

Leader's Statement - Full Council 8 December 2016

As you are aware RDC had a Corporate Peer Challenge in October. You were all invited to hear informal feedback on the 21st October and have since had sight of the feedback slides. For me the three most important messages were around improving communication, reviewing our governance model and about shared behaviours for members and staff. The recognition of the difficulties that member conduct at full council meetings is causing was particularly telling. The recommendations within the slides will give us an opportunity to continue with our programme of rolling improvement - both for members and staff. I would also like to thank our partners who attended the Growth and Partnership Working Event for giving their time and also our staff - the three days ran like clockwork and was a credit to them. Initially I was very apprehensive about the peer review - but have to say I enjoyed the entire three days and I am sure the whole process will be of great benefit to our Council.

You will recall that some time ago Members agreed to give a grant towards the creation of a dry stone wall maze in Dalby Forest. Several Members took up the opportunity recently to visit Dalby Forest and see the work completed to date on that maze. I wish more of you had been there to see the outcome from the grant you agreed. The maze, when completed, is going to be absolutely stunning and will, I am sure, become an iconic visitor attraction.

You won't be surprised to hear that I have no updates for you on Devolution.

Opportunity Knocks was again an extremely successful event held at Lady Lumleys school in Pickering - the enthusiasm of the students is so good to see. Again, many thanks to the employers who attended that event.

The good news from the Area Committee meeting was that an experimental weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes is to be introduced on County Bridge between Norton & Malton which will allow us to assess what improvements there are to pollution levels.

I was very pleased to be one of the panel of judges for the very first Ryedale Business Awards. The winners will be announced at a breakfast ceremony at the White Swan at Ampleforth on the 27th of January - starting at 9am. Tickets are only £15.00 for what promises to be an interesting morning.

Lastly, I would like to use this opportunity to formally congratulate Clare Slater on her appointment as Deputy Chief Executive of RDC.