

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

Here we are in September. The mornings are notably cooler and the evenings are drawing in. The leaves will soon start to mark the changing of the season. While we have much to be thankful for – our pandemic infection rates have been lower than many places and we have space and warm communities in which we can find our own comfort and wellbeing – sadly the changing of the season will not alter the challenges we continue to face.

For some of these the solution lies within our own control. While you are out and about you may have seen some of the roadside messages around the continuing importance of taking simple precautions to minimise the risk of spreading Coronavirus. We have also worked with regional health colleagues and Government on messaging on vehicles which will be parked in key places around the county to remind people about how they can continue to play their part. We have come so far in North Yorkshire as a county. Your sacrifices during the height of the pandemic have been outstanding. We must stick to the guidance to avoid a second spike as we head into the colder months. While our infection rate remains lower than some, we are seeing outbreaks in communities across North Yorkshire. Our Test and Trace teams are doing a sterling job but they need your help. If we stick together as a team we can help keep the virus at bay – so let's give it our continued focus and not let our concentration lapse. I think the new message is Hands, Face, and Space! But don't forget if you have symptoms get a test. They are free and available at mobile sites across communities or online via our website here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/book-coronavirus-covid-19-test> We cannot return to the normality we love until the virus is at bay.

By doing this we will also support our businesses. The pandemic has delivered a shock wave to our economy and by helping to limit the virus's spread we can help businesses here stay open and to create more jobs at a critical time. Many of you will understand that the Government's furlough scheme is starting to pare back its support for businesses – ahead of its end in October. In North Yorkshire there are still close to 85,000 people furloughed and we know that nationally just under a quarter of businesses may be considering reducing their staffing levels.

Collectively we can be dynamic in our response to this and pursue devolution and the money and power that goes with that – to ensure we are not left behind. North Yorkshire County Council has approved the submission of plans to Government to invest £540m in fibre connectivity, £390m in transport links, £290m in market town centres, £215m in the bio-economy, £95m on housing, £50m on green energy and £10m in skills across the county over the coming years. These are our devolution asks which need to be submitted to Government very soon to ensure we don't delay this huge opportunity. I have spoken previously about the requirement to restructure local government here to be eligible and promised to keep you informed on progress. We continue to listen to and work with many partners and sectors to build our approach to this. Our focus is very much on maximising benefits to the public and businesses, while minimising disruption via a single, strong and sustainable new county council. As part of this we have made an absolute commitment to harness the power of devolution to unleash the power of communities which we know exists. We are working very closely with town and parish councils as we progress this as well as the community and voluntary sector and wider partner agencies. If you want to know more, please take a look here and there's a have your say section if you would like to let us know your thoughts and ideas www.northyorks.gov.uk/StrongerTogether

Looking to next week, I am sure you can imagine, a great deal of work continues to ensure our schools can reopen safely to welcome back all pupils. Things will, of course, be a little different but I feel sure pupils and staff will adapt – as we all have over the past few months. One big part of that is how pupils will get there. Walking and cycling are being encouraged nationally and our pre-covid home to school transport network will be back in place for the start of the new school term. However, where some schools and colleges may be considering staggered times and bubbles, it is not possible for us to accommodate that.

The social distancing which is in place on public transport will not apply to home to school transport, as school buses and taxis will be carrying the same group of children on a regular basis. This approach is in line with Department for Education guidelines and is the most practical and workable solution. We will issue updated information as we get it, but we also have an ask to parents which is really important and there is more on that further down this bulletin. Please help keep everyone safe by reading it and ensuring your children are confident around how they can help. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone again in school and grateful for the support of schools and parents throughout a really difficult time.

Another sign of progress is the imminent start of work on the permanent repairs to the bridges destroyed during catastrophic flash flooding in the Yorkshire Dales in summer 2019. The structures at Cogden North and Cogden South bridges will be replaced with permanent bridges, beginning mid-September. On the evening the bridges collapsed, Swaledale saw a month of rain fall in just a few hours. For those caught up in the impact, it was devastating and the fightback nothing short of inspiring. We are proud to have worked with and alongside the communities as they have recovered. I hope you will share that sense of inspiration if you read the rest of this story further down the bulletin.

Please take care and stay safe in North Yorkshire.

Keeping in touch

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest COVID-19 related news. Visit:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Follow us on social media: @northyorkscs on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

UPDATE FROM Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

The number of new cases across North Yorkshire is currently around 5 per day.

We are supporting schools, colleges and universities in North Yorkshire for safe full opening (for more information see <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/schools-and-childrens-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19>). The evidence on the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people is evolving. However, existing evidence from UK and international studies shows there is a very low rate of severe disease in children of primary and secondary school ages compared to adults, with the majority of children showing no or very mild symptoms of Covid-19. The evidence of the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people is set against a certainty of long-term harm to many children and young people from not attending school. There is an overwhelming need for children and young people to return to school now, not just so they can catch up with their missed studies

and go on and fulfil their academic potential in the future, but also for their mental health, their wellbeing and their wider development.

Early identification and quickly managing cases and outbreaks of Covid-19 in schools is essential as part of our local response to Covid-19. We have given clear advice for pupils and staff not to attend school with symptoms, and getting promptly tested, advice on self-isolation, prompt reporting of suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 and local process for managing any potential outbreaks. We have access to local data on Covid-19 cases that help us to monitor potential cluster of cases or outbreaks. Schools have been operating in North Yorkshire before the summer holidays, and we have not seen any outbreaks despite identifying individual cases in a number of schools, 75% of cases in parents of pupils and 21% in staff. We have little evidence to suggest that transmission was school related in these cases.

Working together towards recovery

Testing

As part of the national testing programme for coronavirus, drive-through Mobile Testing Units, run by the Department for Health and Social care, will be operating in the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

- **Thursday 3 September - Whitby** - Whitby Park and Ride, Whitby, YO21 1TL
- **Thursday 3 September - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4T
- **Friday 4 September - Northallerton** - Allertonshire School, Brompton Road, Northallerton, DL6 1ED
- **Friday 4 September – Harrogate** - Harrogate Old Education Offices, Ainsty Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4AP
- **Saturday 5 September – Selby** – South Entrance, Drax Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Sunday 6 September – Scarborough** – Scarborough Park & Ride, Seamer Road, Scarborough YO12 4LW
- **Monday 7 September - Settle** - Greenfoot Car Park, Lower Greenfoot, Settle, BD24 9RB
- **Monday 7 September – Northallerton** - Newby Wiske Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9HA
- **Tuesday 8 September - Thornton Le Dale** - National Trust Car Park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Tuesday 8 September – Harrogate** - Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB

Before you attend you must book a test. Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.

Watch this video to find out what to expect and how to prepare for the test:

<https://youtu.be/QawyKwlfKQ>

Find out more and how to book at www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing

Work to begin on permanent repairs to bridges destroyed by floods

Permanent repairs to bridges destroyed during catastrophic flooding in the Yorkshire Dales in summer 2019 is about to start.

Both Cogden North bridge, on the B6270 Richmond to Grinton road, and Cogden South bridge on the C106 near Grinton Moor, will be replaced with permanent bridges, beginning on 14 September.

The night the bridges collapsed, Swaledale saw a month of rain fall in just one night. In the space of hours, land and property was destroyed and bridges washed away. Some residents were left standing with only the clothes they had on their backs.

But despite the adversity, the council and community pulled together to get a semblance of normality back as soon as they could.

The county council acted fast to build temporary roads at both the Cogden South and Cogden North bridges.

Geraldine Coates, chair of the Grinton and Ellerton Abbey Parish Council, recalls the floods.

She said: "The beck overflowed its banks and ran down the road, the road resembling a river bed with stones, boulders and debris. The following morning a lot of people came out to clear the road of debris to allow traffic to move about.

"The County Council acted very swiftly in the aftermath of the flood and had the temporary bridges up in record time, enabling communications to carry on as normal.

"It is very good news that they are now following through and rebuilding the permanent structures in the original dales vernacular style."

County Councillor Yvonne Peacock, member for the Upper Dales, said: "The bridges are part of a vital infrastructure in the Dales and it's a positive step that work is starting on them.

"When the floods happened, the local community and county council reacted very quickly to a difficult situation – working together to find a solution. North Yorkshire County Council will continue to do that going forward."

The work to rebuild the Cogden North bridge on the B6270 will begin on 14 September and is anticipated to be completed by 30 November. The B6270 will remain open during the reconstruction, but there will be some traffic management using two-way lights toward the end of the scheme, with a one-night road closure when the new bridge units are lifted into place.

The work to rebuild the Cogden South bridge is programmed to begin on 14 September and anticipated to be completed by 25 January 2021. There is very limited space for contractors to work safely and effectively while the road is open. Engineers have carefully considered the need to complete these works as quickly and safely as possible with the minimum of disruption. To achieve this, a full road closure will be required for the 16-week construction period.

Video: Cllr Peacock and Cllr Coates talk about the forthcoming work:

https://youtu.be/AFJrfkXR_mo

Supporting our schools and childcare

The home to school transport network which was in place before lockdown, is to be put back in place for the start of the new school term, where circumstances allow.

Although social distancing is in place on public transport, this will not apply to dedicated home to school transport, as school buses and taxis will be carrying the same group of children on a regular basis and no members of the public travel with them

This approach is in line with Department for Education guidelines and is the most practical and workable solution, enabling us to transport all pupils to school.

We can also identify who was travelling on which vehicle so can comply with any contact tracing and isolation if necessary.

Parents and pupils are being asked to play their part in safety measures by making sure they;

- Wash or sanitise their hands prior to boarding the transport service each morning
- Queue at their designated bus stop/collection points in the usual orderly manner and take particular care not to make unnecessary contact with other pupils
- Board the vehicle and sit on the furthest rear seat available and try and use the same seat and sit with the same group of pupils each day.
- On the return journey home pupils should wash and or sanitise their hands at school and queue up. The last to get off the bus should go to the front of the queue, followed by those getting off first.
- Based on Public Health England recommendations, we ask that all pupils, aged 11 and over wear a face covering provided by their parents, where individual needs allow it. This will ensure the safety of each pupil, the driver and other pupils travelling on the bus.
- Where school transport is shared by children attending different schools we would ask that pupils sit together based on the school they are attending wherever possible. The guidance for dedicated education transport services also applies to those pupils who pay for a bus pass to travel on one of those services.

Where pupils entitled to free transport, travel on the public transport network they will be required to adhere to mandatory 1m social distancing and wear a face covering if they are 11 or over, unless they have a valid reason for exemption.

Requirements for pupils with a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND);

- Pupils who have a SEND requirement will be transported in the usual way by bus or taxi but any additional special arrangements as a result of COVID will be detailed in their individual risk assessment where relevant (e.g. pupils with a Health Care Plan requiring close contact intervention.) Parents, schools and transport providers should liaise to ensure that any special requirements over and above that, can be met wherever possible for these pupils.
- Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) will need to be worn by some drivers and passenger assistants on contracts where a risk assessment for the pupils being transported states that it is necessary.
- Where it is possible for them to do so, we advise pupils to use a face covering but it is understood that some pupils will not be able to do this due to the nature of their individual needs.

Schools have their own risk assessments in place ready for the start of the school term and parents with any questions can get in contact with their school to talk over any potential concerns they have.

Some schools will have staggered start times, which parents will now have been notified about, while many will have measures such as one-way systems in place, which will be explained to pupils as they arrive at school.

Most schools, such as Mill Hill Primary School, will be keeping children together in a bubble system throughout the day.

Rebecca Bainbridge, Headteacher of Mill Hill Primary, said they were working to make the school appear as familiar as possible for children when they returned next week.

Other than the tables being set out in rows facing forward - in line with Government advice - pupils will wash their hands at the sinks they would normally use and access their classrooms in the same way. But they will spend their day in a bubble of the same classmates, to avoid coming into contact with more than a few people during their school day.

All this week, Mrs Bainbridge is providing tours around the school for parents wanting information or reassurance about the measures which will be in place. She said: "We have decided that we will make measures such as regular hand washing in school and different break times our new normal.

"We have focused on keeping children in the same bubbles throughout the school day to minimise the risk of infection, so they won't be mixing with different year groups or classes. Systems such as one-way systems created pinch points so separate entrances have been identified for different year groups keeping our bubbles completely separate.

"Keeping children in bubbles allows us to minimise the risk of them coming into contact with many other children and allows the school and classrooms to remain looking as normal as possible."

Teamwork to support our residents

Volunteers have kept North Yorkshire going through these difficult times. In the Yorkshire Dales village of West Burton, 17 year old Luke Greenslade opened the local shop every day during the pandemic to make sure that members of the community had access to food. Luke had help from his brother Jack, 18, who organised fruit and veg orders, newspaper deliveries and supported their mum, Julie, to co-ordinate a shopping delivery service around villages from West Burton up to Gayle.

The shop was previously kept open by an elderly member of the community, but when Covid-19 hit the community, she needed to protect her health. The owner of the shop doesn't live locally, so Luke stepped into the role.

Luke said: "I decided to help as I realised the majority of the village were high-risk individuals who, unless the shop was open, would find it difficult to get essentials such as bread, milk and eggs. I didn't find it difficult to find the motivation, as I saw how important it could be for others. I did 107 consecutive days running the shop and delivering newspapers on weekdays before the shop was due to open and a friend of mine helped delivering newspapers on the weekend, too."

Jack decided to help the volunteer efforts after his mum, Julie, arranged food deliveries for the village.

He said: "I decided to help because my mum was struggling with the volume of grocery deliveries she had to organise, which meant gathering the list of items, weighing each one, ensuring the price was correct and then the actual delivery. I want to say, though, many more people in the community have also gone out of their way to lend a hand!"

Julie, a project co-ordinator for A Good Life, part of the Upper Dales Community Partnership, one of the community support organisations helping the community through lockdown, said: "I'm incredibly proud of both Luke and Jack.

"We have a lot of young people who have helped out in the community, but that's just what the Dales is all about. When you live somewhere rural, it's even more important to stick together as a community and that's exactly what we've done. The new owners of the village shop are in now and we wish them a warm welcome and hope they will be happy living in the Dales."

Although life is getting back to normal, support is still there in every community where it's needed. Those who need help with shopping, prescriptions and other essentials but don't have anyone to call on, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, can contact North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am to 5.30pm.

People can also find details of local voluntary and community groups offering support at www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk

For more information go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Growing our local economy

Buy Local: North Yorkshire's local business directory gets 750 sign ups to help strengthen local economy

Buy Local, North Yorkshire's small business directory, is celebrating 750 local suppliers signing up.

The county council launched the scheme at the start of the pandemic to help businesses link up with local people, matching customer needs to local suppliers during the crisis.

Using local businesses not only supported everyone during the height of the outbreak but it's hoped it will also speed up post-pandemic economic recovery.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Carl Les, said: "Buying locally is incredibly important, now more than ever and the Buy Local directory makes it easier for local people to find what they need.

"We'd like to thank not just every business who signed up, but every single person who has used these businesses for their takeaways or weekly shop. It's incredibly important."

Vicki, the landlady of The Buck Inn for six years, is at the heart of her community.

She signed up to Buy Local and launched a food delivery service. So although her pub was physically closed, she was still providing a vital service to local people.

Now, Vicki has safely opened her doors once more.

She said: "I've had great support from day one from the locals – I'm lucky that it is very much a locals driven pub, we don't have a shop in the village, we have a lovely village school and the church and the hall, but we don't have anything else.

"During the pandemic, I couldn't have just stayed shut.

"We have two brilliant guys who work for us, who wanted to earn money through the pandemic as college had ended and our two chefs, too, so I was able to keep them on doing the takeaway orders and we were able to furlough the rest of our staff during that time."

Now regulars are flooding back in safely.

Vicki says

"When local people give you business, you have to see what you can do for them to give back. It's a two-way system."

People can find a wide range of goods and services and businesses can register, on [Buy Local](#).

LEP News:

Employers encouraged to sign up for apprentice cash boost

Employers are invited to [apply for generous cash incentives](#) to help them take on new apprentices and get more people into work.

As part of the [Government's Plan for Jobs](#), employers are being offered £2,000 for each new apprentice they hire aged under 25, and £1,500 for each newly recruited apprentice aged 25 and over. This includes taking on an apprentice who has been made redundant.

Employers who want to take advantage of the offer can apply through the government's [digital apprenticeship service](#).

Kickstart Scheme opens for employer applications

The new £2billion Kickstart Scheme launches today with the aim of creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs for young people.

Under this scheme, employers can offer youngsters aged 16-24 who are claiming Universal Credit a six-month work placement.

The government will fund each "Kickstart" job - paying 100% of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week- and will also pay employers £1500 to set up support and training for people on a Kickstart placement.

To find out more about the scheme, employers should visit: gov.uk/kickstart

Young people can access the scheme through their Jobcentre Plus work coach.

The scheme, delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions will initially be open until December 2021.

Low income support for workers asked to self-isolate

People on low incomes who need to self-isolate and are unable to work from home in areas with high incidence of COVID-19 will benefit from a new payment scheme.

For more information, read [here](#)

Applications invited from business leaders to Chair LEP main board

[York & North Yorkshire LEP](#) have launched a campaign to recruit a new Chair for the main Board as the term of office for current Chair, David Kerfoot MBE DL, comes to an end next March.

Applications are invited from dynamic and experienced business leaders with drive, energy, and a passion for York and North Yorkshire and are open until Friday 2nd October.

Speaking about the role, David said: “As Chair, you are able to make a real difference ‘on the ground’ and I look forward to seeing a new Chair take up the legacy and lead the LEP’s vision to build a greener, fairer and stronger economy for the region as we emerge from the pandemic.”

Further information is available and applications can be submitted at: www.ynylepchair.com

Stay informed

- GOVERNMENT: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
- Y&NY LEP: <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>
- Y&NY GROWTH HUB: <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>

Creative lockdown ideas

Online music lessons

Our service has adapted to allow lessons to be taught online to pupils unable to attend school. We offer the full range of instruments, including brass, woodwind, strings, percussion, voice and keyboard. Lessons are delivered by specialist instrumental teachers over a secure connection.

We were among the first music service to pioneer this approach and are very experienced in it. For details, visit www.northyorkshitemusicclub.co.uk or email MusicServiceTuitionRequests@northyorks.gov.uk
