

## NYCC REPORT 2019/20

This is a snapshot of the work at NYCC for the stated year, starting with the items of concern:

### **SOCIAL CARE**

Care of the disabled and older people. NYCC on the whole does a good job in it's Extra Care Housing which now has a centre in most of the market towns in the County, but concern has been expressed in some quarters about the actual care delivered. This is being monitored and improved where needed. Money is at the root of this service's difficulties and this must be addressed in the near future by national government as it is country wide issue.

### **SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION**

Education in the County isn't producing the results in our schools that it was in the past. Again a careful eye is watching this and plans put in place to bring about the improvements needed. Of course we now have several primary and secondary schools that have taken on the status of academies and these are no longer controlled or supported financially by the Authority. School heads feel that again more money is needed to help raise standards, and more money has been paid into their budgets. But remember all salaries have also risen substantially in the last few years.

### **HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Also home to school transport, particularly for young people with learning and physical disabilities. A lot of consideration and time has been put into this by the County professionals, and careful consultation with the parents and carers of these young people is taking, and has taken place. I feel it is now moving in the right direction. The costs of delivering this transport are massive because of the size and rurality of our County. I am pleased to tell you that very recently work has been done by the House of Lords, and the report just published recognises that rural counties such as ours, have been substantially under-funded in the past by all governments. What will be done about this is still to be seen.

### **HIGHWAYS, POTHOLES AND SPEEDING**

These problems take place in most of our villages and always seem to be at the top of local councils' agenda, and very understandably in this Division. Many of our roads are hazardous to users and this is being regularly drawn to the attention of the Highways Department by both the parish councils and myself. Any work done to maintain our highways and byways has to be considered across the County as a whole, and prioritised by the professional engineers. This is frustrating locally, but we will get our turn before long.

### **OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS**

Devolution has, as you may have noticed or read, has been kicked into the long grass for the time being, and it won't return until Brexit is settled one way or another.

We still have big savings to make year on year due to the lack of government grants,

but we are now finding profitable ways around this, which is enabling us to remain one of the lowest taxing county councils in England.

This leads however to what the Authority has and is doing well. We are now working in partnership with Selby and Ryedale District Councils and also Scarborough Borough Council on several new levels which is saving council tax, and it is hoped that other districts and borough councils will eventually understand the benefits and the savings this can deliver.

Further, and connected to this work are several tackle companies set up by NYCC to take forward building affordable housing, deal with waste and deliver Broadband phase 3. These are not all new, but the benefits from working this way are becoming more understood by other authorities. Work on delivering other services this way is underway and the profits raised will be fed back into the tackle companies to benefit the council tax payers.

Just before I finish I would like to say a word or two about VAS – Vehicular Activated Signs. These can now be purchased by parish councils through NYCC if there is a speeding problem in the parish area. These are expensive and the costs of insulation and maintenance will have to be borne by the parish.

This is the second year out of four in this council term, and I personally think it has gone well and has a lot of promise for the future.

And finally, the 2 grants, Locality Budget Grants, that I hold for this Division are again to be awarded this year. One is for the social and economic benefit of villages and their inhabitants, and the other is for the benefit of our environment. Both these grants are mainly dealt with through the parish councils. The grants I hold are each for £5,000 and sums over £300 can be applied for by contacting myself, they are then scrutinised by NYCC and if OK awarded. They are also time limited because they must be spent within the year.

Thank you.

Caroline Patmore

May 2019