

Statement by the Cabinet Member for Partnerships

10 April 2012

Portas Pilots an Invitation to become a Town Team

The Government is looking for 12 Pilot schemes Country wide and are offering successful bidders grant funding of up to £100k. The deadline for applications is 30 March 2012. I received my notification of the scheme on 6 February 2012 so time is of the essence.

The Government through the Department for Communities and local Government invited local partnerships to pilot some of the ideas set out in the Portas Review, Particularly the creation of a Town Team that can help drive innovation in the way the high street is managed. Ideally the town team will be made up of a wide range of local interests including Businesses, Chamber of Trade, Town Council, Area Partnerships and Elected Members. A pilot bid will be submitted for Bedale.

Why Bedale.

The applications have to be in by 30th March there is strong Engagement at Bedale with Businesses, Chamber of Tourism +Trade, Town Council and Area Partnership. There is also a clear vision in the existing Bedale masterplan.

The Town Faces Major challenge with the building of the relief road and would seek to design and secure options on the proposed gateway car park.

Further work is needed to promote Bedale as a destination including the development of the market and the whole visitor experience.

We know that every high street is unique and will have different issues and priorities but each Pilot is free to determine its own priorities.

I will keep you informed in the Members' Bulletins of any progress made.

World of James Herriot

The transfer to a community group of the WOJH should now be finalised as at 1st April. Cabinet agreed to the business plan at the 24th January 2012 meeting.

Toilets

All asset transfers have now been completed and the Northallerton Applegarth toilets are now being marketed for sale.

Footway Lighting

A Public Lighting Replacement value for money statement was presented at the 20th March 2012 Cabinet meeting.

Concrete columns replacement for steel columns and replacement of the mercury based filament unit lamps to a 42 watt lantern will give efficiency gains.

HDC will be looking at street light Energy reduction programme in partnership with NYCC and this is programmed to start in May 2013.

CCTV Upgrade

Following the decision by Cabinet in February to upgrade the CCTV Control Room equipment from analogue to digital, the next step is to draw up a specification for the upgrade which can be sent out for tender. Specialist help will be obtained for the specification to ensure that the funding is used to best effect. It is anticipated that the project will go out to tender in April.

Councillor Tim Swales
Cabinet Member for Partnerships