



The Curlew



richmondshire.gov.uk

AUTUMN 2008



Flagging up our heritage

YOU might have spotted a new flag flying in a historic part of Richmondshire. That's because Friary Gardens in Richmond has become one of just 42 places in the whole country to receive a top heritage award. The park received a Green Flag Award for the second year running, in recognition of its involvement of the local community, high standard of maintenance and welcoming atmosphere. But this year it has also received Green Heritage Site Accreditation, based on the treatment of the site's historic features and the standard of conservation. The accreditation recognises Richmondshire District Council's measures to protect both the Cenotaph and the 13th century Franciscan friary – and is all the more special because it comes in the friary's 750th anniversary year. Friary Gardens is one of 44 green spaces in Yorkshire and Humberside to receive the prestigious Green Flag award, and one of only 42 places across the entire country get Green Heritage Site Accreditation too. Councillor Russell Lord, the Council's spokesman for Green Living, said: "This double award really is testament to all the hard work that goes into Friary Gardens, not just by our grounds maintenance team, but also the local community, which plays such an important role in protecting this historic place."

Rewarding the heroes of Richmondshire

AN AWARDS ceremony has been held to recognise the people whose hard work and commitment have made a real difference to Richmondshire. The Citizenship Awards celebrated young people, volunteers, entrepreneurs and those involved in community initiatives. They were combined with the annual State of the District Debate, which took place in September. Fifteen shortlisted people and organisations were chosen out of dozens of nominations, and rewarded with trophies and certificates. Find out more about the Citizenship Awards and the State of the District Debate on page 5.

Granting some good advice

A RANGE of grants are on offer to Richmondshire businesses – and our Economic Development team has put together a guide on how best to write your application. From making sure your objectives are clear and measurable to articulating the benefits of your project on your business, the advice will help you avoid the most common mistakes. Turn to page 7 to find out the team's top ten tips.

CAR PARK DEBATE BRINGS RESULTS

By Tom Stirling
Communications Manager

RESIDENTS played a key role in deciding the future of a car park in Richmond.

We asked for your help to draw up a list of ideas of how Yorke Square could be used or improved. Starting from a "blank canvas", we received hundreds of responses – ranging from turning the site into an orchard to improving the car parking facilities. The freepost comment cards proved so popular, officers even had to order a second print run. Every response was published at richmondshire.gov.uk, and the ideas used to draw up a shortlist. In September, councillors voted to keep Yorke Square as a car park – an option supported by more than 90

Yorke Square to remain as a car park

per cent of the respondents – and make a range of enhancements. These include:

- lower the wall at the front of the car park
- revamp the lighting
- mark out bays
- plant shrubs or a small natural play area
- install cycle racks
- add seating and, subject to planning permission, an information board
- improve the road signs to the car park

Other suggestions – including installing CCTV cameras – will

be kept under regular review. Throughout the consultation period, we worked with the Save Our Shire campaign group, and received input from a range of key local organisations, including North Yorkshire Police, Richmond Town Council and the Richmond Swale Valley Community Initiative. The process culminated in an all-day event at The Station in Richmond, featuring maps, photographs and information about possible uses. Councillor Yvonne Peacock, the Council's spokesperson for Resources, said: "We were all delighted that so many Richmondshire residents and organisations got involved with the consultation. "This was a great opportunity for people to let us know exactly what they wanted to see happen at Yorke Square." Ward member Stuart Parsons said: "The Council has recognised the



Success: Yorke Square open day

sterling efforts of Save Our Shire, their hard work, commitment and support for Richmond, and rewarded them with an exciting project for the future of the whole area." Work at the car park will be carried out in phases, so check our website for the latest news.

Taking a closer look

TWO new reviews into aspects of life in the district have been launched by our Scrutiny Committees. The committees are looking into the availability of public transport to get to hospital appointments, as well as current and future leisure provision for people over the age 50. If you would like to get involved in these investigations, you can help us by filling in the short questionnaire on page 6, visiting our website at richmondshire.gov.uk, or getting in touch using the contact details inside this newspaper.



Yorkshire spirit
Fundraising success 3



Garrison exercise
Open day draws the crowds 4-5



Stars of tomorrow
Community Idol competition 6



An audio version of this edition of *The Curlew* will shortly be available to download to your computer as a free podcast. If you use iTunes, simply search for "richmondshire" in the online store. If you'd prefer to use another MP3 player, point it at <http://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/curlew/curlew.xml>. The audio version can also be borrowed on tape or CD for free – please contact your local Community Office for more information. A version is also available in brail.

Curlew leads way

A number of readers suggested that we make *The Curlew* itself more environmentally-friendly – so that's exactly what we have done. Previous editions have been printed on paper from sustainable sources and delivered without packaging, but this issue is the first to use 100 per cent recycled paper. And of course you can help the environment further by recycling this issue when you have finished with it! We always welcome your suggestions, so if you have any more ideas about how to improve *The Curlew*, you can contact us using the details at the bottom of this page.

Boost in recycling helps save money

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money has been saved thanks to a big increase in recycling rates in Richmondshire.

Since Richmondshire District Council rolled out alternate weekly collections (AWC) to the entire district, the amount of recyclable waste collected at the kerbside increased by more than 60 per cent. In July 2007, the Council collected about 55 tonnes of glass, 125 tonnes of paper and six tonnes of cans from the kerbside. But figures for July 2008 show that glass collection had increased to 95 tonnes and paper to 157 tonnes. Another 44 tonnes of combined cans and plastic have also been collected. That equates to an increase in kerbside recycling tonnages of 61 per cent. The amount of garden waste collected at the kerbside has also increased compared to this

time last year, up 69 per cent. The amount of waste recycled at recycling banks throughout the district has fallen – down by about 22 per cent – but when combined with the kerbside figure, this still equates to an overall increase in recycling tonnages of about 23 per cent in total. By achieving a 42 per cent recycling rate, which is our target for this year, we will avoid landfill tax of £336,000, and the potential for landfill tax penalties of £856,000. In September, councillors approved a scheme to improve the service by overcoming a number of outstanding issues with the new collections. Following a successful trial, a smaller vehicle is carrying out "mini" rounds for refuse and recycling, in addition to those covered by the existing fleet. Other issues surrounding lane end collections and collection points are to be addressed as part of an ongoing review of the service.

RESIDENTS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION DATE CHANGES OVER CHRISTMAS:

Monday 22nd December	.....no change
Tuesday 23rd December	.....no change
Wednesday 24th December	.....no change
Thursday 25th December	.....Saturday 27th December
Friday 26th December	.....Monday 29th December
Monday 29th December	.....Tuesday 30th December
Tuesday 30th December	.....Wednesday 31st December
Wednesday 31st December	.....Friday 2nd January
Thursday 1st January	.....Saturday 3rd January
Friday 2nd January	.....Monday 5th January
Monday 5th January	.....Tuesday 6th January
Tuesday 6th January	.....Wednesday 7th January
Wednesday 7th January	.....Thursday 8th January
Thursday 8th January	.....Friday 9th January
Friday 9th January	.....Saturday 10th January



Play equipment for North Cowton

NEW top-of-the-range play equipment has been officially unveiled in North Cowton. In the last issue of *The Curlew*, we reported the good news that the district had received a £200,000 award from the Big Lottery Fund. One of ten Richmondshire projects to get the go-ahead was improvements in the play area in North Cowton, for the whole community to enjoy. Parish and district councillors joined children, parents and the head teacher of the local primary school to celebrate the completion of work – and give the new equipment a whirl! Ward member Councillor Jane Parlour said: "This is a great example of parish and district councils working together to provide a lasting benefit to the community."

Left: how *The Curlew* reported the story in the last issue

Contact us

... By phone:
☎ 01748 829100

... Via our website:
🌐 richmondshire.gov.uk

Our website is now more accessible than ever before. In addition to the standard version you can view on any home computer, you can now find out about Council services on your mobile phone. Simply visit richmondshire.gov.uk/mobile in your phone's browser, and you can access services on the move. There are also a variety of accessibility options – you can change the default colour scheme, and even have pages read aloud.

... In person
You can access a wide range of Council services, and find out about the services offered by partner organisations by visiting our network of Community Offices and Access Points throughout the District.



● You might be surprised to find out how much you can do at your local Community Office! Whether you want to get advice on recycling or make an appointment with your local Citizens Advice Bureau, we will be happy to help. To learn more, visit richmondshire.gov.uk and click on "A-Z of services".

COMMUNITY OFFICE	OPENING HOURS
Colburn (within the Colburn Library & Information Centre) Tel: 01748 828738	Mon 2-5pm, Tues 2-5pm, Thurs 10am-5.15pm, Fri 10am-4.45pm.
Leyburn, Central Chambers, Market Place. Tel: 01748 828740	Mon – Thurs 8.45am-5.15pm Fri 8.45am-4.45pm
Reeth, Hudson House Tel: 01748 828741	Wed, Thurs, Fri 10am-3.30pm. During Hudson House opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm
Richmond, Dundas Street Tel: 01748 829100	Mon-Thurs 8.45am-5.15pm Fri 8.45am-4.45pm
Upper Wensleydale (within the Hawes Information & Resource Centre) Tel: 01748 828739	Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm. During library opening hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm and Thursday evenings 5.30pm-7pm
ACCESS POINTS	
A1 Community Works, 16a High Street, Catterick Village. 01748 810050 admin@a1communityworks.com	HIVE, Army Welfare Service, Hipswell Lodge, Smuts Road, Catterick Garrison 01748 872944 catterick@hivegb.co.uk

Council Leader writes...



This is a difficult time for the entire country, and Richmondshire is no exception. In many ways, predominantly rural areas like ours are particularly badly hit.

Now, more than ever, it's important to remember the many ways your Council can work with you to get through the current economic conditions. Whether you are a resident wanting to find out about home insulation or improvement grants, or a business needing advice, we will try to help. You will find details on how to contact us on page 2, so please do get in touch.

In fact, throughout this issue of *The Curlew*, we are urging you to get in touch with us. There are examples on every single page of how, when different people and different organisations work together, we can achieve great things for our local communities.

The district's new refuse and recycling collections are an example – as we have rolled out the new service, such a massive change has not been without problems for some, particularly those who have a 'lane end' collection and those who live in remoter places where there are access problems for the

refuse vehicles. At the same time, you have raised issues where the collections could be enhanced, and we have listened to what you have said, and acted on it.

Thank you for the support from residents with our recycling waste, a very important issue for all – for environmental and cost reasons.

I hope you enjoy this newspaper – and, if you would like to get involved in the next issue, please let us know!

**Councillor Melva Steckles
Leader of Richmondshire
District Council**

Plan sets priorities for next four years

A MAJOR new plan is setting out how we intend to improve the quality of life in Richmondshire over the next four years.

Our new Corporate Plan explains what our priorities will be.

The draft version of the plan – which must first be approved by councillors – sets out a number of corporate improvement priorities. These are:

- providing affordable, decent housing
- helping businesses realise their potential
- improving health
- shared service delivery

The document will guide what we do from October 2008 through to March 2012, and will be refreshed every two years to make sure we take on board any new issues that might crop up in the meantime.

There are six main 'themes':

- Green Living
- Healthy Lives
- Prosperous Communities
- Safe Places
- Strong Neighbourhoods
- An Improving Council

Each theme has a number of objectives, with clear explanations of how we plan to achieve them, and performance targets that will be measured regularly to make sure we are on track.

For example, under the

Prosperous Communities theme, one of our objectives is that we will "support business growth to strengthen the local economy".

We will do this by helping businesses to diversify and grow through grant support, and access specialist advice. Our aim is to reduce Richmondshire's unemployment rate from 1.2 per cent to 1.1 per cent by 2011.

You will shortly be able to read the final version of our Corporate Plan – and full details of all our objectives – on our website, at richmondshire.gov.uk/corporate-plan

We couldn't have created this plan without your help – the local community was heavily involved in helping us identify our priorities.

We used work done through the Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership and other partners, as well as Residents' Panel surveys, an internet poll and State of the District Debates to understand what you think is important.

Our own priorities are strongly linked to those of Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership, which brings together key people from the local community as well as the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Going forward, we will make sure we keep you informed about how we are doing on all our objectives on our website and in future editions of *The Curlew*.



Yorkshire generosity

TWO Tourist Information Centres (TICs) in Richmondshire together raised more than £400 for charity at their Yorkshire Day celebrations on August 1.

Richmond TIC organised a Yorkshire quiz and other activities – including "Guess the Sheep's Name" and "Count the Sweets" – and collected £272

for Riding for the Disabled.

Leyburn TIC held "Name the Picture" and "Guess the Feather" competitions, raising £200 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Many thanks to all the residents and visitors in Richmond and Leyburn who helped make the fundraising such a success.

Celebrating 20 years of life-saving service

AN EMERGENCY communication system which offers lifesaving help at the touch of a button has celebrated 20 years of supporting Richmondshire residents.

Our Lifeline Service enables its users to call for help at any time, day or night. Lifeline customers include people who are elderly, disabled, recuperating

or caring for others, and who want to maintain their independence while giving themselves and their loved ones extra peace of mind.

The service was launched back in April 1988. It was set up as a partnership between the district councils of Richmondshire (which

provides the alarm equipment and mobile wardens) and Ryedale (which provides the control centre) and now plays a part in the Government's Telecare initiative. The service is used by more than 1,100 people across Richmondshire.

Customers are provided with a

Lifeline Unit which enables them to call the control centre at the press of the button, 24 hours a day. An operator will then speak to the caller and summon help if required.

Richmondshire residents can find out more about the Lifeline Service by phoning 01748 829100.

Council objects to removal of BT payphones

AFTER asking residents for their views, we have formally objected to plans by BT to remove a number of public payphones.

A consultation process began earlier this year, after BT announced proposals to close phones that it said were "little used by customers". In order to formally object to the removal of a payphone, we needed hard evidence from local communities about why it should stay.

We received dozens of responses – including a poem "written" by one of the phones – and all the objections were formally submitted in a letter to BT, also copied to the Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Among other arguments, our letter highlights the significant gaps in mobile phone coverage in the district, the high proportion of visitors who do not have access to a landline phone, the popularity of higher-risk leisure activities and the fact that some may even be considered for listing by English Heritage.

Details of all the objections are available on our website, at richmondshire.gov.uk/btpayphones.

Region's cuisine in demand

FOOD-LOVING tourists who visit our region are eating out more than ever before, according to new figures.

The investigation, undertaken by the Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Partnership – of which we are a member – found that a record number of visitors were enjoying the region's top quality cuisine.

The survey found that eating out was the second most popular activity, making up part of the trip for 83.4 per cent of respondents. The most popular was sightseeing by car, with 84.3 per cent.

The "eating out" figure has now increased for the fourth year running, up from 74.3 per cent in 2004, 77.2 per cent in 2005 and 78.4 per cent in 2006. Better still, the region's restaurants and pubs scored an average satisfaction rating of 4.3 out of 5 and 4.26 out of 5 respectively.

Partnership to improve walks



FAMILIES now have more ways to enjoy one of Richmondshire's best-loved walks – thanks to a concerted community effort.

We joined forces with Carillion Enterprise and Richmond Swale Valley Community Initiative (RSVCI) to install new picnic benches along the scenic Richmond to Easby Abbey path.

As part of a partnership effort, RSVCI supplied the picnic tables and benches; we delivered them to the site and supplied the tools and fixing materials to install them; and fifteen Catterick Garrison-based volunteers from Carillion Enterprise did the work.

Property scheme on award list

A SCHEME to help convert redundant properties in Richmond town centre made the shortlist for a prestigious national award. The Richmond Heritage Partnership Scheme was established in September 2006 to offer grants up to 70 per cent of project costs to owners and tenants of commercial properties to encourage them to convert them back into use, principally office accommodation. The scheme is now in the third year of operation and to date has made 42 grant offers. To date, 23 properties have been improved. It won a regional award in 2007, and this year was shortlisted as a national finalist in the Regeneration and Renewal Awards – losing out to St Pancras International. The scheme is due to end in March 2009, but because of its success, discussions are now taking place to see if it can continue through to March 2010. For further information on the opportunities for funding please phone 01748 825835 or 01748 827034.

Dogs duty

WE ARE now responsible for dealing with stray dogs in the district. In the past, residents have had to call the police to deal with stray dogs outside office hours. But recent changes in the law have meant that from July 1, that responsibility has been transferred to local authorities. Posters are being distributed across the district to inform residents of the changes. All calls relating to stray dogs in Richmondshire should now be directed to the new 24-hour hotline number, 0845 2417253.

Bike Week

FOURTEEN Council staff left their cars at home and walked or cycled to work for a day to mark Bike Week. We joined in the nationwide event as part of our Green Travel Plan, which encourages staff to use more sustainable methods of transport, as well as lead more active and healthy lifestyles.

HIVE alive

RESIDENTS in and around Catterick Garrison will now find it even easier to access the local services they need. The Garrison's HIVE Information Centre – which keeps members of the service community up-to-date about relocation, local civilian facilities, places of interest, job and training opportunities and much more – is now offering a range of local Council services too. For example, Richmondshire District Council has installed a free direct-dial telephone, which connects straight to its own Contact Centre. That means residents can access all Council services, without even having to pay for the phone call. Carole Dew, Head of Customer Services at Richmondshire District Council, said: "We know what a valuable service HIVE provides at Catterick Garrison, and it's fantastic that we are able to work together to make things even easier for residents. If you've never visited before, now's the perfect chance to find out what's on offer!"

Richmondshire partners set up stall at Catterick Garrison open day



VISITORS to the Catterick Garrison Open Day over the summer had the chance to find out about the range of services on offer to them – thanks to the biggest "roadshow" of its kind the district has ever seen. As part of a drive to bring services closer to residents across

the district, Richmondshire District Council joined forces with Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership and Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership to host a marquee at Marne Barracks. Thousands of visitors to the big Access Richmondshire marquee



were able to do everything from meeting their local police officers to having their say about the GP out-of-hours service in the district. Among the highlights of the Access Richmondshire stand were impressive displays by the youth boxing club JABS and motorcycle safety course

RAMP, both of which were set up by police community support officers with support from the Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership. We are now looking at the possibility of taking Access Richmondshire to other locations across the district.

Get involved!

Do you have any ideas of events that we could attend? What kind of services or information would you like to see? Visit richmondshire.gov.uk/access to let us know.

Access all areas: visitors old and young were given the chance to find out about the range of council services



Survey poses quality of life questions

By Tom Stirling
Communications Manager

A MAJOR new survey sent to thousands of residents will help us understand what people think of living in Richmondshire.

The Place Survey was sent to selected homes across the district at the end of September, and is intended to build up a picture of people's views about local services where they live.

The questionnaire is asking for your opinions about all aspects of the "quality of life" in your local area – such as community safety, local services and so on.

'The Place Survey was sent to selected homes across the district at the end of September, and is intended to build up a picture of people's views about local services where they live'

It is a national Government initiative to help local authorities and other public services work out how well they are performing, and what they could do to improve.

The findings will be used to see how well we and our partners are doing at delivering the services that matter to you.

The survey asks, for example, how safe you feel after dark in Richmondshire, and whether you think older people are given enough

support to help them live at home for as long as they want to.

If you have received a copy of the Place Survey, you have until mid-December to fill it in. Please take the opportunity to have your say. It doesn't matter if you've only just moved into the area, or if you don't pay council tax – it's very important that we hear everybody's views.

The full results will be released early next year, and published on our website so you can see for yourself.

Get involved!

The Place Survey is only being sent to a small sample of residents, chosen for us by the Government. But even if you are not selected to complete the Place Survey, you can still have your say on how local services are run by joining our Viewfinder Panel. Panel members are sent a small number of written surveys every year, and their feedback is invaluable in helping us improve the way we work. To find out more – or apply to join – phone Lesley Black on 01748 827031 or visit richmondshire.gov.uk/lsp

Championing the community

By Michael Dowson
Head of Democratic Services

DOZENS of Richmondshire residents had their say about the issues that matter to them at the sixth annual State of the District Debate.

The event was held in September, at Wensleydale School, with representatives from town and parish councils joining district councillors, council officers and other partner organisations.

Experts in three key policy areas – public engagement and access, fuel poverty and recycling – led group discussions to come up with ideas that will be reported back to councillors this month, and will help shape policy going forward. Participants were also asked to complete questionnaires

about the Council's new corporate plan and priorities.

Council leader Melva Steckles said the debate was "a fantastic chance for Richmondshire residents to feed their comments into the Council's policy-making processes".

The event also included the 2008 Citizenship Awards – a ceremony to recognise Richmondshire's "community champions". Trophies and certificates were presented to those selected by a panel of judges in four categories – Young Person, Volunteer, Community Initiative and Entrepreneur of the Year.

The debate was compiled by James Wilson, Senior News Editor at Fresh Radio, and the awards were announced by Malcolm Warne, Editor of the Darlington and Stockton Times, with live entertainment provided by Leyburn Band.

Good citizens: the 2008 winners



COMMUNITY INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR
Winner: Reeth Artyfacts
Highly Commended: Joint Amateur Boxing Scheme (JABS), Leyburn Arts Centre Ltd
Commended: Richmondshire Area Motorcycle Project (RAMP)

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
Winner: Andrew & Maria Henshaw
Highly Commended: David & Lesley Droy (Droy Metalworks)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Winner: George Lundberg
Highly Commended: Frank Broughton, Donald Cline, Arthur Strickland
Commended: Keith Allen, Graham Hodgedge, Sheila McLaren

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR
Winners: Stephen Wilson, Harry Andrew Lindley



The Local Strategic Partnership brings together key local agencies from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, and aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in Richmondshire.

We believe the key to achieving this is by working together to plan and deliver services, find out your priorities, encourage residents to get more involved with their communities.

The basis for our work is 'Richmondshire 2021', a Community Strategy based around the five key themes of ...

- Strong Neighbourhoods
- Healthy Lives
- Prosperous Communities
- Green Living
- Safe Places

Each theme has a task group of people dedicated to bringing about the aims of the Partnership and making a difference in Richmondshire.

Read all about us!

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, "Partnership Matters" from your local Council Community Office, or partner organisation. You can also read it online via the partnership pages of richmondshire.gov.uk



We rock – stars of tomorrow step up to the mic

LOOK carefully at these talented young musicians – any one of them could be the next Duffy or Coldplay!

Richmondshire's pop stars of the future battled it out for a place in North Yorkshire's Community Idol competition in September, with soloists and groups from Richmond, Risedale and Wensleydale schools competing for a place in the county-wide final.

The district's winning acts were soloists Hannah Jones, Laura Canavan and Ashleigh Fayers, and the group Captain Oats (featuring Tom Keavney on vocals, Peter Yates and Euan Kearney on guitar and Ben Bason on drums).

The competition is based on the Pop Idol competition format, and funded by Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership (RCSP).

Sitting on the expert panel of judges were Kate Davies, of RCSP; Judith Steggle, Mayor of Richmond; and Warwick Mead of Garrison Radio.

Kate said: "Choosing the winning acts was an incredibly difficult task – it really does show that Richmondshire's got talent!"

'Choosing the winning acts was an incredibly difficult task – it really does show that Richmondshire's got talent!'

Partnership pilot gets under way

By Lynda Powell
Head of Partnerships

A RANGE of organisations have pledged to work together, and involve local people, so that we can improve the communities we serve.

Earlier this year Richmondshire's Local Strategic Partnership met to discuss how we could test the effectiveness of working in partnership, to make life better for the district's communities. It was agreed to undertake a

pilot project that would focus on a particular neighbourhood, as this would enable all partners to work closely with local people.

The intention is to discuss and plan together a local community action plan that partners – including North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust, Richmondshire District Council and North Yorkshire County Council – and the community are all committed to resourcing and implementing.

The area of Colburn has been chosen for the pilot project. Colburn was selected as it has a vibrant community where there is a history of people

working together to deliver projects.

The pilot project got underway last month, with the hope of completing at least two actions identified in the action plan by April. If the pilot is successful the LSP would hope to develop similar neighbourhood schemes all across Richmondshire.

Get involved!

If you would like to learn more about this project, or have your say about what the priorities are for Colburn visit richmondshire.gov.uk/lsp

Scrutiny Committee Review

Richmondshire District Council is investigating the availability of public transport to get to hospital appointments. If you have had problems getting to appointments, please answer the following questions. Alternatively, you can complete the questionnaire on our website. Roughly how many hospital appointments have members of your household attended in the last 12 months



Which hospitals did you attend?

How did you get to most of your appointments? Please list each mode of transport, and whether you rely on friends or relatives.

What would make it easier for you to get to your appointments?

Which town or village do you live in?

If you would be prepared to speak further to the committee, please write your name and some contact details:

Please cut out this form and send it to: Overview and Scrutiny, FREEPOST DL43, Swale House, Frenchgate, Richmond, DL10 4JE. All responses will be treated confidentially.

MPs on a mission see rural economy success story

By Nicola Burton
Head of Economic
Development and Tourism

A COMMITTEE of MPs on a fact-finding mission travelled to Richmondshire to find out more about the district's rural economy.

Members of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee were conducting an inquiry into the potential of England's rural economy – and visited Richmondshire to gather evidence.

Their two-day itinerary included a visit to the Wensleydale Creamery in Hawes, Schoolhouse Farm in Raydale, the Reeth Dales Centre, technology company The City Secret in Richmond and The Station in Richmond.

They also held a public oral evidence session at the Creamery, to take evidence from local business representatives.

The last stop on their visit was Richmondshire District Council's innovate! centre in Colburn. The committee, chaired by Michael Jack MP, spent an hour at innovate! speaking to representatives from Richmondshire District Council, Yorkshire Forward and staff from the businesses based there.

The MPs heard how innovate!, as a managed business space, offers tenants access to a high-speed broadband internet connection and administrative support from a full-time centre manager.

Rebecca Morgan, of supply teaching agency Principal Teachers, told the Committee: "We needed an office that reflected the professionalism of the business, and that is why we chose to come to innovate!. It's in a fantastic location, and it fits in perfectly with our business."

Speaking after the visit, Councillor



Fleur Butler, Richmondshire District Council spokesperson for Prosperous Communities, said: "The EFRA Committee visit was a really good

opportunity to show off just a few of the business success stories in our region. There's no escaping the fact that economic conditions are tough at the

moment, but I hope the MPs went away with an insight into how businesses can overcome that and thrive in a rural area like Richmondshire."

Premises Licences – book early for Christmas

By John Jamieson
Head of Environmental Health

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner and with it comes the usual festive gatherings including pantomimes, parties and dances...

But if the public are attending these functions the venue may need to be covered by a Premises Licence or a Temporary Events Notice (TEN).

So, if you are planning to put on an event which involves the public paying to attend a function, which involves regulated entertainment and/or the sale of alcohol, you need to check with our Licensing Team whether the premises are covered by a Premises Licence.

Don't worry if they aren't, as there is a simple and relatively cheap way to make sure you keep your event within the law by means of a Temporary Events Notice (TEN) which covers events for up to 499 people.

Anyone over the age of 18 can apply for up to five TENs in a calendar year. You don't have to be a licensee, although many event organisers prefer to use one.

There are a few things you need to bear in mind if you require a TEN. You must give a minimum of ten clear working days notice to both the Council and the Police – not forgetting that Bank Holidays and weekends don't count. You can give as much notice as you wish, but if you give less than the minimum your TEN will be rejected, so please give yourself plenty of time to avoid disappointment.

When you submit a TEN you will need to specify the times you want it for and the duration which may be up to 96 hours. Once you have filled in the TEN you will need to send two copies plus a £21 fee to the Council plus an extra copy to the Police. They are the only people who can object to a TEN and then only on the grounds of "crime and disorder", which is why you need to send them a copy.

All the information you need on TENs can be found on the Council's website richmondshire.gov.uk by typing in "licensing" in the Search box. If you don't want to use the website or if you would prefer to talk to someone just call us on 01748 829100 and ask to be connected to the Licensing Team. They will be happy to help and advise you.

So what are you waiting for? Get planning your event now and you will be ready for a trouble-free, fun-filled Christmas.

Feeling the crunch?

WE want to know whether current economic conditions are affecting your business.

Visit the "Businesses" section of our website, richmondshire.gov.uk, to tell us to what extent the "credit crunch" has changed the way you operate.

You will also find a large amount of information and advice – and links to other sources you might find helpful.

Businesses lift off

By Sue Kelly
Delivery Officer

ELEVEN new jobs created, one new business launched and more than a quarter of a million pounds of private investment!

That's the very real success story behind the Renaissance Market Town (RMT) Business Grant Scheme which was launched in early February to help boost local businesses in Richmond and Catterick Garrison.

To date the RMT Business Grant Scheme has awarded nine grants totalling £186,762 to a wide variety of local businesses including a post office affected by closure, an ice-cream manufacturer, an independent book-shop and two local garages.

Grants are awarded where there is clear evidence that investment in capital equipment or adaptation/improvement to premises will result in one or more of the following:

- advances in process and product innovation within the business
- an overall increase in sales turnover in the business

- a first time VAT registration
- safeguarding the quality/diversity of employment opportunities within the RMT area
- the creation of direct new jobs
- private investment in improvements to the physical fabric of Gallowfields Trading Estate
- widened scope and appeal of the retail offering in Richmond
- a reduction in CO2 emissions

The scheme, which is run by the Council and Yorkshire Forward, was specifically designed to have a simpler and much faster application process to encourage businesses

to apply – and it's worked.

From receiving a completed grant application it can take less than three weeks to get the go-ahead to start the project.

Get involved!

Grants of between £1,500 and £25,000 are available, and a small amount of funding still remains to be distributed, so any small to medium sized businesses interested in applying should phone 01748 827038 or e-mail sue.kelly@richmondshire.gov.uk

Ten top tips on grant applications

PUTTING together a grant or funding application? Then read on for some top tips...

- 1 Understand the scheme or fund criteria!
- 2 Read and follow the fund/scheme application guidelines. If a Business Plan is required then make sure you prepare and submit one. Failing to supply required information leads to unnecessary delays in appraising projects which can have a negative impact if deadlines are tight.
- 3 Make sure that your project objectives are clear and measurable and that you maintain sight of what it is that you are doing and why you are doing it. Don't let your project or activity become "funding led".

4 Remember eligible expenditure. Often grant schemes will fund either capital or revenue costs only - so it's important to make sure you understand the funding scheme you are applying for and what it will and won't cover.

5 As most grant claims are made retrospectively you need to be able to demonstrate that you can bankroll the project until grant can be claimed – especially important if it's a large project.

6 Demonstrating a need for your project. It's not enough to simply say you want something - you need to articulate the benefit of the project on the business. So what will it enable you to do? What benefit will that bring (new customers or new markets; the creation of

new jobs or the safeguarding of existing ones; or will it simply enable you to fill an identified gap in the market that is not currently being met; or will the project speed up, or remove a bottleneck, in your production processes; or will it automate a manual function by introducing innovative technology to the business?).

7 Demonstrating linkages to the scheme priorities. Read the scheme guidelines carefully, in most cases it will state what the scheme or fund is trying to achieve and if you're still unsure then speak with the funder.

8 When putting together your business plan or application form assume that the reader knows nothing. Too often application

forms and business plans are written in a manner which makes the assumption that the recipient has a level of knowledge about the project which they simply don't have. And where possible avoid the use of jargon, acronyms and abbreviations (and most certainly without stating what they stand for!).

9 Give careful consideration as to how the project will be managed and monitored. All funders need to feel confident that your business/organisation can competently manage the project and the funds.

And finally...

10 If applying for grant funding then never start your project before you get your grant offer letter!

We need you



ARE you under 19? Do you think you can help make Richmondshire a better place for young people?

If the answer to both these questions is "yes", then we need you!

Richmondshire District Youth Council is your chance to have your say on anything and everything that affects you and your friends. It isn't just a talking shop – we work closely with Richmondshire District Council on lots of different issues, but we're independent too. In fact, we have our own budget, which gives us real power and influence to change things for the better.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Visit our website at richmondshire.gov.uk/rdyc or email rdyc@richmondshire.gov.uk to find out more.

Cash counts



OVER the last few months the Youth Council has been putting its money where its mouth is!

That's because we have our own budget, and we get to vote on how it is used.

We've already awarded thousands of pounds to all sorts of different clubs and organisations involving young people right across Richmondshire.

And we aren't stopping there – we are now actively seeking more bids for funding.

There's a very simple form to fill out (only nine questions to answer!) and we regularly meet to vote on bids, so why not give it a go?

Not every bid is successful, but we recently agreed to donate £500 to a scheme called Youth Ability, which helps to transport young people with learning and physical disabilities from their homes to Richmond Youth Club, and £900 for a local drama group to spend on costumes, which will also be lent out to other groups in the area.

To get a form, just email rdyc@richmondshire.gov.uk, visit richmondshire.gov.uk/rdyc or write to Richmondshire District Youth Council, Swale House, Frenchgate, Richmond, DL10 4JE.



Changing for the better



CHANGES are in store for youth councils like ours across North Yorkshire – and we are making sure that it will be change for the better.

We met with a senior officer from North Yorkshire County Council to discuss their plan for a common system for all local youth councils.

In the future, school elections will be held to decide who sits on youth councils, and members from individual councils would also come together on a central County Youth Council.

There would be about 25 elected members in Richmondshire, with places allocated proportionally to schools, so the schools with most students will have the most places.

At the meeting, we raised our concerns that not all young people in Richmondshire go to a local school, and that the vote might become a "popularity contest". We wanted to make sure that Richmondshire District Youth Council remained as representative and inclusive as possible.

They agreed to look at the gaps in representation, and that the elections would be a fully democratic process.

They also promised to work hard to make sure the new system worked properly.

So make sure you look out for the forthcoming elections! If you're interested in standing, visit our website to find out more about what we do.



Special prize



WE were very keen to support the Richmondshire Local Sports Council's annual awards ceremony, and so we decided to fund our own special prize.

We met with Councillor Peter Wood, chairman of the Sports Council, and agreed to sponsor two awards specifically for young people who have made a contribution to sport in the community.

In return, we were asked to pick the winners, and after a vote we decided the awards should go to Lewis Morgan and Katie Usher. We went along on the night to present the trophies in person.

Well done Lewis and Katie



Prize: Youth Council member Max Coates presents Katie Usher with her award

Four big issues



WE have now decided on our work programme for the year ahead.

We picked four big issues that we wanted to know more about, so we could look at how to make things better.

Over the coming year, we will be looking at:

- the lack of transport in the district and a number of issues to do with buses (such as how much they cost),
- getting rid of stereotypes,
- Richmond Live,
- the skate park in Richmond.

Experts in each of those areas are being invited to future meetings so we can start the ball rolling.

Of course, if you have strong opinions on these – or any other – issues, please do get in touch so you can have your say.

Concert



DID you enjoy the Battle of the Bands competition at Richmond Live this year?

We hope so, because we sponsored it! The festival was held in August, and was a massive success – congratulations to everyone who took part.