

Malton & Norton Community Newsletter

Spring 2025
Issue 2



Produced by Malton
& Norton Area
Partnership

Have your say on planning a better future for our towns

Let's get this done!

by Stephen Pritchard

It won't have escaped the notice of many that there have been several significant changes to the structure of local government across North Yorkshire in the past few years.

In April 2023 the new North Yorkshire Council was formed as a unitary authority at the same time the districts, including Ryedale, were abolished. A year later, in May 2024, the first Mayor of York and North Yorkshire was elected.

The mayor will lead the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and will chair the Combined Authority Board. This role comes with devolved powers and control over various funding streams.

Against this backdrop, at its February AGM, Malton & Norton Area Partnership (MNAP) decided to set up a working party to undertake a strategic review of its purpose and role to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

MNAP has worked for the communities of Malton and Norton for the last 20-plus years. It is representative of the wider community, including businesses and the voluntary sector. It has been set up to be non-political and focused on delivery, i.e. getting things done. Over the years it has played a lead role in initiatives including

- The appointment of a town manager for Malton
- Public realm improvements to Market Place and the Shambles in Malton's town centre
- Improvements to the Riverside Park in Norton
- Replacing the boardwalk and bridges along the River Derwent from Malton and Norton to Old Malton
- Building the new skate park in Norton Road.

Tackling the appalling flooding and drainage issues around the towns is a



The new skate park in Norton Road

current focus of MNAP's attention.

The recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan sets out a wide array of new projects including transport, environmental, culture and tourism and other projects which aim to improve the facilities and quality of life for residents. So, there is plenty still to be done.

One of the principles underpinning the formation of the new North Yorkshire Council was to ensure locality working remained a core part of the approach to delivering services. At a local level, North Yorkshire Council has encouraged the setting up of 'Community Partnerships', responding to local needs and ambitions.

There is a clear opportunity for MNAP to become a 'recognised' Community Partnership and while this does not in itself generate funding, it enables local issues to be raised as policies and programmes are formulated and through these channels place Malton and Norton in the best place to secure much needed investment. The mayor will also favour an approach of engaging locally with representative community partnerships.

The strategic review of MNAP will

consider this broader context and will ask key questions about its constitution, leadership and membership. We would like to hear from you with your thoughts or suggestions on these issues. Is there a role for MNAP? What it should be doing? How can we harness local talent as members to make a difference?

Membership is key. We are fortunate to have in Malton and Norton and its hinterland a pool of highly skilled and talented individuals who could make a real difference to the community.

If you have an interest or passion, whether it's a wildlife or biodiversity project, new road crossing or safer routes to school, bolstering our GP facilities or new heritage trails or anything else which aligns with local priorities, we would like to hear from you.

Many are busy working people who are nervous about making voluntary commitments. This should not be a barrier.

Small working groups can be set up to take on projects on a task-and-finish basis to share the load and make it fun and worthwhile.

We would like to hear from you - please contact info@mnap.org.uk

Keeping residents informed about local matters



Bob Watmore and last year's M&N Rotary chair Margaret Pepper

Rotary call to become Involved

by Bob Watmore

Whether acting globally, nationally or locally, Rotarians action is always focused on supporting those in need and building sustainable communities.

Malton and Norton Rotary was established in 1947 with the purpose of following the ethos of Rotary worldwide: "Service above Self".

We like to be a presence within the local area, helping individuals in times of need and having a focus on supporting young people and local community organisations.

We are a happy and friendly group of people willing to give our time and efforts in the support others.

We have a few major projects each year that our volunteer members support. A month long pop-up charity shop in Malton, a very popular golf day at Malton Golf Club to raise money for Yorkshire Cancer Research and the Involve Event promoting local organisations.

This year the Involve Event takes place on Saturday, May 17 at the Milton Rooms in Malton where more than 35 organisations covering support groups, charities, interest and hobby groups will be present in a market stall layout. It is free to attend from 10am to 3pm. There will be brass bands and Kirkham Henry young performers to entertain and drinks and cakes to buy from the Studio Bar.

For more information on Malton & Norton Rotary visit our website

www.rotaryribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=220 or email mandnrotarysec@gmail.com

Views sought on green spaces

A feasibility study has been running for a programme of regeneration in Castlegate, Malton and the adjacent green spaces of Castle Gardens, Orchard Fields and Lady Spring Wood.

North Yorkshire Council has sought feedback on how people currently use these spaces and ideas for improvements. The main purpose of the Castlegate and Greenspace Regeneration Scheme is:

- To deliver a programme of regeneration along Castlegate, to create an economically and socially vibrant link between the towns that creatively showcases the green spaces that lie beyond.
- To enhance the green spaces to form an accessible, active, multifunctional, and connected amenity that is an integral part of the two towns and used as part of the wider town centre area, increasing health, leisure and wellbeing opportunities.



Comments were sought by email by the deadline of March 31 to regeneration.north-east@northyorks.gov.uk on the following:

- How do you use these spaces now?
- Do you have any ideas for improving these spaces?
- What would make you use these spaces more?
- Do you think improvements can help to link the two towns?
- What changes would be your main priorities?

Building concerns over new homes

TALKING POINT

by Paul Andrews & Simon Thackray

There is much public concern in Malton and Norton about the potentially negative impact of new housing developments – particularly after the government declared its aim of building 1.5 million houses over its term of office.

This article may provide some reassurance. Simon Thackray has pursued this matter with Yorkshire Water. In a letter dated January 16, 2025, Yorkshire Water wrote again to the local planning authority about the Barrett Taylor Wimpey application to build 645 houses on land adjoining Norton Lodge, Norton, which is progressing through the planning system.

Yorkshire Water has raised additional concerns about the impact of the Norton Lodge development on the existing combined Malton sewerage system and has requested the imposition of strict conditions including prohibiting the bringing into use of any new building until the capacity of the sewerage system has been increased to be capable of treating the sewage generated by the development.

As the Environment Agency EDM (Event Duration Monitoring) records show, the Malton sewerage system is incapable of treating the current volume

of sewage generated by the towns and already, much of our sewage is spilling into the River Derwent SSSI (a designated Site of Specific Scientific Interest) rather than being pumped forward for treatment.

The data is on visitmaltonsewer.co.uk. The work needed to upgrade the Malton sewerage system is immense and even if progressed, will take years to complete and cost tens of millions of pounds.

This requirement will inevitably delay the development of the Norton Lodge site. The proposed new development would have provided a road connection from Beverley Road to the industrial estate, which would have reduced congestion in Norton town centre. Perhaps the new government or the new county mayor could be persuaded to build this out of public funds?

Yorkshire Water has also objected to the proposal to build 200 new houses at Peasey Hills, stating: "It is believed that the proposed foul water discharge would cause the receiving infrastructure to become overloaded. We therefore object to the proposal."

In addition to increasing the capacity of the Malton sewerage system, we need new slip roads on/off the A64 at the B1257 Broughton Road and a new roundabout at Musley Bank. That HGVs and westbound traffic cannot access the York Road Industrial Estate without passing through the towns is a disgrace.

£5k award is right on track

TransPennine Express has given a substantial award towards Malton Station and the Malton in Bloom initiative.

A delighted Malton in Bloom has received £5,000 from the TransPennine Express Customer and Community Improvement Fund (CCISF). This is to support Malton in Bloom's work on flower and plant displays at Malton station.

This funding is intended to enhance the overall customer experience and continue the improvements that have been made at the station.

Malton in Bloom is a keen supporter of the station and volunteers work year-round to make the displays colourful.

TransPennine has recognised the support and commitment of Malton in Bloom to making Malton Station a welcoming place for visitors and the local community.

The award from TransPennine Express will enable Malton in Bloom to enhance the station with colourful displays and vibrant plants for the residents and visitors to enjoy. The aim is to create a biodiverse area which will support local wildlife such as pollinator and bird species.

As well as enhancing the floral displays, Malton in Bloom will be working with TransPennine Express to provide some biodiversity and creating habitats for wildlife in and around the station.

Stag-geringly good sculptures

Over the past few years Malton in Bloom along with Malton Town Council has delivered some amazing sculptures around the town, including the Sparrow at Sparrows Nest, Newbiggin, The Shepherdess, Collie and Sheep at Broughton Manor, together with the



Malton in Bloom volunteers look on as, from left, the deputy mayor of Malton Cllr Lindsay Burr, town clerk Gail Cook and deputy clerk Tim Hicks receive the donation of £5,000 from TransPennine Express at Malton Station

wonderful leaping horse.

Further to this investment, some spectacular sculptures on the Eden Camp roundabout will be shortly rolled out.

These will consist of a herd of deer - a stag, doe and fawn, once again made by the expert sculptor Andrew Kay. The roundabout will be landscaped with feature stone, and planting. Many thanks to Ripon Farm Services for their financial contribution towards this exciting sculpture.

Green urban regeneration project

Biodiversity and wilding are at the forefront of many conversations at Malton in Bloom. There is already a wonderful large swathe of grass in the cemetery which is left wild all year. In the past, two pockets of wilding have been introduced on Middlecave near the school.

As part of the green urban regeneration project this year, five sections of the grass verges Malton in Bloom manages will be wilded for the first time. This will be managed by contractors, with edges cut to give a good defined edge between the grass verge and the wilding area.

Many native species will be introduced to give a burst of colour throughout the season. These will be in the form of a combination of wildflower plug plants and wildflower seeds.

The wilding should help to support and sustain an array of insects, bees and butterflies.

The locations for wilding will be the York Road near its junction with Rockingham Close, two sections of Castle Howard Road near its junction with Fitzwilliam Drive and two sections of Milton Avenue, near the Burke Road junction.

Foodbank sees increasing demand

Ryedale Community Foodbank has seen a growing demand for food parcels and has expressed concerns about the impact of further increases in energy costs.

The foodbank, which has branches in Norton, Pickering and Kirkbymoorside, saw an unprecedented number of people being referred for food aid in November and December last year and demand has remained high in early 2025.

Di Keal, chair of the trustees at Ryedale Community Foodbank, said: "December is always a busy month at the foodbank, but demand was increasing in November and has remained high in January. In these three months we have fed 1,035 people, including 453 children and infants, with low income, sickness and debt being the top three reasons given

by users as reasons why they need to access food.

"Despite the fact that there are some good lock-in deals on energy available, we know that vulnerable people don't always have access to facilities to secure these deals so often pay higher tariffs.

"With food prices continuing to rise and the added pressures on families around Christmas, it's very easy to fall into debt."

Ryedale Community Foodbank provides food parcels of tinned and dried goods that aim to provide meals for around three weeks. At the suggestion of volunteers, bread and eggs are also now available. A one-person food parcel contains around 20kg of food and is valued at approximately £50. On average the foodbank distributes around 4500kg of food a month.

Di Keal added: "Due to a decline in donations – likely due to the cost-of-living crisis – we need to spend funds on buying in food and essentials such as toiletries and cleaning materials.

"People in Ryedale are very generous, and we receive regular donations, including from those who set up direct debits to donate to us on a regular basis. We also have an excellent fundraising team who apply for grants to keep us going."

Donations to the foodbank in Malton and Norton can be made at Morrisons, Lidl, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Skipton Building Society, Nat West Bank, SpecSavers and local churches. Donations of food basics are very welcome, for example tinned soup, beans, fruit salad and cereals.



Cosy Cottage



The Beecham Weigh



Wytchwood Gallery

Series of positive developments despite continuing challenges for businesses

by Rebecca Wilkin

Fitzwilliam Head of Estate, Malton

The Fitzwilliam Estate has ownership of commercial and residential property in Malton with a vested interest in supporting the town and its occupiers.

The property portfolio includes offices, shops, pubs, hotels, farmland and a substantial amount of residential property and here is some news of recent activities.

Despite the ongoing challenges faced by retailers, particularly in the leisure and hospitality sectors, business operators in Malton remain optimistic. Success requires significant effort, and we celebrate the hard work and commitment invested by the businesses (many being family operated/independent traders) who enrich our lives with high quality products, services and customer care.

Stiff competition is ever present via the faceless force of the online sales platform and purchase power of the supermarket - in ever-evolving economic conditions, the phrase 'use it or lose it' is at the forefront of our minds.

We are therefore delighted to see existing Estate tenants thriving and expanding:

Cosy Cottage Soap has relocated from No 13 to 17 Market Place, taking over the former Costello's coffee shop. Since moving their handmade soap manufacturing business to Malton in 2019 and opening their first store in 2020, they have continued to grow. Expansion doubles production and retail space, allowing them to offer an even wider range of natural skincare, beauty and wellness products.

The Beecham Weigh has moved to 9 Yorkersgate increasing two-fold their retail space from their previous location across the road. Originally opened by



Davina Mortimer's father, Ian Beecham, 40 years ago, the store stocks a comprehensive range of health foods, including organic, vegan, and gluten-free options. Alternative and complementary medicines are also available, along with blood tests for food intolerances, allergies, thyroid function and cholesterol.

The Wytchwood Gallery and Studio has relocated to 9 Finkle Street from The Shambles. Wildlife and textile artist Alison Spaven discovered the art of needle felt 12 years ago and showcases her original artwork, prints, and cards alongside a curated selection of work by other artists, sculptors and ceramicists.

Purple Carrot has taken over 15b Market Street, formerly the bean roasting unit for Roost Coffee. The space now serves as a commercial kitchen supplying their vegan café on Market Street and fulfilling wholesale contracts. Having started as a stall at Malton's markets and Food Lovers' Festival, Purple Carrot grew to provide catering for yoga retreats, business lunches, and other markets. Their continued success has necessitated this additional food production space.

Middlecave Yard is currently a construction site with work having started to transform these former agricultural buildings at Middlecave Yard (on Middlecave Road) into a mix of modern production units and a refurbished barn. This development will support local

business expansion within the town centre and also attract new enterprises. The design preserves the character of the original buildings while providing efficient and functional space. Completion is expected by the end of this year and we anticipate sharing details of a significant pre-let soon.

Challenges and closures unfortunately do occur in the commercial property sector and, while new business openings are always welcome, some unfortunate closures have occurred:

Nickson's Yorkshire Deli, which we reported on in the last newsletter, has closed. Despite significant investment in a high-quality shop fit-out, sales did not meet expectations. Unexpected costs further strained cash flow, leading the owner to make the difficult decision to close. We commend Chantel for her dedication to Malton and wish her the best in her future endeavours.

The George Hotel on Yorkersgate did not reopen as a bar following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. Post-pandemic changes in social habits led the tenant to focus solely on room rentals. The property has now returned to the Estate and, while marketing has yet to commence, expressions of interest are welcome.

Malton, Norton & District Hospital League of Friends has been a tenant at 11-13 Newbiggin for over 25 years, making their planned closure in April 2025 particularly sad news. However, we already have interest from a potential new tenant and hope to bring positive news soon.

Looking Ahead – Malton continues to show resilience and growth, and we look forward to sharing more positive news.