

## **Vibrant Market Towns**

### **Hambleton Tourism Forum**

The inaugural meeting of the Hambleton Tourism Forum was held on the 15 March 2021. The purpose of the Forum is to provide support to the Tourism and Hospitality sector across Hambleton and to provide a collective voice for those in the tourism industry. All key sectors of the industry are represented on the Forum nominated members include Solberge Hall, the World of James Herriot and York House Leisure.

A key priority for the Forum is supporting the #Discover Hambleton initiative which has been well-received by Forum members. They welcomed the initial approach of targeting residents and locals then developing it as a platform for national and international visitors in the future. The initiative will help support the long term recovery and regeneration of the tourism industry across the District and will position Hambleton as a great place to visit and to spend time and money once lockdown restrictions are lifted.

### **Pavement Licences**

To date a total of 9 pavement licences have been issued to eligible businesses across the District and Business & Economy Officers are working closely with Licensing, Environmental Health and Planning to ensure that all businesses have access to advice and guidance that allows them to benefit from changes in planning legislation allowing them to re-open safely once the current lockdown restrictions are lifted. Those businesses that already have a Temporary Pavement Licence will have their licence extended automatically for a further 12 months beyond September 2021, subject to Parliamentary approval, without the need for re-applying. Chapters Deli in Stokesley is the latest business to receive their pavement licence.

### **Town Investment Plans**

Following the success of the business case for Future High Streets Fund in Northallerton and previous economic analysis work in Bedale the Council is now working with Genecon as part of our Economic Response and Recovery Plan to develop Investment Plans for Bedale, Easingwold, Stokesley and Thirsk. All four towns have significant assets and opportunities on which to capitalise, but they also have challenges and threats that need to be countered to avoid destabilising their role, function and ultimately their vibrancy. It is important that we take a strategic view of our towns to enable us to respond to the challenges ahead.

The result will be the production of four evidenced Town Investment Plans that capture the key opportunities for enhancing the economic potential of each town. They will include portfolio of projects and 2 to 3 specific proposals which will be further developed with headline concept designs and costings. It is important that Hambleton is in a strong position to bid for future funding which becomes available for towns – this requires development of a robust project pipeline and a number of projects which are ‘shovel ready’ for investment.

## North Yorkshire & East Riding Supply Chain Project

The Council is a key partner in the delivery of the 3 year ERDF funded project which was launched in July 2019 to develop and support supply chain linkages between local businesses. Led by East Riding of Yorkshire Council it offers a number of opportunities to businesses including:

- **Supplier Directory** – which businesses can register on and benefit from the opportunity to bid for supply chain opportunities. A sector specialist directory is also available.
- **Key Developments & Supply Chain Opportunities** – the Council and businesses can include opportunities on the website and to improve their supply chain from the supplier directory entries.
- **Business Advice** – business diagnostics and advice can be provided by the Councils Business & Economy Team.
- **Grants** – are available for capital and revenue investment – this is facilitated through the Business & Economy team.

We are currently working with a number of local businesses as part of this project including Northallerton Glass, Treske at Thirsk, Argo at Stokesley, Sugar Therapy and Goat Drinks at Thirsk.

## Hambleton Business Conference

I am delighted this year that our annual Business Conference will be part of the opening and launch for C4DI, Hambleton's innovative new business centre.

The virtual event is part of Hambleton's Business Week which is being held over 3 days (11 May – 13 May) from the new C4DI building and will be available to delegates from not only the district but further afield. The business conference which falls on the 12 May will focus on growing the Hambleton economy through digital technology to support the high streets, market towns as well as those traditional businesses within the District.

We have a number of speakers lined up including Kate Hardcastle MBE who will lead a session on the 'Digital High Street' and Matthew Hopkinson from Didobi with some great national insights into high street change and technology futures.

## Business Grants

The Covid-19 Business Grant schemes, that the Council is currently administering in line with Government guidelines, are listed below; the table shows the amount paid and the number of businesses who have received Business Grants from November 2020 to March 2021.

Since the beginning of April 2020 to March 2021, in excess of £42m has been paid out in business grants which is 81% of the funding received from Government. The Council continues to support and process the applications received. Information on business grants can be found on Council's website:

<https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus-covid-19/6>

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Amount paid</b>	<b>Number of businesses</b>
<b>LRSB Closed Addendum scheme –</b> Lockdown 2 November - 05/11 to 01/12 and	<b>1,438,502</b>	<b>950</b>
<b>Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) –</b> Lockdown 2 November - 05/11 to 01/12	<b>308,700</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB)</b> <b>Closed and Open – Tier 2 - 02/12 to 15/12 and</b> 16/12 to 29/12	<b>193,296</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB)</b> <b>Closed and Open - Tier 2 - 30/12 and Tier 3 -</b> 31/12 to 04/01	<b>113,725</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB)</b> <b>Sector – 01/11 to 04/11, 02/12 to 15/12 and</b> 16/12 to 29/12	<b>3,964</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Christmas Support Payment – 02/12 to 29/12</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>LRSB Closed Addendum scheme - Lockdown</b> 3 January – 05/01 to 15/02	<b>2,210,778</b>	<b>976</b>
<b>Closed Business lockdown payment –</b> Lockdown 3	<b>4,131,000</b>	<b>914</b>
<b>Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – Tier 3 -</b> 31/12 to 04/01 and Lockdown 3 January 05/01 to 15/02	<b>470,412</b>	<b>425</b>
<b>LRSB Closed Addendum scheme - Lockdown</b> 3 February - 16/02 to 31/03	<b>2,007,245</b>	<b>850</b>
<b>Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) –</b> Lockdown 3 February - 16/02 to 31/03	<b>406,000</b>	<b>190</b>

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