new Council Plan.

In summary the two highest priorities for each of the six tables were Housing and Economy, with stars added to the centre of the boards for transport, infrastructure, flooding and community buildings. Economic priorities should include raising skill levels and improving wage levels. There was also agreement that any money spent in the area would help the local economy in the current climate.

A request was also made for a tour around Ryedale of the Ryepod with Council staff to explain what services were available across the District. Also that the Council should endeavour to produce all its publications using plain English.

91 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed representatives to the meeting and introductions were made.

92 Minutes

The minutes of the last Parish Liaison Meeting held on 20 May 2008 were presented (previously circulated).

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Liaison Meeting held on 20 May 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

93 Developing the Local Development Framework

The Head of Planning, Mr G Housden, introduced the item and gave a verbal report.

The Local Development Framework is a key policy document for the Council. There will also be a need to produce a more detailed Facilitating Development DPD. Consultation will take place with Town and Parish Councils on both documents. A project plan will be presented to the Policy & Resources meeting in October 2009, for referral to Government Office. The team are working hard to get an article in the press in respect of further sites for consideration.

It was agreed engagement must now be made with Town and Parish Councils, February and March being the time to do so.

Focus Groups are to be held with Town and Parish Councils early in the New Year with all Parishes being urged to participate. Approaches will be made to all Parishes in the New Year.

The Chairman reminded representatives that consultation is vital to the Local Development Framework.

A question was raised regarding possible sites at Amotherby to ascertain if sites had been proposed for development before, do they need to be raised again? The Head of Planning commented that sites need to be deliverable and asked that any queries be directed to him separately for further discussion.

A query from Wombledon Parish Council relating to Change of Use was received, are there any constraints that can be applied regarding future use?

The Head of Planning commented that the core strategy is a high-level document and unlikely to directly address such detailed matters.

The representative from Wombledon Parish Council asked if meetings could bring in all Parishes affected attend to get an overall view? The Head of Planning confirmed all affected Parishes could attend.

It was asked if Ryedale District Council would put a ceiling on the price of land to which the Head of Planning replied that this was not a Ryedale District Council function or a matter that the Council could control.

Any other questions can be submitted to Gary Housden following the meeting.

94 Progress of Ryedale Council's Charter

Councillor Acomb gave a verbal report at the meeting to appraise representatives of progress made to date.

It was confirmed the Parish Plans had been sent to North Yorkshire County Council and that feedback was awaited.

The Local Development Framework had identified quite a few Parishes within the North York Moors National Parks. Comment was made that the two Local Development Frameworks don't match and the question was posed as to how can they work together?

The Head of Planning responded that there was a lot of cross-boundary working taking place and would hope that our policy is evolving in a similar manner.

The Chairman opened the floor to further questions.

It was reported that a report would be required for the Community Services & Licensing Committee regarding the Parish Caretaker Scheme.

Councillor De Wend Fenton asked for a brief outline of what the Caretakers' plan entailed. Councillor Acomb responded that the Scheme covered such issues as street cleaning, grass cutting, painting etc, working together with Ryedale District Council and North Yorkshire County Council in a partnership to provide a better service, the provision of specialised equipment etc.

Thixendale Parish Council representative asked if there were any limits as to what the Scheme would cover, quoting an example of transporting a resident to a Doctor's Surgery? It was explained that the Ryecat service would cover such needs.

95 Leader Update

A paper detailing the LEADER update was presented (previously circulated).

A presentation was given by the Council's Project Delivery Support Officer, Jane Johnson.

It was explained that the title 'LEADER' was an abbreviation for the French name "Liaison Entre Actions pour le Développement de l'Economie Rural".

It was further explained that there was £500,000 funding available for each of the two LEADER areas within which Ryedale Parishes fall. The five market towns of Malton, Helmsley, Norton, Pickering and Kirkbymoorside were excluded as LEADER funding is specifically for the rural hinterland.

The Project Delivery Support Officer detailed the types of projects that would qualify.

It was suggested that expressions of interest should be encouraged in order that that they could be looked at as a whole and be published in the Newsletter. The Parish Plan could be used as evidence when looking at the groupings.

The Chairman commented that Parishes could put this funding to good use and that it was essential to get the message out through the Newsletter.

96 Matters raised by Town and Parish Councils

Rosedale Parish Council had requested that the following three items be on the agenda;-

(a) Public Conveniences – Rosedale Abbey

Confirmation was sought as to what plans existed for the public conveniences in Rosedale Abbey as the Parish Council had been led to believe that there were plans to refurbish the toilets and upgrade access to allow usage by disabled persons.

It was confirmed by the Head of Transformation that the Council have agreed to proceed to tender stage for the construction of an extension to form a disabled toilet, structural repairs to the building and refurbishment work to the existing toilets.

Rosedale Parish Council had been unaware of this project for which the Chairman apologised.

(b) Domestic recycling requirements and Commercial recycling facilities

Clarification was sought as to the inconsistency between domestic recycling and commercial recycling facilities. The Parish Council commented that it seemed incongruous that households were succeeding in recycling a significant proportion of their waste, whilst there were no obvious requirements or services to allow commercial premises to recycle their waste within the existing business rating structure. The Parish Council noted this issue in respect of glass recycling in Rosedale in that more waste glass is generated by the public houses than domestic households yet it all goes to landfill as there are not facilities for this to be collected for recycling.

The Head of Transformation responded that as part of its commercial waste collection service, the authority offers a limited additional recycling service for its customers in Malton and Norton, with paper and cardboard being the only materials collected. Whilst the Council was looking to ascertain whether or not recycling services could be extended, in terms of geographic coverage and collection of additional materials, it was dependant on cost and operational capacity. The current value of recyclable materials is very low which is the main drawback when compared with the costs of running heavy commercial vehicles in remote rural areas. At this time, it would not be possible from a capacity point of view to collect commercial recycling materials on domestic collection rounds, but this may be an area for consideration in the future.

It was commented that Ryedale District Council needs to let tax payers know where their recycling goes, what it costs and which companies are used for recycling.

(c) Mobile Phone Coverage in Rosedale

It was asked if the District Council could provide any assistance to the Parish Council in encouraging mobile phone operators to extend their coverage into Rosedale and other parts of Ryedale not currently covered. Rosedale Parish Council were trying to start a First Responders Scheme which was stalling due to the lack of mobile coverage.

The Head of Planning, G Housden, reported that Ryedale District Council is not the relevant local planning authority for that part of the district that falls within the administrative area of the North York Moors National Park Authority.

The authority was aware of the relatively poor coverage provided by the mobile phone operators within this part of the district which was an issue raised recently in connection with BT's consultation on the phone box closures across Ryedale.

The Head of Planning had forwarded a copy of his email response to Rosedale Parish Council to the Chief Planning Officer at NYMNP in order that they were aware of this issue.

The Chairman commented about the street lighting in Amotherby. Street lights were to be purchased and maintained. Neil Irving commented that NYCC could help with this by including lighting owned by parish councils within larger contracts managed by NYCC.

97 Questions from the floor

Habton Parish representative read out a statement detailing the Parish's concerns about the Environment Agency's Yorkshire Derwent Management Plan: Managing Flood risk dated March 2007 in which there was no mention of maintaining main river courses or flood banks, and in which reference was made of 'flood plain storage', 'increasing river meanders' and 'abandoning flood banks that do not reduce flood risk to property'. A group of interested Parishes have come together to form the Lower Vale of Pickering Parish Liaison Group which was to meet on Thursday 11 December 2008 at 7.30 at York House, Great Barugh.

Neil Irving commented that North Yorkshire County Council wanted to improve communications and relationships with parish, town councils and parish meetings. NYCC is currently developing its budget and Council Plan and will shortly be writing to local councils seeking their views.

Councillor Frank stated that not enough money was being spent in rural areas on gritting etc and that school bus routes should be a priority.

Neil Irving responded that NYCC has a published policy regarding which roads will be salted, or gritted, during winter conditions and what priority applies to these

routes. Priority one routes will receive preferential treatment in all conditions, these include all principal roads and important B and C class unclassified routes as approved by County Councillors.

Councillor De Wend Fenton commented that she had found it difficult to contact people at the County Council and it would be useful to have a list of staff contact details at County and their roles.

Comment was made regarding the condition of the footpath on the A170, and the need for a joined up approach with County in order that the work is done. Mr Marr of North Yorkshire County Council would co-ordinate with the Parishes.

Councillor Andrews informed the meeting that he had fallen twice in Malton the previous week but fortunately he was not injured. He asked why North Yorkshire County Council did not grit the footpaths in Malton Town centre. Mr Irving agreed to take the message back to NYCC.

P Lerew asked if North Yorkshire County Council, as a transport authority, could direct times of bus journeys with transport providers? Mr Irving replied that he believed North Yorkshire County Council had no powers to direct times, unless North Yorkshire County Council subsidised the journey.

Comment was made about the roads being in a bad condition, but that no money was available to improve them. It was suggested that MPs be contacted to help get funding from elsewhere.

Councillor Keal commented that the £1,000,000 was available for flood prevention work in Pickering and that he would like to see North Yorkshire County Council and Environment Agency doing the same. Mr Irving agreed to take the comment back to NYCC.

Swinton Parish Council complained that NYCC Highways were not answering emails and that there should be a policy for responding to emails. It was agreed that Mr Irving would pursue this matter with NYCC Highways.

There were no further questions from the floor.

The Chairman thanked representatives for attending and closed the meeting.