

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Governance

14 December 2021

Free Car Parking

As all Members should now be aware, it was decided to suspend charging in all car parks operated by HDC, from 1 December 2021 to the 3 January 2022. This has been welcomed and continues our commitment to help businesses recover from the Covid Pandemic.

A word of caution is that time limits still apply to prevent those who might be tempted to park their cars all day!

World of James Herriot and the Forum

The Council is continuing to give support to these popular local attractions. They will benefit from a range of capital works designed to improve the fabric of the buildings so they continue to be “fit for purpose” and remain assets to our community.

Public Street Lighting

Over the last three years the Council has embarked on an ambitious program to replace all the bulbs used in our street lights to the more energy efficient LEDs lamps. This was helped by various grants and to date 3600 lamps have been converted, reducing our electricity consumption from 1.3 million KWh by 65% to 450,000 KWh. The remaining approx 200 lamps are understandably the more trickier installations but it is hoped will be completed in the near future.

Electoral Services

The team in Electoral Services have done sterling work on a tight timeframe and are to be congratulated on their work .

Recently we have had by -elections in the Raskelf and White horse seat, The Bid Referendum in Northallerton, Parish Council elections in Whorlton, Neighbourhood Plan referendum in Ingleby Greenhow and the election of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. A very mixed bag of elections but all to organise and to deliver results which would withstand any scrutiny.

ICT

My attention has been drawn to the fact that only approx 10 members have had their iPads updated with the new Mod.gov app. By not installing this app you are putting your device at risk !!

No new updates, including security fixes will be provided for the old app and in time your device will not work with the old version of Mod.gov.

As such ,it is important for Members to have their devices updated and Matthew Pegden in ICT is on hand to update your devices and offer training with the new app.

Phishing Campaign

ICT is running a long term campaign through to August 2022 to raise awareness among staff and members of suspicious e-mails. In recent trials a mock suspicious email did catch out a number of staff and raises awareness that we all need to remain vigilant when opening "links".

Councillor Isobel Sanderson
Portfolio Holder for Governance