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This Issue

- 1 From the President
- 2 Member News
- 3 Town Investment Plan Meeting
- 4 Snippets

1. From the President

In last month's Chamber Chat we highlighted the proposed development of a Boroughbridge Town Investment Plan (TIP) by North Yorkshire Council (NYC). As detailed further in this issue we are hosting a meeting on 4th June for local businesses to find out more and have their say as part of the process. While this is potentially an exciting initiative it raises several questions in my mind, including:

- where's the funding coming from and how much will be available?
- who decides the priorities for action?
- how will approved 'projects' be delivered and who will deliver them?

At the time of writing no funding has been made available and the process and timescale for that is currently unclear. One also wonders how priorities will be determined. I imagine that the NYC staff co-ordinating this will receive many suggestions and ideas – some good and some not so good. Also, one person's good idea is another person's bad idea, so who arbitrates? There is currently no overall co-ordinating body in Boroughbridge to manage any programme of work that may emerge from this – maybe that is something that will need to come together further down the line.

Don't take my comments as being negative, but these questions need to be addressed. This is potentially a great initiative to bring some valuable improvements to the Town, but let's hope we don't just end up with a 'Wish List' that never gets addressed ending up just disappointing people. I do hope we will see you at the 4th June meeting to join the debate.

2. Member News

Chamber members **The Kitchen Room** were recently featured in the Yorkshire Post in an article published on 23rd April. You may still be able to access the article on-line if you are interested.

Following the recent round of Subscription Renewals we thought it would be useful to publish a full current list of Chamber members. It's useful on two counts: Firstly, so members are aware of fellow members, and secondly because it highlights businesses who are not members. If you are friendly with any local businesses not on the list then please try and use your persuasive charm to encourage them to join. The more members we have the louder our voice as a business community and the more knowledge and expertise it brings to the group. Current members are:

Barnes Associates	Issima
BCT Accountants	Jennyruth Workshops
Bloomerang Florists	Johnsons Plumbing & Heating
Boroughbridge Chiropody	La Tienda
Boroughbridge Dental care	Livius Training
Boroughbridge High School	Merit Estates
Boroughbridge Post Office	Michael Coates Decorating
Boroughbridge Vets	Paul Darley
Boroughbridge Keys/Claytons	Peter Ellis Developments
Canal Garage	Pybus News
Charltons of Boroughbridge	Rabbit Hill Business Park
Commence Marketing	Reed Boardall
Craven-Holmes	Spear Travels
The Crown Hotel	The Grantham Arms
David Dale Removals	The Kitchen Room
DM Property Maintenance	Ure Life
KM & G Farrer	Vale Opticians
Fink	Wardrobe
FMP Development Consultancy	Yolk Farm/Minskip Farm Shop
GSC Grays	York Forty Four
Hethertons Solicitors	Yorkshire Oils

3. Town Investment Plan Meeting 4th June

In last month's issue of Chamber Chat we highlighted the planned development of a Boroughbridge Town Investment Plan (TIP) by North Yorkshire Council (NYC), the aim being to have a specific detailed and funded plan for each major centre in North Yorkshire, and that includes Boroughbridge. The plans are being developed to:

"...help guide future investment decisions, build communities and support the economic growth of our towns across North Yorkshire."



The plans should identify projects that promote social regeneration, well-being, and reduced inequalities, ensuring towns are well-connected, vibrant and fit for the future. One key theme of the plan is “**Enabling Enterprise**” – digital infrastructure, provision of workspace, improving vitality of town centres, supporting local businesses, and a balanced mix of shops, homes, leisure, and commercial spaces in town centres.

In support of the initiative the Chamber will be hosting a meeting on **Thursday 4th June in the St Helena Room at The Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge** specifically for the local business community. The

meeting is not open to the general public – it is exclusively for business owners and staff. Non-Chamber member businesses are welcome too.

Representatives from the NYC Community Team will initially give a short presentation to provide an overview of the initiative. This will be followed by an open discussion to gather suggestions and ideas for the investment plan. To ensure it reflects local priorities, it is important that business owners share their views on the town and how they think it could be improved. It is a great opportunity to have your say. Timings are:

- 5:30pm - Welcome Refreshments
- 6pm - Short presentation by NYC Communities Team
- 6:15pm-7pm - Discussion, suggestions and ideas

The meeting is scheduled to close at 7pm but it may continue beyond that should the discussion warrant it.

A local Survey has already been launched by NYC to garner people's opinions of what is good and not so good and what Boroughbridge needs for the future across various themes. The Survey is available on the NYC website (search for Boroughbridge Town Investment Plan).

Separate drop-in public consultation sessions have been arranged by NYC on Saturday 6th June, 10am-12pm, at Boroughbridge Library and on Wednesday 17th June, 3-5pm, at Boroughbridge Methodist Church.

4. Snippets

Appletons Butchers and Issima are the last two remaining businesses having a Chamber **Car Park Collection Box** on their counters for customers to donate towards the upkeep of the Back Lane car park. These boxes used to be widespread across the town centre shops and businesses in days gone by but now we are down to just two! Town centre car parking is certainly under pressure currently and good accessible car parking is vital to support a thriving town centre. If any other Chamber Members would be prepared to take a Collection Box please let the Chamber Secretary know at secretary@boroughbridgeCT.co.uk. The contents can be collected on a periodic basis to then donate to the Town Council to aid the upkeep of the car park.

We understand that the **Tap on the Tutt** pub on Bridge Street is now under the new ownership of Punch Taverns.

At the annual meeting of Boroughbridge Town Council recently **Cllr Zoe Metcalfe** became the new Mayor for 2026-7. Her Deputy is Cllr Nathan Plowright. You may recall that Zoe was formerly Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire (2021-24) before election to the Town Council. We look forward to the Mayor continuing the tradition of supporting the Late-night Christmas Shopping event, which this year will be on Wednesday 2nd December.

We were very interested to learn of free facilities available at the **Boroughbridge Community Library** to help startup businesses, under the heading “Libraries Mean Business!” We’ll let the Library tell you about it in their own words:

“Dreaming of starting your own business? Let your local library help you turn that spark of an idea into a reality. Free resources, databases, and advice are waiting for you. Inspiring business books packed with practical ideas to help start-ups and small businesses thrive. This new business collection is free to reserve with your library card. You can view the collection at: <https://nylibstaff.spydus.co.uk/.../opac/businesscollection> You can also access COBRA (Complete Business Reference Adviser) for free. COBRA has all the information you need to turn your idea into a reality. Library members can find more than 4,000 factsheets, market reports, contacts and sources of funding and support, plus hundreds of practical guides to starting up more than 350 types of business.”

... and keep up to date with the Chamber

News Items are regularly posted to the Chamber website (www.boroughbridgect.co.uk) and we post on Facebook (@BoroughbridgeCT) too.

Make sure you follow and check out these channels for regular updates, useful alerts and information.

Footnote: Please note that the various blue email and website links in this document are not live links – i.e. you cannot click on them. To use them simply copy the text and paste it into your browser or email client.