

Mayors Diary Boroughbridge Monday 12th February 2018

When I was re-elected back on to the Town Council two years ago I was somewhat disappointed to discover that the towns CCTV cameras were about to be switched off by Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) with no plan in place to either challenge that decision or offer up any alternatives. We managed to negotiate a two year stay of execution! The towns CCTV system was installed over 15 years ago with lots of help from local funds and businesses with Northern Powergrid kindly laying the ducting for the cables as they renewed high voltage cables through the town. The system was then handed to HBC for monitoring and upkeep. However after 15 years of use the word finally came from HBC at the end of 2017 that the system would be de-commissioned on the 1st April 2018. We have asked for a little more time but the answer was a straight no. The reason that HBC give for turning off our system is under use, but I rather think it is more about saving money. Disappointing as I think Harrogate is conveniently forgetting its principle townships and taking a policy of self preservation. It needs to remember that we are one of its "gateways" in to their spa town.

So as you can imagine trying to secure a new state of the art CCTV system is a complicated process to ensure that all the safeguarding, security, and data protection issues are put in place. Not to mention the design, creating a specification and then if agreed going out to tender. The Town Council is now in a position to ask you, the public, if you think we need to invest in a new system. It will encompass the latest high definition digital technology, with the nerve centre being kept in a secure part of the council office. If such a system is given the go ahead it will not be monitored but the police will have quick and easy access to review footage that will be collected on the systems hard drive. The councils aim is to ensure that Boroughbridge remains a safe, secure and pleasurable place to be giving our residents and visitors that reassurance of feeling safe.

So now to play your part. In the next few weeks information and survey leaflets will be dropping through your door. They will be delivered by hand, so please bear with us. Your comments are appreciated as this will of course cost a large amount of money, your money. The survey can be done online, just click the appropriate tabs on the council website www.boroughbridge.org.uk. The closing date for comments is March 31st.

Just a few updates on other projects. Planning permission has now been submitted for the demolishing of the Water Rats building. Designs and the positioning of the bus shelter are being negotiated. The HGV restriction sign's are now out to contract for installing so should be up soon. Safety cameras continue to be a visible presence on Wetherby Road following numerous complaints of speeding down that road and Horsefair. And to conclude this week I have just been informed by Linden homes that they are running behind schedule with the resurfacing of the lane down to the marina. They hope to be laying the final surface by February 16th.