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1. From the President

At the time of writing Prime Minister Sir Kier Starmer has just resigned from office and it looks very much like Andy Burnham will follow him into Number 10. Andy is certainly 'big' in Manchester but will he translate to the rest of the country – and what does it mean for business? We have a slight problem here in that no-one really knows what Burnham stands for. There has been very little in terms of policy discussion so far, other than the promise of cheaper bus fares and 'Change' yet again. He is also notorious for shifting policy depending on the direction of the wind.

Fundamentally people care about how much money they have and how many other people they must share it with! Yet Andy seems intent on growing the State, which generally means taking more money out of people's pockets to pay for it. It is likely that Rachel Reeves, who has been no friend to business in her role as Chancellor, will lose her job at the Treasury, so what that will mean for fiscal policy, with the resulting impact on household budgets and business confidence, remains to be seen.

A big concern from the business perspective is that Burnham has (inevitably?) surrounded himself with career politicians (Lucy Powell, Ed Milliband, Louise Haigh, Annelise Midgeley) who have very little if any real-world work experience outside of politics. It is mildly amusing (although not funny!) to hear politicians generally proclaim to understand the "workers" when many of them have not actually had a proper job and have little idea what running a business actually entails.

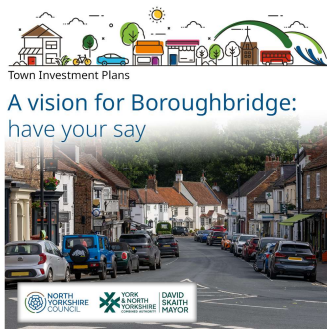
We have no choice but to wait and see how this plays out, but it is quite amazing to think our political system can engineer that a person who did not even stand as a candidate at the last General Election could shortly become our next Prime Minister.

2. 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. As a reminder, 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 hosted a meeting on Thursday 4th June in the St Helena Room at The Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge specifically for the local business community, including Chamber non-members to come along to find out more and to have their say. Nineteen people attended the meeting representing 14 businesses, plus three representatives from North Yorkshire Council’s (NYC) Communities Team who are driving the TIP initiative.

The NYC Team initially gave a short presentation to explain how the initiative has come about, how it is structured and its overall aims. The Powerpoint slides from this presentation will be distributed to Chamber members for information alongside this edition of Chamber Chat.



The presentation was followed by various group discussions facilitated by the NYC team to gather comments, suggestions and ideas for the investment plan. It would have been nice to have had more businesses represented as it is important that local business-related priorities are reflected in the Plan. Nonetheless, the discussions were varied and inevitably not just confined to business related issues, but the NYC team were very pleased with the quality and quantity of material they were able to capture. This will be consolidated with findings from other gatherings and the on-line survey they have been running.

Much was discussed (the meeting ran over by 30 minutes) but two common themes worthy of mention were the current stress on Car Parking in the Town Centre and the general pressure on local infrastructure, both caused by the number of new homes built in and around Boroughbridge over the past few years with many more potentially in the pipeline. Concerns were also expressed regarding how worthy projects would be prioritised, funded and delivered and over what timescale. Questions yet to be answered.

In the interests of gathering views as widely as possible separate drop-in sessions for the general public were held by NYC on Saturday 6th June at Boroughbridge Library and on Wednesday 17th June at Boroughbridge Methodist Church. A NYC local Survey, which closes 30th June, is also available on the North Yorkshire Council website (search for Boroughbridge Town Investment Plan).

We now await the next steps from the NYC team. At the meeting they were unable to provide timescales when all this would be brought together into a coherent plan, albeit some of the issues raised they intended to feed back to relevant Council departments immediately. As soon as we hear back we will share with Chamber members.

3. Aldborough & Boroughbridge Show

This year is the 111th anniversary of the Aldborough & Boroughbridge Agricultural Show continuing its illustrious history. Newby Hall is again the venue, on Sunday 26th July. The Chamber will be represented with our Gazebo and display, operated jointly in conjunction with Craven-Holmes so please pop along and say hello if you are there. We'll also be presenting the two Chamber Cups at the end of the day to winners in one of the Horticultural classes and also one of the Craft classes. Volunteering opportunities are available for this year's show, as detailed on the poster at left, should you be so inclined.

Last year's show was blessed with dry weather, resulting in an excellent attendance from both visitors and competitors. Should you wish to get involved to showcase your business there's still time (you'll have to be quick though!) and various options are available, including advertising in the Show programme, sponsoring a Class or Marquee starting from just £25, and booking a Craft or Trade Stand from £16/metre.

You can also become a Show Member at £25 per adult (family memberships also available), and you can purchase discounted tickets online on the show's website, which includes free entry to Newby Hall Gardens and play area on show day. For more information check out the show's website at: www.boroughbridgeshow.co.uk



... and keep up to date with the Chamber

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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.