

22 July 2014

Cabinet Announcement

Councillor Bridget Fortune

- Attended the North Yorkshire & York Youth Games on Sunday 29th June at Escrick School, near Selby. Hambleton were well represented by young people from all over the District playing; tag rugby, modern pentathlon, rounders, golf, football, swimming, netball and tennis. We must give credit to Louise Walton who, on behalf of the Council played two roles; One in organising the event itself, the other in co-ordinating the District's teams participation in the event.
- I followed on from that event to support our Food Festival in Northallerton, which was heaving and I have to say it was a lovely atmosphere. When I drove through the high street to this even, I had to pinch myself as it was so busy it could have been a busy market day, I trust that the stores that were open all felt some of the prosperity that seemed to be in abundance at that food festival (everyone appeared to have a bag with something or other in it. Well done once again to Nicky Smith, Peter Cole and the rest of the people involved with this successful venture.
- In the week following this North Yorkshire & York cycle event was held at the York Sports Village, Hambleton had four teams in this: two from Stokesley, one from Thirsk and one Disability/learning difficulties team.
- The 18 months planning behind the Tour De France coming to West Tanfield came to fruition on July 5th. The village has to be commended on its efforts to organise a festival around the Tour De France on a day when the population of 500 rose to around 12000 !! A day to remember, I spoke to people from America, Japan and many other parts of the UK. Who were absolutely bowled over to have not just one or even two Royals present, But all three, who were so relaxed as they mingled with the spectators that it was amazing. The visitors praised our organisation and the support our staff had given to making this day so special.
- As part of the Tour De France legacy work, Sky Rides have been organised to encourage beginners to take up cycling- 3 have already taken place with an average of 15 people attending each ride. This is sponsored by Sky TV, and it is to encourage beginners to get out and use the local lanes for cycling.
- Also a Cycle Ability Day was held on 28th June at Hambleton leisure Centre—more than 50 budding cyclists attended, where they were able to try out 25 specially adapted bikes ranging from hand cranks, recumbent bikes, and tricycles to wheelchair transporters. Joe Mckecknie; from HDC being instrumental in all of this, another jewel in our crown.
- To date we have offered grants worth £ 78, 475.75 to 49 different organisations under the Councils Community Grant Schemes—the details of this are in Council Talk.

- On the 24th June “Take that Step” was launched—a new lifestyle service—funded by North Yorkshire County Council Public Health and Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group—the contract being worth over £150,000 over two years. This is managed by Lisa Wilson (yet another of our committed staff). The Council will run this new service which aims to combat obesity across the district to people referred to us by their Gp’s.

- Customer Service during quarter 1 saw high satisfaction levels in the Govmetric System at 89% for face to face customers and 98% for telephone calls.

- Quality Awards for Leisure Centres:
 Hambleton’s four leisure centres have achieved either excellent or good status from Sport England’s national quality scheme—Quest.
 Quest is the UK Quality Scheme for Sport England that defines the industry standards and good practice; it is used as a tool for continuous improvement. Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre has been rated as “excellent”.
 With Bedale Leisure centre, Hambleton Leisure centre and Stokesley Leisure centre all rated as “good”

- Finally, on 7th of July I attended the unveiling of the Pendragon multi-sensory centre plans. This project was awarded a grant of £3000 by Hambleton District Council as it really is a future “Community Project” the nearest centre such as this is situated close to Preston. It will provide a stimulating range of therapeutic and developmental activities, with support for adults and children with learning disabilities, especially those with profound needs.

Councillor Mrs B S Fortune
 Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Leisure Services