

Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister Parish Report

Fearby & Healey : January 26

Community Partnership (Ripon)

The Transport & Connectivity Working Group met this month and we reviewed all existing/underused bus routes and new routes to put forward for consideration for a new raft of funding that has been announced. We also asked the wider partnership to contribute to this. I have written to the Mayor setting out the routes we want him to consider supporting when the funding is put in place.

We will also be reviewing CIL and s106 funding across the area, to identify what has been allocated and remains unspent or has not been delivered. The Infrastructure Business Plan for CIL was approved at the December Executive meeting, so this will be reviewed by the group.

Local Transport Plan Community Group

The Mayor has asked for residents to apply to join this group, which will help develop the new local transport plan. <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/local-transport-plan-community-group/>

Two members of the Uredale Transport & Connectivity group have put themselves forward for this, but please can you encourage your residents to take part. It's very important the rural perspective is represented. The deadline is Thursday 5th February.

Boundary Commission

The final decision has now been published, and can be found here : <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-yorkshire>

There will be three Ripon divisions. Masham & Fountains is changing with the addition of West Tanfield, but becoming overall smaller as Parishes to the south of Ripon have been removed. This is all taking effect from May 27.

Highways

I have not been advised of any issues.

Funding

January's issue of the Rural Funding Digest can be found here : <https://rsnonline.org.uk/rural-funding-digest-january-2026> This is a useful resource for those needing to fundraise

Ripon LCWAIP cycle route (Ripon to Fountains)

I have been chasing for the report on this, as it was due in November. I have been advised that additional funding may be available to go towards whatever works are recommended in the report.

I have been in touch with the Mayoral Active Travel Commissioner to ask about funding available to support this route.

Garden Waste Collection

From 13 January, residents can pay for their licence for the 2026 [garden waste collection service](#).

A licence for the 2026 season costs £52 for collections between March and early December. This provides a cost-effective way for people to dispose of garden waste.

The licence covers one 240-litre wheelie bin to be emptied fortnightly. Anyone who wants to have more than one bin emptied, will need to pay for a licence for each additional bin. Residents can also pay for a licence at any time throughout the season but are encouraged to do so before the start of the service in March as the cost will remain the same.

Once paid, a licence pack should arrive within 14 days.

Residents can [pay for a licence online](#), which is straightforward and takes just a few minutes to complete. Alternatively, they can pay by telephone or we would be happy to help them complete the form in person at one of our offices or at a local library.

Anyone who doesn't wish to use the service can take their garden waste to one of the [household waste and recycling centres](#) or [compost at home](#). They can also purchase a home compost bin for as little as £15 (plus delivery).

Connectivity

I have written to Julian Smith MP to ask for support in terms of establishing where the mobile phone operators are planning on improving mobile connectivity. There are currently six villages in my division that are current "hot-spots":

- Low Ellington
- Sawley

- Ilton
- Healey
- Grewelthorpe
- Azerley
- Markington

Along with the sparsely populated areas more generally without signal.

I also spoke to Gareth Elliott at mobileuk.org last week. This is the organisation that represents the mobile phone operators. The target of 95% geographic coverage, under the terms of the Shared Rural Network, has been met by the mobile phone operators. I think this explains why the Ox Close mast has not progressed. This leaves the geographic 5% with little or no coverage. I use this site to zoom into our part of the world to find the "not spots" :

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d306ef06af114f0582032b3f77137922/page/Mobile-Not-Spots>

The situation, he explained, is that the Shared Rural Network has now come to an end. This would explain why, just outside Fearby, planning was obtained for a mast but there are no current plans for one to be installed, which is frustrating. Mobile operators are waiting for central government to make an announcement on what is planned for the remaining "not-spots". Gareth's view is that the government did not spend all that was allocated for the SRN and that there should be funding available. I have written to Baroness Lloyd, Minister for Digital Economy, (on behalf of the Uredale Partnership) asking her to support and fund a further phase of investment to deliver coverage to the remaining "not spots" and 5% of geographic coverage. I have asked Julian Smith to lend support on this.

At the same time, Vodafone, 3 and O2 are all working on satellite technology, to provide a signal without a mast. This may end up being a solution.

It remains the case that houses that have smart meters that cannot be connected can, via Julian Smith MP, be put in touch with DCC who are able to find alternate solutions – the radio signal is poor in this area, and where mobile signal is an option this can be arranged. Where neither are available, using the house's broadband might be an option. Residents just need to contact me and I can put them in touch. Fountains PC have put together a very helpful sheet for their residents which sets out all the information that needs to be provided to DCC, they are happy for me to share this.

NYC Budget

It is currently proposed that Council Tax will increase by 4.99% in the next financial year. This will create an increase in revenue by £25M. At the same time anticipated spend is increasing by £27M, and funding has fallen by £19M. This means a deficit is anticipated of £17M. Proposed budgets are being reviewed at the moment, with a Full Council budget meeting in February.

Tourism Tax

In light of proposals to introduce a tourism tax on visitors to the area, can I encourage all those that feel they might be impacted by this (positively or negatively) or have a view on how it should be administered (if at all) to contribute to the national consultation :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/overnight-visitor-levy-in-england> I have fed back comment from several hoteliers in the area to Visit North Yorkshire's team at NYC and am happy to engage further in this way. It is important that this tax does not become a burden to administer, and that the funds raised remain available to be spent in the areas where they are raised - to mitigate the impact of tourism and provide funding where needed by local residents.

Community Led Housing

I am continuing to work with Howard Mountain towards establishing a CLH Trust with a view to purchasing the Kell Bank school site, and then other redundant sites within Mashamshire, to convert into community owned housing that is genuinely affordable housing to local residents. If anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee or helping in an advisory capacity, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Planning Enforcement Policy consultation

A six week public consultation has started.

<https://northyorks-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>

This is regarding the proposed draft Local Planning Enforcement Plan for North Yorkshire Council which will replace the existing Local Enforcement Plan (LEP) or similar documents from the legacy Borough/District/County Council's.

The draft LPEP outlines the Council's proposed draft approach to Planning Enforcement ensuring that it is fair and equitable to residents, business and customers across the North Yorkshire Council area. This will assist in the delivery of a clear and consistent approach to planning enforcement.

The LPEP explains how the Council intends to deliver the planning enforcement service, outlining what a breach of planning control is, what action can be taken, with reference to the main legislative framework and government guidance. The Council's Planning Enforcement team are seeking views and comments on the proposed draft LPEP through a formal consultation process.

Executive Meeting

The Executive are meeting next week. The Agenda is here :

<https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1147&MId=19606>

They will be considering a new pricing structure for access and membership to NYC leisure centres. In some areas this will be an increase, but not all.

They will also be considering introducing a charge at public toilets. I will be asking them to consider how concessions can be introduced for those who are less able to pay, and also how Parish Councils, should they so chose, can take on the running costs in return for taking the revenue raised. This would probably need to be after a period of time, to allow enough data to be collected on usage/revenue raised.

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