

Mayors report December 2023

The Norton Lights switch on was a huge success on Sunday November 26th – with many thanks to Claire for throwing herself into pulling things together, with help and supported by Cllr King and Malcom.

Can I also thank those councillors who attended the event on a distinctly chilly afternoon. We got a good crowd for the actual switch on and I understand that The Hive also had a good afternoon with their Christmas event.

Having tackled the switch on once, Claire now has great plans for next year! Our lights we are told by the contractors are reaching the end of their shelf life so we will need to revisit the subject in good time to get them updated for 2024.

Flooding in Norton:

Current situation is that the river is at 4.64 (12 noon today) and rising. Worst levels in the Derwent for some years which justified the closure of County Bridge although this has caused a level of annoyance locally, but just not safe to allow traffic or pedestrians over.

New concern this morning was water on blackboards and seepage from the main defences which is worrying.

I have been away this weekend but kept in regular contact with Yorkshire Water and asked for further pumping which was brought in overnight on Sunday. Tankers were brought in to empty excess liquid in the sewers which took place through the night and continued this morning.

This weekends events just serve to re enforce the desperate need for a permanent solution and a second pumping station in Norton. I have issued a statement this morning to that effect and suggesting that NYC might like to use some of the £10 million plus it took as a dowry from RDC when it closed as it's contribution to the scheme. Still needs YW a& EA to contribute and the latest from YW is that it isn't in their current 5 year budget, but when I spoke to them this morning it was suggested that the severity of the current event may have an impact on their argument for a permanent scheme.

Suggested that YW be invited to our next meeting, but now wonder if we should arrange a separate joint meeting Malton TC, with them, the EA and NYC? Also keen to see the public invited to such a meeting as they are very much at the sharp end of the flood events and many of my neighbours have had several sleepless nights in the current crisis.

GDPR and council email addresses

For member's information- the complaint from a member of the public about the councils use of their personal information has now been dealt with and we have received notification from the Information Commissioners Office that they are happy with our response and will be taking no further action.

This has however prompted me to consider the councils position on the protection of personal data and our use of a protected email system. Can I ask again that all members from January adopt the Zoho mail system – this will ensure that our system is secure and in reality once you become familiar with the system is easier and more efficient for us all as Council emails are kept separate from personal emails.

If you are unsure how to access Zoho I will ask Claire to re-circulate the set up and use instructions.

Di Keal

December 11th 2023