

Leader's Statement - Council 8 October 2015

Derwent Training Association - 14 September 2015

I have attended the opening of the new "Mechatronics" teaching room at Derwent Training Association. You will recall that we gave a grant of 30k towards the construction of this. It is a much needed addition to the facilities at DTA. Mechatronics is a fusion of several strands of engineering - electronics, hydraulics, robotics and computer engineering. DTA will now be able to help train apprentices in these skills, which helps to address the shortage of employees in the engineering industry and helps our young people into well paid jobs. This will be particularly important when the Whitby Potash Mine comes to fruition.

Yorkshire Water - 16 September 2015

The CE and I had our annual meeting with Yorkshire Water. We discussed ways we might work together including inspection of private water supplies. I took the opportunity to remind Yorkshire Water that there was still a problem at Butcher Corner, Malton and undertook to forward any complaints I received to Yorkshire Water. No major projects are planned in the Ryedale district in the period up to 2020. It was good to learn about YW's plans for replanting their woodlands with native species to replace the existing conifers. A couple of interesting statistics are that YW have to maintain some 55,000 kilometres of sewer on our behalf and have taken approximately 250,000 water samples to ensure the safety of our water supply.

LEP Infrastructure Board - 17 September 2015

After close work with the LEP and the developers, Ryedale DC was successful in bringing forward funding for the Malton Agribusiness Park at Old Malton. The project was awarded £2.1m towards infrastructure costs by Government following a proposal from this Council and the LEP - the funding was not available until 2016/17. However, persistence has paid off and - following under spends elsewhere - some of the funding has been released to bring forward a start on this exciting development to around November 2015 and road works are now expected to begin before Christmas.

A strong emphasis from this meeting was the importance of working up economic and development projects for future delivery through LEP funding. It was recognised that had the plans for the Malton Agri-Business Park not been progressed by RDC and the developers we would not have been successful in attracting funds for this project. So we need to support the work of our officers in progressing appropriate plans for future bids in Ryedale. The current focus is on bringing forward employment land at Pickering and enhancing access to advanced engineering companies at Kirkbymoorside. However the business case for a series of smaller scale improvements on the A64 between Malton and Scarborough can be advanced with the appropriate investment, in combination with the working up of potential proposals east of Hopgrove by Highways England.

P&R - 24 September 2015

At the meeting of Policy & Resources on the 24 September, the first tranche of Community Grants to local projects were approved. A second set of applications will be considered later in this financial year.

I am also pleased to be able to tell you that support for our creative economy was agreed. The creative economy in Ryedale is an important tourism attraction.

Unfortunately the meeting went on rather too long and we adjourned at 10.30pm with some items to be carried forward to the next meeting of P&R.

Our Community Infrastructure Levy charging regime was the subject of examination by an Inspector for one day last week. Approval of our CIL will be an important step forward for this Council. We expect a draft version of the Inspector's report by 16 October.

We shall soon be considering the sites documents for our local plan. This stage of our local plan, when approved, will give us certainty of where development is to take place in Ryedale.

LGNY&Y - 2 October 2015

On Friday 2nd October I attended a meeting of Local Government North Yorkshire & York. You will have heard that a combined authority for Sheffield has been agreed - as yet there is no firm news of a deal that includes Ryedale.

We had an update on the progress to date on broadband provision. It is my opinion that progress is far too slow - we are looking at another 4 years before we have 95% cover. That cannot be good for economic development in Ryedale.