

Mayor Diary - Boroughbridge - March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

Well it's a week of updates and small news snippets. Firstly, I received my reply from Yorkshire Water with regards to the recent sewage flooding and an explanation on how they are going to future proof the system in preparation for almost 700 new homes. Disappointed and annoyed does not come close on reading the letter. Obviously written under instruction by someone who has no operational or technical experience whatsoever in the hope we go away. I will discuss with the Council at the next meeting and respond accordingly. However, I have received very good support from Harrogate Borough Councils Environmental Protection Department. They too are dismayed and concerned at YW's response and actions considering the potential impact on the environment and future impact on the town. To that end they have helped to co-ordinate an urgent meeting with one of their representatives next week. I will keep you informed.

I have been speaking to local residents this week about the increasing amount of dog waste on our streets and public open spaces. I have spoken with the dog warden who has been on some patrols in the Town. The down side to this problem is that unless people are prepared to report the dog owners when seen it is almost an impossible task to deal with the offenders. Maybe the Council could look at some incentive for people to report these inconsiderate owners.

The Council have still not received any answer from the Police Commissioner as to whether or not the Boroughbridge Police Station is to be closed this year. I suppose the only way we will know is when it does!

I think I was disappointed to see only 14 comments from the Boroughbridge area on the proposals for us to come out of the parliamentary constituency of Harrogate and join Selby and Ainsty on the Boundaries Commission web site. If this change takes place the impact of us could be quite considerable. You can now view and make comments on those submissions during the final consultation period. Please take a look on [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk).

Whilst on consultation issues you also have an opportunity to air your views on the maintenance of our public rights of way. There is less money available so maintenance will be carried out on a 4-scale risk management basis. My fear is that in time funding will be eroded so much it will be up to local Parish Councils to fund their maintenance. Or worse still we will lose them altogether. Please take a look and have your say on the NYCC website

I called in to the Council office on Wednesday morning as all the volunteers that man the tourist information office were gathered to sort their rota's out for the coming tourist season. I thanked them for their time and commitment as they play a vital role in keeping the town alive and vibrant. Well done folks. I also understand they are happy for a couple more volunteers to join their team so if you are interested please contact the Council Office on Hall Square.

On a very different note Pauline and I were delighted to be invited to the installation of Jim Vauvert as Prime Warden of Mace bearers in Ripon Cathedral on Thursday. Mace Bearers and Town Crier's from across the UK were present for the occasion.

On a final note the Ripon Gazette and Boroughbridge Herald has taken some criticism in the past for the lack of Boroughbridge News. For our part, the Mayors have tried to keep you up to date with as much news as we can. Now it is your chance. The paper is looking for someone to compile a community column each week to keep everyone informed of events and activities. Can you do that? If you think you can then get in touch with the News Paper direct or our Council Office in Hall Square.