

Mayors Report: October/November 2023

Invitations:

I was invited to open the new eagerly awaited M & S store and garage on Welham Road on October 18th and attended with the then Deputy Clerk.

The store has brought new jobs to Norton which is to be welcomed, but has sadly not helped to alleviate the traffic problems in the area, especially on St Nicholas Street.

On Sunday 12th November I was honoured to lay a wreath at the War Memorial in Malton on Remembrance Sunday. This was a solemn event as is appropriate, but remarkable in the recognition that people in Malton and Norton mark it by turning out in increasing numbers each year. Seemed to be even more people present this year which is wonderful to witness along with the representatives from uniformed services of all ages.

Wonderful to see yet again the remarkable Raymond Whitwell present at 104 years old!

Other issues related to Norton:

Springfield Garth

NYC after years of chasing have finally 'repaired' the road surface at the end of Springfield Garth onto Welham Road where water pools with a patch of tarmac. Typical patching (botching!) that is likely to break up with winter frosts. I have suggested that the entire road entrance needs relaying.

Lakeside

The owner of the area of land adjacent to Lakeside (that has been subject to several failed planning applications) has begun preparation work on site on the refurbishment of the agricultural buildings approved by planning last year.

Trees have been felled on the access road to the site – an unmade road – which residents question is in the ownership of the land owner. Further investigation is underway on this matter.

This council has always maintained that this site is unsuitable for development due to its access problems and being sited in flood plain – the path and site has in the last few weeks been flooded more than since the major floods in 2000/2001, so we need to be wary of any further plans for the site.



Flooding/pumping Church Street

As members will be aware levels in the River Derwent have been high for some weeks now leading to the use of up to 17 pumps in Norton and Malton to pump from the 'dry side' of the main flood defences. 2 pumps are in place on Church Street in Norton, with others at Priorpot Back and Norton Ings.

The pumps in Church Street have protected properties in Derwent Terrace, Church Street, Bruntwood Terrace and St Nicholas street, but have had two incidents since their installation- one when they were switched off by vandals during the night putting properties at risk and partially flooding Church Street for several hours whilst emergency teams arrived. I reported this incident after noticing the problems on Saturday November 4th. Later in the week a piece of pipe work ruptured having been rubbing against a wall, again resulting in a pump having to be shut down whilst it was replaced – less serious as the river level had stabilised, but nevertheless causing concern.

Yorkshire Water who provide some of these pumps have plans drawn up for a permanent pump solution on Church Street but have so far failed to deliver this solution, preferring to hide behind a 'temporary pump plan'. I would like to propose that we invite Yorkshire Water to a meeting of this council to hold them to account on this matter.

Di Keal
15 November 2023