

COUNCIL – 14 MAY 2018

STATEMENT BY CLLR BILL CHATT CABINET MEMBER PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

The various capital improvements to Woodland Crematorium and cemetery have now been completed. This includes an excellent new extended waiting room (known as the “Garden Room”) with a larger TV monitor and improved sound system for visitors to view and listen to chapel services; a network of new footpaths and external lighting; new tarmac surface directly outside the cemetery entrance to act as an overspill car park and a new improved and upgraded “Wesley” musical and video tribute system. Further work to upgrade the existing CCTV system is due to be completed sometime this month.

£5,000 was recently donated to Sands still birth and neonatal death charity as a result of the team’s metals recycling scheme.

A “Dying Matters” event will be held on 16 May 2018 from 10am to 4.30pm at Woodlands Crematorium to raise awareness of dying, death and bereavement. Various presentations will be organised and tours of the crematorium will take place. All welcome.

HOUSING

Members will be aware that the proposed merger between Yorkshire Coast Homes (YCH) and Coast and Country Housing Association was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and then Cabinet in April. Whilst I am of course saddened that in recent years YCH have not been able to develop as a sustainable independent organisation, I am positive that, on balance, the merger is the best thing for both organisations. The focus of the Council through this process has been on trying to negotiate the best deal for us that will protect the interests of tenants, residents and the Council going forward. This deal is contained within a new Commitments Agreement that sets out how the Council and the new organisation will work together in future years. I am grateful to the hard work of Interim CEO at YCH and officers throughout this process to get us to our current position.

I am pleased to report on the excellent service the White Rose Home Improvement Agency has provided to residents across the Borough and Ryedale over the last 12 months. In total 270 large scale adaptations were undertaken in the Borough in the financial year and a further 165 in Ryedale. Both Councils are unique in that we fully spent our funding allocations from Government. Over £1.5M in funding was spent within the Borough in 2017/18. In addition over 2000 small scale adaptations and well-being visits were undertaken by the Handyperson and Well Being Services. I would also like to remind Members that this service is cost neutral to the Council. Funding cuts

across North Yorkshire have created significant gaps in service for the other districts, however within this area our service is both sustainable and provides excellent value for money.

As at the end of financial year 142 new affordable were developed in the Borough. This was in line with our targets. Examples of completed schemes included the final phase at Helredale and St Peters Road in Whitby. Nearly all these homes are rented accommodation. This financial year we project around 180 further completions including the provision of 30 new older person units on the Braeburn House site at Eastfield.

Three organisations are currently being supported through the Community Led Housing scheme: St Hilda's Almshouses in Hinderwell, Lealholm Community Housing Group and Yorkshire Coast Sight Support based in Scarborough. The three proposals are all entirely different: one an existing accommodation provider, one a new group established specifically to deliver locally led housing and the third an organisation providing supported living for people with sight impairment. This provides the Council with an opportunity to see how the scheme works across different areas of housing need.

OPERATIONS, TRANSPORT AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

I am pleased with the introduction of our new PSPO covering dog related offences. Since its introduction in January the wardens have already caught five individuals. The new stiffer penalties should demonstrate our commitment to challenging this behaviour. Our results are published online and I would encourage councillors and the public to view this information to share the work of the team.

I am also pleased to report that nearly 60% of garden waste subscribers have chosen to sign up online. This is by far the quickest and easiest way to sign up, by encouraging people to sign up via our website we can reduce call waiting times for this and other important Council services. Despite the cold and wet start to the season uptake for this year has been encouraging.

MARKETS

Scarborough Market Hall & Vaults

A new Market Superintendent (Market Manager) has now been appointed to the Regeneration Service to manage and oversee the day to day running of the market.

Overall Scarborough Market continues to attract new traders with a high volume of interest presently being shown, especially in Vaults Units. Occupancy in the main Market Hall has dropped due to the recent departure of one of the butchers (occupying 3 units) however new tenants are being proactively pursued. Present occupancy levels are as follows:

Market Vaults	90%
Mezzanine	100%
Market Hall	62%
Overall	85%

The Market Hall has recently been host to a number of cultural events including a 12 night run of the much lauded play *A Scarborough Tale*, two nights of a play *Chip Shop Chips*, a number of musical events and gigs and a Wedding Fayre. The venue is proving increasingly popular for cultural activity which in turn is exposing the venue to new customers. More events, including an antiques fair are being arranged to attract new casual traders and further drive footfall over the summer period.

Whitby Market

A comprehensive strategic review of Whitby market, encompassing all aspects of its operation and performance is now underway. The recommendations of this work will be completed over the coming weeks and reported to Members in due course. The review will aim to balance current and potential revenues from the market by examining alternative models of operation and management, as well as its wider function as a cultural and socio-economic asset to the town and borough.