

Monthly Update – November 2022

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

No apologies for absence have been received to date.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH OCTOBER 2022.

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th October 2022.

3. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

For the period 20 October to 6 November 2022.

Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	3 Reports
Total	3 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	2 Reports
Theft (inc Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	14 Reports
Other crimes inc Drugs	2 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Total	18 reports

Other News -

A man has been arrested after drugs, knives and a sword were seized during a recent police operation. Officers entered a home in Northallerton using a warrant and arrested a man. During a search of the property, they found class-b drugs including cannabis and “cannabis edibles”, which usually take the form of cannabis-laced sweets and are often sold to children.

Police recovered a large amount of money, digital scales and mobile phones from the address too.

Alarmingly, officers also found a flick knife, two lock knives and a samurai sword.

A force spokesman said: “There’s no place for offensive weapons and illegal drugs in our communities, and all items were seized.”

North Yorkshire Police uses information supplied by residents to tackle drug dealing. Share information with us by calling us on 101 and selecting option 1 to speak to our Force Control Room.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

- (i) Scot Pit Lane.

The Planning Inspectorate has advised that the application for the Modification Order under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 will be heard by written representations.

An application was submitted to North Yorkshire County Council (“the Authority”) by Mrs Caroline Bradley on behalf of The British Horse Society on 27/5/2019 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement of public rights of way by recording a Public Bridleway between Brompton Lane and the A167 Northallerton to Darlington Road along Scot Pit Lane.

The reason for the application is to record historical rights over the route.

The application was supported by historical and physical evidence.

An objection to the making of the Order was received from the landowner questioning the validity of historical evidence.

- (ii) Church Wall.

The Church wall has been surveyed by Structural & Civil Consultants Ltd. The report on the condition of the wall is awaited.

- (iii) Former Electricity Sub-Station Site.

The Council has been advised that the plan has been prepared and that the garden licence will be forwarded shortly.

- (iv) Book of Condolence.

The County Records Office didn't want the Book of Condolence therefore it is now lodged at the Civic Centre with others.

5. CHAIRMAN'S/VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS.

To be reported to the meeting.

6. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

- (i) Finance Group – Including adoption of Memorial Bench Policy.

The Finance Group is to meet on Monday 14th November.

- (ii) Middle Bridge.

To be reported to meeting.

- (v) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting of the Group has been held.

(vi) Play Equipment/Adult Outdoor Gym Equipment Working Group.

The Chairman and the Clerk met on Zoom the 10th November so as to start to move forward the issues regarding play equipment in the Recreation Ground and the Awards for All grant received for adult outdoor gym equipment.

It had been confirmed that the adult outdoor gym pod in Broomfield Park that had been installed by Streetscape was at the total cost for the unit, the installation and delivery of £9,950.

Romanby Parish Council would be able to reclaim the VAT element of this therefore the actual amount of equipment that could be acquired from the grant would be £12,000. This would be similar in the case of Brompton Council.

Concerns were expressed that the static gym pod provided by Streetscape would not necessarily be what would be used by adults in the Recreation Ground - Romanby Parish Councils bid for a grant having been based around the fact that this type of static equipment would be used by staff working at County Hall in their lunchtimes etc for fitness training as County Hall is adjacent to Broomfield Park.

It was felt that for the Recreation Ground there needed to be a mix of dynamic and static equipment particularly as it would be unlikely that parents with children who were playing on the children's play equipment would at the same time want to exercise on a static pod similar to that in Broomfield Park.

It was agreed to recommend to the Finance Group that a sum of £15,000 be placed in the Councils budget for the financial year 2023/24; this being the £10,000 from the grant, plus the £2,000 of recoverable VAT monies and an additional £3,000 for other adult outdoor gym equipment.

Disregarding any monies coming from CIL it was also agreed to recommend to the Finance Group that a figure of £3,000 replaced in next year's budget to cover the replacement of the fire engine Springer and remedial works to safety surfacing in the Recreation Ground.

A total allocation of £18,000.

As regards Water End it was considered that when the CIL monies were available the play equipment and the safety servicing should be relocated further away from the beck, especially as in the future it is hoped to re-profile the beck. The swings and climbing frame at Water End would therefore in due course become redundant; these being well over 50 years old and the safety surface tiles in the present location would always be susceptible to floodwaters and would require regular expensive maintenance.

Perhaps in the future the opportunity could be taken for wooden play equipment to be installed at Water End.

Also agreed that no monies be allocated in next years budget for the new housing estates in the North Northallerton Development as it would be for those communities to liaise with all residents in order to see what the majority would like installed.

As the Awards for All grant was received in September it was considered that all final decisions need to be agreed in time for the meeting of the Finance Group on the 12th December.

Councillor Hazelwood has been asked to use his knowledge and expertise to help to find a best preferred mix of static pod / dynamic adult outdoor gym equipment and to advise who the Council should approach in order to achieve best value for money. Aiming at what he would consider would be used by adults in the Recreation Ground.

(vii) Pedestrian/Cycleway Joint NTC/BTC Working Group.

A meeting is to be held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 15th November to discuss –

1. Objectives of the Group
2. Outcome of Previous Meeting (19/08/22)
3. Matters arising Since Previous Meeting
 - Each Council to provide brief update
 - Meeting with Head of Transport Planning, NYCC
4. Northallerton Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan: Phase 2 Project Report (Confidential)
 - Background
 - Discussion on NYCC draft proposals
 - Form of response
 - Involvement of County Councillors
 - Resident consultation
 - Surveys
 - Events
5. Next Steps

7. PLANNING MATTERS – To consider the applications for planning permission received since the last Council meeting –

(i) Decisions.

22/00739/FUL - Application for change of use of land for an additional 6no Gypsy/Traveller pitches comprising 6 no. static caravans, 6no day rooms, 6no touring caravans, and associated works (as amended - additional documents received on 11.10.2022 and 17.10.2022) – Land to the rear of The Workshop, Stokesley Road - Refused.

22/02169/FUL - Conversion of existing Garage to form a Dining Area and Store – 12 Carmelite Close - Granted

(ii) Applications.

None received to date.

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

None

Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	384.24
P Atkin (Expenses)	****
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
Mrs C Huang (8 hours sweeping)	80.00
CE + CM Walker (October grasscutting)	914.40
Sam Turner & Sons (Poly bags, broom etc)	23.20
Brompton Methodist Church (Room Hire – May to November)	180.00
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges - August)	24.91*
Hambleton District Council (Pest control at the allotments)	59.63

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £89,743.3

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £13.20

RECOMMENDED - That the accounts listed above be approved for payment.

External Audit.

The Council has been informed all Councils in North, South and West Yorkshire will continue to have PKF Littlejohn LLP as their external auditor.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including Notification of Road Closures and 20's Plenty Branch Meeting.

This was very long, nearly two hour, poorly attended meeting probably due to it being half term.

The success of the Harrogate Constituency Area Committee in moving the 20's Plenty initiative forward with the County Council was reported.

An outline was given of the recent 20's Plenty National Conference.

A representative of Oxfordshire County Council had attended the Conference and had reported that all that to Parish Councils except two in the county had come on board with the 20 mph speed limit which would be rolled out over the County during the next three years. The change of the Councils position on the matter had come about when there have been a change of political composition at the top.

The Leader of Oxfordshire County Council in giving a presentation at the Conference gave an explanation as to why that authority had decided to proceed with a default 20 mph speed limit which had been massively popular with the public and would start with a rollout program firstly for town Councils and then for the villages. The public had been keen to see that the local areas were safe to walk and cycle.

The Conference also received a presentation concerning the current position adopted by the Welsh Government which had pursued the Future Generations Act which has the ethos of being “active today to prevent things going badly tomorrow”, with 20mph being a part of that.

The Welsh Government has adopted three priorities - 1. To reduce no traffic - 2. To increase public transport - and 3. To make behaviour change.

It was emphasised that highways must provide for people not just cars and that North Yorkshire Highways could learn from this.

In Oxfordshire there had been significant opposition from bus operators, however they did not subsequently come up with any evidence and it was seen that 70% of bus times tables were wrong and that 20mph improved traffic slow with within six weeks the opposition having died down.

In Oxfordshire any 30mph limit is now eligible for 20mph and no funding has been provided for any heavy engineering works.

‘Hold your nerve’ has been a message given to the Conference from Wales.

The situation in Wales will be that after September 2023 the exception to the new 20 policy would be for those areas where it was considered that a 30 speed limit would be appropriate as the exception.

There would also be a pollution monitoring for the 20 and 30mph zones with 20 mph zones becoming redundant. Rather than giving out penalty tickets the Welsh Police are undertaking education of speeding drivers by involving schoolchildren and this was making a large impact.

A video presentation was given to the Branch meeting about the views of local people in their community (is there really a village called St Dogmeals?) in Wales after the 20 mph speed limit had been introduced and these were all positive comments with people feeling safer, the area feeling calmer, with traffic obeying the new speed limit; children been able to go out to play on their own and all without the introduction of physical traffic calming measures such as speed ramps.

The Conference had advised that the Branches should not take too much time and effort in answering misinformation as many of the opponents of the initiative were unlikely to change their view and therefore not to get sidetracked by a small number of people but to put efforts into promoting the initiative. Also to use social media as a promotion platform rather than to ascertain how many people were following the initiative.

Fuel efficiency is highest between 15 and 20mph and NoX and CO2 are minimal at 20 mph.

It was mentioned that there was an intention in Scotland to follow Wales therefore England could do the same and it was considered that approaches should therefore be made to MPs.

It was thought that a second North Yorkshire Constituency Area Committee could soon follow the decision of Harrogate.

In total there are six North Yorkshire Area Constituency Committees but it was pointed out that the Opposition parties were not necessarily voting together. The Richmond Constituency Area Committee would perhaps be the most difficult to gain support for 20mph as the 15 Member Committee consisted of 13 Conservatives, well above all other Area Committees.

The decision of the Harrogate Constituency Area Committee would now go forward to the County Councils Transport and Environment Scrutiny committee for consideration in January 2023 and then to the County Council for all Councillors to vote on it.

The North Yorkshire campaign was concentrating on making the highway network more efficient for everybody. With 129 Parishes giving support further promotion at that level was not necessary and efforts should now be made on influencing County Council Cabinet Members and other County Councillors, in particular concentrating on the areas in which Cabinet Members live rather than the parishes they represent. The National Organisers has expressed a wish to address Cabinet Members in order to prove how inexpensive 20's Plenty is.

It was also pointed out that CIL monies could be used to implement 20's Plenty.

In addition it was noted that the Irish Government was intending to take the matter forward.

It was considered that every Area Committee should be given an opportunity to put on the presentation that had recently provided to the Harrogate Area Committee by the Branch organiser.

The National Campaign Coordinator who was present at the meeting said that action needed to be taken to urge the County Council to put monies, probably initially £1m, into the 20's Plenty initiative at the current budget round. If such monies were not included in the County Councils budget this would delay the campaign for another year. It was suggested that in order to persuade County Councillors to include these monies in the County Council budget the video presentation made at the recent Conference be forward it to all County Councillors at a meeting(s) and the request be made to the Conservative Group so that they have a mandate from their Party to put the money in the budget.

It was pointed out that the County Council could fund a £1m from its transport budget over 2 to 3 years.

It was suggested that the campaign should focus on the Executive and the Conservative Councillors as it would be those who would in affect be agreeing the next years budget.

One of the ways in which the campaign has been successful in other areas has been in focusing on Action Zero which means zero fatalities and zero serious injuries, to which North Yorkshire County Council was already signed up to.

The Branch meeting therefore considered that it's immediate priority was to persuade the County Council to allocate £1m in its budget for phase 1 of the 20's Plenty initiative.

It was pointed out that just because there was a lack of funding didn't mean that the County Council stop filling in potholes and this was the same argument with 20mph.

The Clerk reported that BTC had submitted its case for 20mph in the Parish to County Councillor Keane Duncan the County Councils Portfolio Holder for transport and to the local County Councillor Stephen Watson.

To date a response has been received from Keane Duncan but disappointingly it merely confirmed that he would refer the request to the County Councils highways officers.

Councillor Stephen Watson has been requested to place the matter on the agenda for the meeting of the Richmond Constituency Area Committee to be held on the 26th November but to date he has not responded.

Those present at the meeting considered that the Branch should target the Area Committees, the Conservative County Councillors and Councillors of other political groups and suggested that a presentation from the Branch be made to them at their meetings.

It was also suggested that this should be done at a forthcoming meeting of the full County Council however it was decided not to proceed with that as if the County Council as a whole voted against the issue then that would in reality be the end of the matter.

The Chairman of the Richmond Constituency Area Committee was present at the meeting is supportive of 20's Plenty.

A suggestion received from Keane Duncan that side road in villages may be appropriate for 20 mph was not considered to be appropriate since this would involve expenditure on hundreds of new signs with an enormous cost. The blanket approach being undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council was considered to be far better than a street by street approach.

The overall intention would be to reduce all 30 mph areas to 20 mph and all 40 mph areas to 30 mph.

The County Councils Transport Officer had dedicated that he had identified a budget for 20 mph but had not indicated what the amount of that budget was.

The next meeting of the branch is scheduled to be held virtually on Thursday 24th November 2022 at 7:30 pm.

10. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

Following the last Council meeting Mr Walker the grasscutter informed the Clerk that he had cut the wild life area to the same height that he had cut it last year and with the same rotary cutter. He has asked that full instructions as to how the Council wants him to carry out the grasscutting in the next season be sent to him immediately after the February Council meeting.

An account has been opened with Braithwaites of Leeming Bar and trees that have previously been agreed are now being ordered.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – Other than referred to elsewhere on the agenda.

(i) Devolution.

A consultation is being launched for the public to have their say on what they believe are the priorities for devolution, and to gather views on how the proposed deal is to be implemented.

While the consultation will not change the actual detail of the proposed deal, it is vital that people give their opinions to help ensure that the life-changing opportunities from devolution are achieved.

Devolution is a key policy of the Government, handing over decision-making powers to local political leaders and providing millions of pounds in funding to shape hugely important policies and projects on a regional level.

The deal for York and North Yorkshire would see the introduction of an influential mayor who would become a figurehead for the region and forge close links with the Government.

The new mayor, who would be elected in May 2024 if the proposed deal comes to fruition, would lead a new powerful combined authority that would oversee strategic projects ranging from major transport improvements and boosting skills and education to providing more affordable housing.

The planned 30-year agreement includes an investment fund of more than £540 million for York and North Yorkshire. Coupled with other funding secured from the Government, the proposed deal represents a total of £750 million.

The consultation with the public, which begins on Friday, October 21, and runs until Friday, December 16, will provide an important chance to gather views on what priorities should be focused on through devolution.

The consultation will involve face-to-face events across all seven district areas in North Yorkshire, and will also employ the media to convey the importance of the conversation, which falls under the Let's Talk banner.

To secure a devolution deal, the Government has stipulated that a key requirement for North Yorkshire is for the current two-tier system of local government, with the county council and seven district/borough councils, to be replaced by a single unitary authority.

City of York Council will continue as a unitary authority to run in tandem with the new North Yorkshire Council, which will launch on April 1 next year.

The consultation will run from Friday October 21 until Friday, December 16, and details can be accessed at www.ynydevolution.com online.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Including (i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council – 13th December 2022.

13. BURIAL MATTERS.

Another enquiry has been received regarding the pre-purchase of an ashes plot.

A request has been received for the Burial Board to re-erect a headstone that has been laid flat for some time. The matter is to be referred to the Finance Group for consideration.