

## Mayors Diary – Boroughbridge September 11 2017

Well it has been a busy week with surrounding developments in the area being the main focus of attention. On Tuesday's council meeting we welcomed Gareth Owen to our planning meeting where he gave a good concise presentation of the latest development plans for the motorway services just North West of Kirby Hill. The latest changes included further moving eastwards of the A168 to accommodate a large construction site for the development and a staff access point on the Ripon road. Our response as a consultee to this application was to reject it on several grounds. Unfortunately, there was a public meeting in Marton Cum Grafton to hear about proposals for the Sugar beet factory at Allerton Park on the same night as our council meeting. However, following our planning meeting Sean Hynes hurried along to Marton Cum Grafton to attend their meeting on the town council's behalf. Once again, our council is giving support to the rejection of this proposal. The traffic movements alone will have a great impact on Boroughbridge. For further information and online petition details [www.stopthebeetfactory.co.uk](http://www.stopthebeetfactory.co.uk)

I make no apologies for mentioning these items again as they will impact greatly on our community. I can also reassure people that our council is doing all it can to support our neighbouring parishes. I must also point out that our town council is not a planning authority. We are a consultee in the planning process. If a councillor sits on a planning committee which one of our councillors does, then they cannot make public comment as it will jeopardise their ability to vote at any planning meeting. People power is important, social media comments do not count as objections. You need to use your voice on the advertised websites or the Harrogate Planning public access portal. I am sure these items will not quickly be resolved or go away.

Moving on, we had a packed agenda for our following council meeting which started with two concerned residents being given time to speak with regards to their concerns about antisocial behaviour in the Tutt Woodland. The council agreed to work together to find a solution.

Other items on the agenda include looking at ways in which we can work closer with our Chamber of Trade to improve our web directory information in promoting the town. The council agreed to write to the commanding officer of 6th Regiment based at Dishforth to offer them the Freedom of the Town. This is provisionally planned for April next year.

One topic that will affect the way we all collect and store data is the new General Data Protection Regulations which will be enforceable next May. The council will need to review its current policies to comply with the new regulations, not an easy task. Our transport group are looking at ways in which the Highways Authority can assist us in making Horsefair safer for all concerned.

Further facts on the proposed Sugar Beet Factory that will have an effect on the Boroughbridge community - taken from meeting on the 5th of September @ Marton Cum Grafton

If the plant is built in the proposed location it will:

- Cover 161 acres (130 football pitches).
- Operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, resulting in 3,400 two-way lorry trips per day, causing diesel pollution and traffic chaos all along the A59, A168 and as far as the York ring road.
- Result in a potential sickly-sweet smell affecting a wide area with the additional risk of a 'bad eggs' smell from poisonous hydrogen sulphide produced by the cleaning process.
- Include 4 silos, each silo is taller than York Minster and twice the width of its front elevation.
- Affect land that provides habitat for wetland birds, wild flower meadows and nearby otters.
- Affect the setting of Allerton Castle and nearby conservation areas, having a negative impact on tourism employment.
- Be highly visible from Sutton Bank, Harrogate District and beyond, spoiling countryside views.

The site selected by Al Khaleej is not suitable for a number of environmental and economic reasons and other brownfield locations make far more sense. The land is being sold by North Yorkshire County Council without regard to the environmental and social cost to their residents and we would urge you to support our campaign.