

# UPDATE

March 2017

**Welcome** to the March 2017 edition of **UPDATE**, our briefing paper for Parish and Town Councillors in Hambleton.

## Hambleton's Community Champions

**Hambleton's 'community champions' have been honoured in a unique awards ceremony.**

And for the first time Easingwold Town Council took home the accolade of Parish Council of the Year.

The market town council was chosen above the other entrants because of the vast number of projects delivered over the last 12 months. They include the 'Friendliness Initiative' where isolated members of the community are invited to afternoon tea at the George Hotel; refurbishing the skatepark and the market place toilets; and developing a vision for Millfields.

The council has also collaborated with Easingwold Green Spaces Group - including on the development of a community orchard; has looked at taking a new approach for the memorial benches; has supported the Easingwold Business Forum; and organised events to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The District Council's Community Awards - now in their fourth year - recognise and celebrate the exceptional contribution made to the district by countless residents - both young and old. They are nominated by local people and judged by a panel of councillors and senior council officers.



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Above: District Councillor Mrs Bridget Fortune, Cllr Peter Nottage, Chairman of Easingwold Town Council, Jane Bentley, Clerk to Easingwold Town Council and Cllr John Noone, Chairman of Hambleton District Council

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How to contact us...



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[hambleton.gov.uk](http://hambleton.gov.uk)

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### This year's awards - made on March 24 - went to:

**Nicky Smith** - for ensuring that young people have access to a wide range of exciting, educational and inspirational opportunities across the district

**Meals on Wheels** - for delivering 190 meals to people twice a week

**Northallerton Macular Support Group** - for providing a lifeline for people with macular degeneration

**Thirsk Yarnbombers** - for providing an inclusive community project that all ages and abilities can be part of

**Food Festival** - for continuing to provide a free family friendly event with activities and music for all ages

**The Forum** - for providing a high quality community facility

**Sally Anderson** - for supporting a wide range of community projects to bring great benefit to all members of the community

**Jack Critchlow** - for being self motivated and creative when thinking of ways to use his love of music to support refugees and the vulnerable in society

**Jill Kessell** - for giving respite to carers, volunteering at her local church and feeding patients at the Friarage Hospital



"All these individuals and groups work tirelessly for no pay, to provide excellent services, projects and experiences for their communities," said Councillor Bridget Fortune.

"The awards allow us to give them the praise they so richly deserve - we congratulate them all."

## Grant Help

**Businesses looking to find suitable funding opportunities for projects can call on Jayne Cranston, in the Council's Business and Economy team, for help.**

She may be able to help develop a project proposal, assess which grants may be available, assist in the completion of funding applications and offer advice on compliance with funding regulations.

Recently she helped the Heritage Craft Alliance based at Thorp Perrow, Bedale secure a grant of £29,500 under the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme from the Rural Development Programme for England, through Defra and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The funding has been awarded to restore an on-site building which will be launched as a Heritage Timber Construction Training Centre.

To contact Jayne call **01609 767224** or email [jayne.cranston@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.cranston@hambleton.gov.uk)



Hambleton District Council periodically has grants available for not-for-profit community groups (excluding Parish Councils). If you know a local group that is looking for funding check the Council's website for details of current grant programmes: [hambleton.gov.uk/homepage/14/leisure\\_sport\\_and\\_communities](http://hambleton.gov.uk/homepage/14/leisure_sport_and_communities)

# Development partner chosen for prison site

**A unique partnership to develop Northallerton's former prison has been given the go ahead by councillors.**

Hambleton District Council is to join forces with Hull based property developers, the Wykeland Group, to bring the 3.5 acre site back into use.

Shops, managed workspace, apartments, restaurants, a cinema and a quadrangle for public events are all on the agenda for the town centre space - subject to planning permission and discussions with potential operators.

Wykeland has been chosen by the council following a tendering exercise which has seen bidders discuss their suggested plans with the council. The two partners will now form a 'Joint Venture Company' - the three year partnership will see the site transformed.

"Buying the prison site presented the council with a once in a lifetime opportunity to support and strengthen the retail and leisure arms of Northallerton," said Council Leader, Councillor Mark Robson.

"But this development will also benefit the whole of Hambleton. We are delighted to be entering into partnership with the Wykeland Group which has a great track record of delivering similar schemes. The company shares our goals to create a high quality scheme which will benefit the whole community."

He said initial designs include restaurants, a cinema, apartments, shops, a quadrangle for public events and business spaces. The former female wings - two of five listed buildings - will include space for community use, a possible heritage centre, workspace for start up businesses and a 'digital hub'. That hub would involve further partnership work - this time with local universities.

The southern end of the site has been earmarked for retail - a food store and two smaller retail units - as well as a 125 space car park.

Work is expected to begin in 2018 in two or three phases - with a planning application and public consultation expected within months.

Demolition on the site will be completed in the summer - and an archaeological dig will take place before any new building work begins on site. Details of that work, including opportunities for public involvement, will be announced in the near future.



## Speeding... Reporting Problems

Speeding Concerns are now dealt with by North Yorkshire Police's Traffic Bureau - contact via **101**, option 2 and ask for the Traffic Bureau; or email [speedconcerns@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:speedconcerns@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk) and request a reporting form.





## High Speed Broadband

The rollout of high speed broadband continues across North Yorkshire with the second phase of the scheme almost complete.

Once that is finished it is expected that 91% of the population of North Yorkshire will have access to 'Superfast Broadband'. And funding has been secured to undertake a further phase to start in late 2017 once a contract has been awarded - to allow Superfast North Yorkshire to reach as many of the remaining premises as possible.

To check if high speed broadband is available in your parish, or is being planned, please visit: [superfastnorthyorkshire.com/](http://superfastnorthyorkshire.com/)

If you currently experience poor broadband speeds, or if you are unable to obtain a broadband service at all, Superfast North Yorkshire will help provide you with access to an alternative broadband service that will offer speeds of at least 2Mbps - by providing you with access to a subsidised broadband connection. Details of the subsidised scheme can be found at:

[superfastnorthyorkshire.com/better-broadband-scheme](http://superfastnorthyorkshire.com/better-broadband-scheme)

To check broadband speeds in your Parish please visit: [dslchecker.bt.com/](http://dslchecker.bt.com/)

For further information about the rollout of superfast broadband across Hambleton contact Peter Cole, Development Officer (Communities) on 01609 767212 or [peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk)



## Business Awards - Nominations Open



Nominations for Hambleton District Council's annual Business Awards are open.

The initiative recognises the range and diversity of businesses in the district, their achievements and the achievements of the people who work there.

- **Apprenticeship Champion:** for the apprentice who has developed most in their role since joining the business and has contributed most to the business (must be funded through the Hambleton District Council scheme)
- **Engaging Young Minds:** for a business or individual most engaged with schools and education providers - it could be support for projects in the curriculum or work experience
- **Innovation:** for a business or individual demonstrating most innovation with regards to marketing, design, manufacturing, or performance of services
- **Best Customer Service:** for a business or individual that puts customers at the centre of its service
- **Hambleton Champion:** for a business or individual that has championed Hambleton district as a great place to set up and run a business
- **Independent Retailer:** for the independent retail business or individual within a business who demonstrates what sets them apart from others
- **Networking Group:** for the best networking group that offers relevant support/mentoring and advice to its members - voted for by members
- **Legacy:** awarded to a family business in Hambleton that has left a legacy in the area for the future

Nominations close on 29 May, with judging running up to the awards ceremony on July 6. Visit [hambleton.gov.uk/businessawards](http://hambleton.gov.uk/businessawards) to nominate



## Administration of 'Casual Vacancies'

Vacancies might arise on a Parish Council for various reasons between scheduled elections - for example a vacancy might arise due to the resignation or death of a Councillor or due to a Councillor's repeated failure to attend meetings or his/her disqualification. These vacancies are referred to as 'casual vacancies'.

The following procedure should be used in respect of all casual vacancies (except for casual vacancies arising within the period of six months prior to a scheduled election - further details on this are below):

- The Parish Clerk should write or email the Hambleton District Council Electoral Services team providing a copy of the resignation and/or the name and the date the individual ceased to be a Councillor and the reason why as soon as possible. Electoral Services will then send a copy of the notice advertising the vacancy to the Parish Clerk. This notice must be displayed within the parish from the date on the notice.
- If on or before, 14 days - excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Bank/Public Holidays - from the date that the notice is displayed, Electoral Services receives a notice signed by ten electors or ten signed notices for the parish stating that they wish there to be an election, Electoral Services will then work out an election timetable and will send the Parish Clerk a further notice inviting nominations.
- If Electoral Services does not receive a signed notice by ten electors or ten signed notices for the parish stating that they wish there to be an election, we will write to the Parish Clerk after the requisite period asking the Parish Council to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Parish Clerk should make arrangements for this and should then ensure that the requisite steps are taken in respect of the appointment(s).
- If only one nomination is received, or, in the case of multiple vacancies, if only sufficient nominations to fill the vacancies are received, the person(s) nominated will be elected unopposed. The Parish Clerk should then ensure that the requisite steps are taken in respect of this appointment.
- If more than one nomination is received, or, in the case of multiple vacancies, if more nominations are received than there are vacancies, there will be an election. Electoral Services will liaise with the Parish Clerk.

Hambleton District Council will recharge the Parish Council for all costs incurred during the election.

### Casual vacancies arising within six months of a scheduled election

Where a casual vacancy occurs within six months prior to the day on which the Councillor would have regularly retired at the next scheduled election (May 2019), the Parish Council may, as soon as practicable after the expiry of the period of 14 days after public notice of the vacancy has been given, co-opt a person to fill the vacancy or record that the vacancy will be filled at the next scheduled election.

**For more information contact Electoral Services, Hambleton District Council, Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton DL6 2UU; 01609 767227; or [elecreg@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:elecreg@hambleton.gov.uk)**

## Parish Liaison

As part of its work to strengthen engagement with communities Hambleton District Council continues to host regular liaison meetings with Town and Parish Councils across the district.

Representatives are encouraged to come along to the next Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting at 7pm on Thursday 18 May at the Civic Centre in Northallerton.

At the November meeting 26 Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings were represented meeting with Ward Members and Senior Officers of both Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire County Council. Under discussion were measures to tackle rural crime, the Community Infrastructure Levy, the District Council's Green Waste Strategy and the Hambleton Local Plan.

Details of the presentations given at the meeting can be found at: [hambleton.gov.uk/downloads/download/429/parish\\_liaison\\_presentations](http://hambleton.gov.uk/downloads/download/429/parish_liaison_presentations)

For further information about Parish Liaison Meetings contact Peter Cole, Development Officer (Communities) on **01609 767212** or [peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk)

# Area Partnership Community Plans

**Community Plans have now been adopted by the four Area Partnerships working across Hambleton.**

The Partnerships aim to develop, implement and monitor their Plans to identify, address and resolve local issues not just in the market towns but across the surrounding villages. A review was undertaken in 2016 to help make sure they accurately reflect the issues and aspirations of the communities the Partnerships represent - and following consultation Community Plans for 2016-2020 have now been adopted.

Four broad themes have been considered which have a direct impact on the quality of life for residents of Hambleton:

- Supporting a Changing Population
- Supporting Economic Growth
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Improving Access to Services



*Improving cycle provision in Stokesley and Great Ayton is a key priority for the Stokesley and Villages Community Partnership*

Issues being considered include the state of repair and sustainability of community buildings, public realm enhancements in the market towns, community transport and improvements to provision for cyclists. The Plans not only identify the key issues facing communities across the district but also suggest ways in which these issues can be addressed.

Representatives from Parish Councils and Parish Meetings are encouraged to attend meetings of the Area Partnerships and to find out more about the work being undertaken by members of the groups. Current membership includes Town Councils from across Hambleton along with a number of Parish Councils including Great Ayton, Brompton, Crakehall, Romanby, Birkby, Stillington, Oulston, Alne and Huby. The Partnerships provide an excellent opportunity for community organisations to work together and share resources, knowledge and expertise. Membership can result in significant benefits for groups looking to undertake community-led projects.

## The dates for future Area Partnership meetings are:

### Bedale

- 11 May: 7.30pm at Bedale Hall
- 20 July: 7.30pm at Bedale Hall

### Easingwold

- 27 April: 7.30pm at Husthwaite Village Hall
- 22 June: 7.30pm at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold

### Northallerton

- 13 April: 4pm at the Civic Centre, Northallerton
- 15 June: 4pm at the Civic Centre, Northallerton

### Stokesley

- 5 April: 7.30pm at the Town Close offices of the Stokesley and District Community Care Association
- 7 June: 7.30pm at the Town Close offices of the Stokesley and District Community Care Association



If you would like to get involved in the work of the Area Partnerships and the delivery of the Community Plans contact Peter Cole, Development Officer (Communities) on **01609 767212** or [peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk)

## Consultation Help

Hambleton District Council's Community Engagement Officer, Frances Bainbridge, can help communities with their consultation and survey needs. She can offer advice, support and assistance with online and paper survey design, question formation, survey layout, printing and analysis/summary of returned forms.

Contact [frances.bainbridge@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:frances.bainbridge@hambleton.gov.uk) or **01609 768677**.





## Community Led Housing Help

**Hambleton District Council is hosting a joint event for landowners, small builders, self-builders and communities wanting to progress a small community led housing scheme in the district.**

It aims to promote the important role that these groups play in the delivery of housing on small residential development sites across the district.

The event - on 24 April - will be held at the Galtres Centre in Easingwold, with a similar event in Stokesley in early summer.

Council officers will outline how the authority has relaxed its planning policy to allow some small scale growth in villages. Small builders and self-builders will be provided with details of sites that are currently available. Free advice will

also be given on finance issues around funding small scale development and mortgages for self-builders.

And it will include a session to 'match' small builders and self builders with landowners and/or their agents and a workshop showcasing good practice for builders seeking access to funding.

Delegates will be encouraged to visit the 'market place' where professionals, financial advisors, agents and local construction businesses will be able to promote their products and services.

If you are a community interested in finding out more about community led housing, book a place by contacting Amanda Madden on **01609 767048** or [amanda.madden@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.madden@hambleton.gov.uk)

*Save the date*

**MONDAY  
24 APRIL  
2017**



## Keep Britain Tidy: The Great British Spring Clean

Following the launch of Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' a number of litter picking events took place in March in communities across the district - including West Tanfield, Stillington, Alne, Stokesley, Kirkby Fleetham and Leeming Bar.

District Council staff joined forces with residents and ward members to tackle a number of litter 'hotspots' in Northallerton and to send out a clear message that dropping litter is unacceptable.

If you would like to host a community litter-picking event equipment - including tongs, gloves and hi-viz jackets - can be provided free of charge by the District Council's Waste and Street Scene Team. Please contact Peter Cole on **01609 767212** or [peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:peter.cole@hambleton.gov.uk) or Mark Pearson on **01609 788115** for further information.



## Fair Play

**Hambleton District Council is holding a second Fair Play event following its successful launch in September 2016.**

Parish councils and play associations are invited to the event on Wednesday 26 April at 7pm at Romanby Parish Council offices, Ainderby Road, Romanby, Northallerton.

It will include a site visit to a play area, a health and safety update and the opportunity to network with other organisations.

It is free to attend - anyone interested should contact Kate Staines, Development Officer (Arts & Recreation) on **01609 767203** or [kate.staines@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:kate.staines@hambleton.gov.uk)

**Subscribe  
Now**

# New Garden Waste Service

**Hambleton's new garden waste scheme starts next month (April) and householders are being urged to sign up to it.**

From 1 April, only homes that pay for collections will have their green wheeled bins emptied every fortnight. But residents must subscribe to the new service - they will

receive a licence to place on their bin. They can have more than one bin - but each one costs the annual £35 fee. And for people with small gardens there is the opportunity to share bins.

The simplest way to sign up is on line - but householders can ring the council (on 01609 779977) or call in at one of the offices (in Northallerton, Stokesley and Easingwold) too.

The council introduced a free garden waste collection service 13 years ago as part of a national government drive to boost recycling rates. Since then compulsory targets have been removed and because these collections are not a mandatory service, the trend across the country is now to charge for them in order to cover cuts in local government funding.

Bringing in charges on a voluntary subscription basis means the authority is in line with most of its counterparts - five of the seven councils in North Yorkshire already have a charging policy in place.

To sign up log on to [hambleton.gov.uk](http://hambleton.gov.uk) and follow the links on the home page. Householders can join the scheme at any point in the year but the £35 fee relates to collections from April to March and there will be no discount for joining mid year.



Councillor Stephen Watson signs up to the new scheme

## Spring Clean

**Hambleton has been getting spruced up in time for spring.**

Members of the district council's Waste and Street Scene team have been tackling the growing amount of waste littering routes across the district - including grass verges and laybys.

Garden waste collections are suspended during the winter months and during this time the teams are allocated other duties. The teams collected 19 tonnes of fly tipping and litter - 1350 bags of rubbish - from Hambleton roadsides.

On one stretch of the road alone, the new A684 from Leeming to Bedale, 20 sacks were collected in one day - the approximate weight of a pony.

The majority of the litter is paper, plastic bottles, cardboard, plastic bags and, food packaging with 75% of it recyclable if not thrown from car windows. Once all the litter has been collected from the kerbside it is not in a recyclable condition as it's generally wet and contaminated with dirt and pollution and therefore has to go to landfill.





## Tough Action on Contaminated Recycling

**District Councillors have introduced tough new measures to control the rise in contaminated household recycling.**

They have agreed a 'four strikes and you're out' policy for Hambleton householders that continue to place the wrong items in their recycling bins.

"The vast majority of our householders have embraced our schemes and make a massive contribution to the amount we send for recycling," said Councillor Stephen Watson, Portfolio Holder for Waste Services (pictured).

"However this new policy will allow us to take action against the small number of householders that continue to place the wrong items in their recycling bins.

"Their irresponsible actions contaminate the whole load and that costs the authority money. One of the reasons we introduced our recycling scheme was to divert household waste from landfill but we can only do that by maximising the amount of income we can generate from it - losing income has a knock on effect on other services which we are striving to maintain."

He said that the contract to dispose of the recycling materials allows for a 10% contamination rate - but with that running at up to 16% some weeks the contractor then charges to sort and dispose of the contamination which is costing the Council £47,000 per year.



"We have issued lots of information on what can and cannot be recycled through our kerbside schemes but some householders are determined to ignore it," he added.

"The main contaminants are glass in the blue lidded bins, plastic bags and wet cardboard, but we also get sacks of items that cannot be sorted, metal, rubble, clothing and dirty nappies. Agreeing to this action was not an easy decision but we need to crackdown on this problem."

The authority's Waste and Recycling Collection Policy on contamination now means that:

- First contamination - the bin will not be emptied and a leaflet explaining why will be left - it is the residents responsibility to remove the contamination to allow future emptying
- Second contamination - the bin will not be emptied and a letter issued
- Third contamination - the bin will not be emptied and a warning letter issued to say the service will be removed unless it ceases
- Fourth contamination - the bin will not be emptied and the service will be suspended for three months. After that period it will be reintroduced with recycling taken in clear sacks - and monitored. If contamination continues the service will be withdrawn completely.

For more information on recycling check out [hambleton.gov.uk](http://hambleton.gov.uk). The North Yorkshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres also take items that cannot be placed at the kerbside - check [northyorks.gov.uk](http://northyorks.gov.uk) for those details.

For up to the minute information check out the new 'Hambleton Recycling & Waste' facebook page



## Flood Sacks

**Parishes across Hambleton that have experienced flooding have been supplied with a lightweight alternative to sandbags - courtesy of the District Council.**

More than 2400 'FloodSax' have been distributed to communities at risk of flooding - including Brompton, Dalton and Great Langton.

Traditional sandbags are very heavy, can deteriorate over time and eventually fall apart - but the floodsax are easy to store and use if needed.

The district council will continue to make traditional sandbags available to residents at risk of immediate flooding. For more information or guidance on flooding visit [hambleton.gov.uk/flooding](http://hambleton.gov.uk/flooding)



*Council Leader, Councillor Mark Robson and Hambleton District Council Street Scene Officer, Alan Scargill, deliver FloodSax to Barbara Ward, Clerk to Dalton Parish Council - Dalton last flooded on Boxing Day 2015.*

## Children Join in Battle Against Dog Fouling



**Communities are being urged to work with the Council's Dog Warden to find ways to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets.**

The majority of dog owners already clean up after their pets. But a few irresponsible owners give dogs a bad name and it is these owners the council wants to encourage to change their ways.

In partnership with the Dogs Trust the council's dog warden is planning visits to schools, and events in the market towns to educate dog owners and remind them of the fines they face if they fail to pick up after their dog.

Schoolchildren from Broomfield Primary School in Northallerton

have already added their support to the campaign.

Most of the children walk to school and are aware of the dog mess in the area - and as a result have designed posters highlighting this anti-social behaviour which are now displayed on the streets around the school.

Anyone caught allowing their dog to foul in a public place may be issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice. Failure to pay could lead to a fine of up to £1,000.

If you would like to work with the Dog Warden to encourage responsible dog owners in your area or you would like to

report an incident contact the Council on **01609 779977** or **hambleton.gov.uk**.



*Winning poster designers Elise Reed and Maisie Thurlby with Dave Granger, Dog Warden, and art judge Kate Staines from Hambleton District Council.*

## Compost Bin Sales

**Hambleton District Council - in partnership with the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership - is holding a three day sale of compost bins.**

Two sizes of composter are available - 220 litre for only £8 and the 330 litre compost converter which is just £9.

The compost bins will be available on a collect only basis - they must be pre-ordered and paid for.

To order a bin call 01609 532512 during working hours. Payment will be taken from a debit or credit card and a receipt issued by email. This must be taken to collect the bin - along with proof of address. The offer is available only to residents of the Hambleton area, and is restricted to a maximum of two per household. The deadline for ordering bins before the sale is 5pm on 20 April.

Collections must be made between 10am and 2pm:

- 22 April - Stone Cross Car Park (District Council Offices), Northallerton
- 29 April - Showfield Car Park, Stokesley
- 6 May - Galtres Centre Car Park, Easingwold

Home composting is the most environmentally friendly way of dealing with kitchen and garden waste, plus it produces compost that can be used as an excellent soil improver. For more information on how to compost at home visit [letstalklessrubbish.com](http://letstalklessrubbish.com)

For further information please contact the council's Recycling Officer on **01609 788105**.



## New approach to cleaning

**Work has started to spring clean all four of Hambleton's leisure centres. Keeping these buildings clean and tidy is a big challenge with over 820,000 visits to the centres last year.**

The leisure centres have been awarded funding from Sport England to engage with a professional cleaning company as part of a larger initiative to increase swimming participation within Hambleton. The cleaning company is working with the centres - in Northallerton, Stokesley, Thirsk and Bedale - to carry out a fundamental review of systems, and how to resource housekeeping and cleaning. It will also include an action plan on how to improve and meet or exceed customer expectations. A report was submitted to Sport England in March with the findings.

# Hambleton Leisure Centre

## Redevelopment Scheme

**A formal planning application for the £2.5million redevelopment of Hambleton Leisure Centre in Northallerton has been submitted.**

Working with development partner Alliance Leisure Services Ltd, the District Council is looking to develop the centre to be responsive to the needs of new

and existing customers to better serve the community in the future. It will allow for an improved programme of activities to help promote the health and well-being of people of all ages and levels of fitness to be introduced. It is hoped the work will be completed in early 2018.

Further information will be available as the project progresses throughout 2017 including any closures of the facility - however only individual areas will be closed where essential to minimise disruption to customers and advance notice will be provided to customers for any service disruption.

The images demonstrate how the re-vamp might look.

### The changes includes:

- ▶ New state of the art fitness suite extension that doubles the current work out space and includes a toning studio, accessible toilet and changing area and 24 hour gym access
- ▶ Remodelling of dry female and male members changing areas and toilets
- ▶ Remodelling of the pool changing village
- ▶ Remodelling of a multi-purpose/spinning studio and dance studio
- ▶ New platform lift

Latest update



## Synchro Swimming in Stokesley

**A new way to keep fit and have fun in the water has been introduced in Stokesley.**

Synchronised swimming is a sport that mixes swimming and dancing and includes both water and land-based dance elements.

Eighteen people varying in age attended a special taster session in late January funded by North Yorkshire Sport.

'Stokesley Synchro Social Sessions' are now taking place every Saturday from 3.30 - 5.30pm, costing £2 per class.

For more information or to book a place contact Stokesley Leisure Centre on **01642 711140**.



## Time to Talk

**Northallerton's Neon Nights running club has held a number of friendly runs to show support for a campaign which aims to improve mental health through running.**

**#runandtalk** aims is to get people talking about mental health, share their experiences and remove the stigma attached to it. It also aims to support people experiencing mental health problems to be physically active through running either by helping them get started or encouraging them to return to running or keep running.

On 'Time to Talk' day in February - led by the charity Mind and Rethink Mental Illness - two special runs were held where runners could run one mile or further whilst chatting with friends or other runners.

For further information on Hambleton's Running Hub, contact David Earl on **01609 767202**





## ENFORCEMENT IN ACTION

### Tenants Moved Out of Dangerous Flat

**A Prohibition Order has been served on a first floor flat in Thirsk - meaning it cannot be occupied because the conditions are so dangerous there is a serious health and safety risk for anyone living there.**

The District Council action came after the tenant complained about damp in the property. But an inspection by environmental health officers found that the only means of fire escape from the bedroom was through the living room and then the kitchen. There was only one battery smoke alarm fitted in the living room and all the windows to the flat were difficult to open and provided no alternative exit from the first floor.

A room where the only one means of escape is through another room is a significant risk because fires can trap the escape route before people become aware - and smoke inhalation becomes an issue.

In this case the tenant would have to pass through the living room and kitchen - where fires are more likely to occur. This meant there was a very high risk to the tenant of serious injury or death in the event of a fire.

The Order took effect after 28 days during which time the tenants were found alternative accommodation by the letting agent. The landlord is now looking at revising the layout of the property which would allow it to be re-occupied.

Many flats that have been historically converted do not meet the Building Regulations 1991 and require additional fire safety measures or redesign. There is duty of care on the landlords, above that of owner occupiers, to ensure rental property provides a safe and healthy environment for tenants.

For further information contact Joy Swithenbank on **01609 779977**.

### Emergency Action Closed Restaurant

**Emergency action saw a Hambleton restaurant closed for three days as the result of an untreated rat infestation.**

District Council Environmental Health officers carried out an unannounced inspection of the business last month (February) after receiving a customer complaint.

They not only found evidence of an active rat infestation but the premises were in a dirty condition and there was food debris on the floor and grease on equipment. Fresh rat droppings were found on the wooden boards used to serve burgers to customers, under the cooking range in the kitchen, in the dry store and in the cellar.

Officers, satisfied that an imminent risk to health existed, served a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice, which closed the premises with immediate effect. Notices were placed on the entrance doors to the premises and an application for a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order was made to Northallerton Magistrates Court.

The business operator had employed a pest control firm to treat the infestation in January but it had been

unsuccessful - with the company failing to adequately proof the building to prevent re-infestation. However two days after the business was closed a further inspection by officers found that a second pest control firm had been employed and that treatment had been successful with the premises proofed against re-infestation. The premises had also been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

It allowed officers to issue a certificate stating the health risk conditions no longer remained, and the business was allowed to trade. The prohibition order was no longer needed but Northallerton Magistrates Court ordered the food business to pay the Council's costs in full and told the owner that had the condition continued an order would have been made to keep the premises closed until remedial action to remove imminent risk had been taken.

Anyone concerned about conditions in local eateries is urged to contact Environmental Health on **01609 779977**.



**It's your newsletter...we welcome your suggestions for future articles.**

The cheapest and most efficient way for us to contact parish councils is by email. If we do not already have an email address for your parish call Aly Thompson **01609 767063** or [aly.thompson@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:aly.thompson@hambleton.gov.uk)

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