



Dear Town/Parish Clerk,

Welcome to March's Parish Update.

This month's Update provides you with a wealth of information that we hope you find useful. The Update includes details of the updated NYC mapping tool, an update from UKHSA about the Meningococcal outbreak in Kent and what signs and symptoms to look out for, and a wide range of training and grant opportunities to explore. We have also attached a copy of the Update as a PDF for ease of reading and accessibility.

1. News and Updates

- North Yorkshire Council Maps
- North Yorkshire Council Standards Bulletin
- Invitation - Charity Reception of the Chairs of North Yorkshire Council and Yorkshire Air Ambulance
- Garden Waste and Recycling Service Updates
- New Powers to Bring Empty Shops Back Into Use
- Updated Taxi Licensing Policy
- Clean Energy Generation Projects
- North Yorkshire Libraries – Easter Opening Times

2. Consultations

- Parks and Open Spaces Satisfaction Survey
- Town Investment Plans
- 2025/26 Community Governance Reviews – Second stage

3. Health and Wellbeing

- Stay Informed: Meningococcal Disease Awareness
- New Menopause Support
- Natural Health Service Pilot
- Centre for Aging Better

4. North Yorkshire Council Campaigns

- LivingWell Smokefree
- Stay Safe When Visiting a Farm

5. Have Your Say

- The Parish Consultation Panel – March 2026 Survey
- Partnerships and Networking Opportunity Survey Results

6. Funding & Training Opportunities

- York and North Yorkshire – Mayor's Active Travel Fund
- Gardening with Disabilities Trust Grants
- Screwfix Foundation
- TEP Environment Grant
- Martyn's Law Training

7. Get Involved

- Ready for Anything Volunteers
- Business Continuity
- Subscribe to NYC Updates
- Sign up for the Climate Change – News from North Yorkshire newsletter
- Community Awards 2026

8. Updates from Parish Liaison, Devolution and Community Rights Team

- Assets of Community Value Update
- Virtual Drop-in

9. Around the County – Spotlight on the Coast

- Coast to Coast Path Gains National Trail Status
- Temporary toilets to be installed in time for busy Easter period
- Whitby Cliff Lift

News and Updates

North Yorkshire Council Maps

North Yorkshire Council has updated and released a new mapping service to support you in your role. The maps can be access by clicking the link here - [North Yorkshire Council General Map](#)

The maps provide information on things such as the locations of grit bins, grass cutting responsibilities and Public Rights of Way.

If you have any feedback about this mapping service, please contact us via parishliaison@northyorks.gov.uk

North Yorkshire Council Standards Bulletin

Please find attached March 2026's edition of the Standards Bulletin for North Yorkshire Council which sets out the latest developments in the national standards regime, particularly in relation to the work by the Ethics and Integrity Commission and the Local Government Association. Members will continue be kept informed of all ethical framework developments.

Should you wish to discuss any standards matter, please contact MonitoringOfficer@northyorks.gov.uk

Charity Reception of the Chairs of North Yorkshire Council and Yorkshire Air Ambulance

The Chairs of North Yorkshire Council and Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Councillor George Jabbour & Mr Mike Harrop would like to invite representatives from your Town Council, Parish Council or Parish Meeting to a Charity Reception on Friday, 24 April 2026, at 6:30pm, at the Pavilions of Harrogate (see invitation attached).

This is a complimentary event, but please confirm attendance for catering purposes.

If you and/or your Councillors would like to attend the event, please email the following address, including the names of your guests and any dietary requirements: thechairman@northyorks.gov.uk

Places are limited, so early booking is advisable.

The Pavilions of Harrogate is located at the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate HG2 8NZ.

Garden Waste and Recycling Service Updates

Please see attached the Recycling News and Service Updates for April 2026 from North Yorkshire Council Waste and Street Scene Team.

Please share relevant information with your Councillors and residents.

New Powers to Bring Empty Shops Back Into Use

The Government has introduced new High Street Rental Auction powers to help tackle long-term empty shops. North Yorkshire Council is considering piloting the scheme in Scarborough, where vacancy rates are high, with the option to expand it across the county.

The new powers allow local authorities to work with landlords of properties that have been empty for over 12 months. If no agreement is reached, the authority can auction a short-term lease to bring the shop back into use. The aim is to reduce boarded-up units, support local businesses, and improve the look and vitality of high streets.

To read the full story, click here - [New powers to tackle empty shops 'could revitalise high streets' | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Updated Taxi Licensing Policy

North Yorkshire Council is updating its taxi licensing policy to improve accessibility for disabled passengers. The changes aim to increase wheelchair-accessible vehicles and ensure operators understand passengers' needs before accepting bookings.

- More accessible vehicles could become available in rural areas, where options are currently limited.
- Better support for hidden disabilities (e.g., autism, anxiety) will help residents who rely on taxis due to sparse public transport.
- Improved reliability for pre-booked journeys, as operators must confirm accessibility needs in advance.
- No immediate cost burden on rural drivers—existing vehicles can continue until end of life.
- Supports access to healthcare and essential services for residents without other transport options.

To read the full story, click here - [Updated taxi licensing policy to make transport more inclusive | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Clean Energy Generation Projects

Government and Great British Energy (GBE) have announced £1 billion in funding for local, clean energy generation projects.

Mayor, David Skaith highlighted the opportunity for York and North Yorkshire to lead the way toward becoming England's first carbon negative region by 2040.

GBE's Local Power Plan will support projects such as solar installations on:

- Libraries
- Leisure centres
- Miners' welfare clubs.

This could mean further investment opportunities for community buildings locally!

For more information, click here - [Funding for local, clean energy generation projects](#)

North Yorkshire Libraries – Opening Times

North Yorkshire Libraries will be closed on Good Friday (3rd April). Most libraries will be also be closed on Easter Saturday (4th April) and Easter Monday (6th April), but there are some local variations so please check details for your local library on our website [Local libraries](#).

Consultations

Parks and Open Spaces Satisfaction Survey

North Yorkshire Council wants to make sure our parks and open spaces are great places for everyone to enjoy and we would like to hear your views.

To complete the survey, follow the link here: [Parks and open spaces satisfaction survey](#)

Please also find attached a copy of the questions should you wish to use them for your Parish Meetings.

Town Investment Plans (TIPs)

There are multiple TIP consultations currently open for comment, including:

- Sherburn in Elmet, closing date 4 May
- Bedale, closing date 31 March
- Pickering, closing date 31 May
- Knaresborough, closing date 6 April
- Eastfield, closing date 5 May
- Filey, closing date 5 May

To make sure each investment plan reflects local priorities we are inviting residents, business owners and visitors to share their views on their local town and how you think it could be improved.

To visit the consultation page, click here - [Current consultations | North Yorkshire Council](#)

2025/26 Community Governance Reviews - Second stage consultation now live

The second stage 12-week consultation on the 2025/26 Community Governance Reviews (CGRs) is now live. The closing date for responses is Thursday 11 June 2026.

You can find out more by clicking [here](#) and respond to the relevant survey by clicking one of the parishes below:

Areas which have a parish meeting but do not have a parish council, wishing to review their boundaries

- [Barden](#)
- [Bolton on Swale](#)
- [Dunsforths](#) (*not proceeding to a stage 2 consultation*)
- [Rand Grange](#)
- [Spennithorne](#)
- [Thorntwaite with Padside](#)

Parish councils or residents in the area have asked to review the boundaries and governance arrangements

- [Kirby Hill and District Parish Council](#)
- [Lillings Ambo Parish Council](#) (*not proceeding to a stage 2 consultation*)
- [Newall with Clifton Parish Council](#)
- [Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council](#)
- [Welburn Parish Council](#) (*not proceeding to a stage 2 consultation*)

Request that the parish council be dissolved, and a parish meeting be put in its place

- [Potto Parish Council](#) (*not proceeding to a stage 2 consultation*)

Grouped parish councils not currently represented in each parish area

- [Constable Burton and Finghall Parish Council](#)
- [Hudswell and District Parish Council](#)
- [Kirklington with Sutton Howgrave Parish Council](#)
- [Thornton-le-Beans with Crosby and Cotcliffe Parish Council](#)

Parish ward boundaries require clarification

- [Staintondale Parish Council](#) (*not proceeding to a stage 2 consultation*)

Parish councils requesting a review with a view to reducing their council size to enable them to be quorate

- [Escrick Parish Council](#)
- [Sherburn Parish Council](#)

You can request a paper copy of the relevant CGR survey by contacting cgr@northyorks.gov.uk or 0300 131 2 131.

This consultation is an opportunity to gather feedback on the recommendations made on the proposed changes to parishes identified in the first stage consultation. The CGR team will carefully consider all responses received, including the views of affected parish meetings and parish/town councils.

This is a chance for you to have your say so please do encourage your councillors and residents to respond.

Health and Wellbeing

Staying Informed: Meningococcal Disease Awareness

There has been a recent increase in cases of meningococcal disease, and we want to ensure our Parish community stays informed and vigilant. Although the illness is uncommon, it can develop quickly, so recognising symptoms early is important.

Key symptoms to look out for:

- A high fever, cold hands and feet
- Severe headache or stiff neck
- Sensitivity to bright lights
- Drowsiness or confusion
- A rash that doesn't fade when pressed (though this doesn't appear in every case)

If anyone becomes suddenly unwell with these symptoms, it's important to seek medical help promptly.

For reliable, up-to-date information about meningococcal disease, symptoms, and vaccination guidance, please visit - [What is meningitis? Symptoms, risks and how to protect yourself – UK Health Security Agency](#)

New Menopause Support

People experiencing menopause in York and North Yorkshire can now access support through the Good Work, Healthy People programme. The Peppy Health service offers two virtual consultations with a qualified nurse prescriber plus access to an app with guidance, videos, courses and a supportive online community. The service is open to anyone living in the area, and referrals can be made by individuals, employers or GP practices via hnyicb-nel.goodwork@nhs.net. The project is funded through the York and North Yorkshire Trailblazer scheme, and full details are available at [Bitly](#)

Please see attached poster for more information. Please share with your community.

Natural Health Service Pilot

The UK's first Protected Landscape-led Natural Health Service is being piloted by the North York Moors Trust, funded through £100,000 from the Combined Authority and the Shared Prosperity Fund. Since its November launch:

- 148 professionals have been trained across health, housing, employment, environmental and justice sectors.
- 50 participants have been referred into the first 10-week wellbeing programme involving sensory, creative and practical activities.

For more information, click here - [Natural Health Service](#)

Centre for Aging Better

The link to the recording for the Age-friendly Town and Parishes Webinar is available on YouTube, click here to view - [Age-friendly Towns and parishes webinar](#)

Please do share this with any colleagues who were unable to make last month's event and would benefit from watching it back.

To be updated on work in this area, please sign up to the newsletter if you have not already - [Centre for Ageing Better](#)

North Yorkshire Council Campaigns

LivingWell Smokefree

If you or someone you know wants to stop smoking our expert advisors can help.

They provide:

- free support and advice for six to 12 weeks
- weekly meetings to help plan new routines, check your progress and keep you going. These can be at one of our clinics, online or by phone
- tips with managing things like cravings or stressful situations
- guidance for using stop smoking aids like nicotine patches and gum, e-cigarettes, and medications. These may be subject to availability and a prescription charge

This support from our experts will help you stop smoking more than trying yourself.

Use the “[Contact us](#)” and a local advisor will arrange to meet you.

For more information, click here - [Stopping smoking | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Stay Safe When Visiting Farms

Don't let bugs ruin your day out!

At this time of year you can be at risk of catching infections from touching animals or having contact with animal droppings on contaminated surfaces around farms and animal attractions.

Harmful bacteria can get passed on by putting your hands on your face or fingers in your mouth before washing them thoroughly.

Common illnesses include *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *E. coli* O157, and *Salmonella*, causing symptoms like diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, nausea, and body aches.

The good news is a few simple hygiene steps can help keep you and your children safe from infections. To view these steps, click the link below.

For more information, including what to do if you feel unwell after a farm visit, please visit North Yorkshire Council's [farm visits page](#).

Have Your Say

The Parish Consultation Panel – March 2026 Survey

This month, we are inviting the Parish Consultation Panel to take part in a survey which seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of the Parish Liaison Team's outreach activity. The information provided will help us better plan for future outreach activity in your area and ensure it is both effective and meaningful. It should take no longer than ten minutes to complete.

If you would like to be part of the Parish Consultation Panel and help shape delivery of the Parish Liaison service, please email parishliaison@northyorks.gov.uk to get involved!

If you would like to submit feedback about the Parish Liaison outreach activity without joining the Consultation Panel, please email us and we will take your comments on board.

Partnerships and Networking Opportunities Survey Results

Last month, we asked our Parish Consultation Panel a series of questions to help us understand what networking and partnership opportunities they currently have and what they are used for. We also asked what partnerships and networks they would be interested in so that we can support this. We have attached a summary of the results for your information.

Funding and Training Opportunities

York and North Yorkshire – Mayor's Active Travel Fund

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority is inviting active travel and community organisations, businesses and charities to apply for grants of £5,000 - £100,000 to increase active travel in York and North Yorkshire.

This could include projects that improve walking routes, make routes more accessible, develop school streets, provide safe cycle storage, and offer cycle training.

Deadline: 10 April 2026

[Mayor's Active Travel Fund > York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)

Gardening with Disabilities Trust Grants

The Trust aims to help people back into gardening in spite of disability. Grants are awarded to individuals and groups across the UK so people can adapt their gardens and make gardening possible.

[Gardening with Disabilities Trust Grants](#)

Screwfix Foundation

Grants in the region of £5,000 to charities and non-profits for projects that help to repair or improve buildings and facilities used by people in need.

Deadline: 10 May 2026

[Screwfix Foundation](#)

The Environment Partnership Environment Grant

Small grants from £250 to £1,000 to support environmental projects that benefit local communities, particularly initiatives led by schools, community groups and charities.

Deadline: 31 May 2026

[TEP Environment Grant](#)

Martyn's Law – Training Available

From April 2027 all venues and events expecting 200 or more attendees will need to comply with Martyn's Law. This new legal requirement applies to certain public premises and events and will require organisations to:

- Consider how they would respond to a terrorist attack
- Put in place procedures that reduce the risk of harm (e.g. evacuation plans)
- For larger venues, implement proportionate security measures such as monitoring, access control or bag checks.

Although statutory guidance has not yet been issued, premises and organisers are encouraged to start preparing now. Duty holders do not need to pay for external consultants, and the government does not endorse third-party compliance services.

Training sessions are currently being organised in other areas by Safer North Yorkshire. Event details will be found on the [North Yorkshire Local Protect and Prepare webpage](#).

Adult Learning North Yorkshire is offering a free two-hour training session that will cover:

- Identifying groups and organisations affected by Martyn's Law
- The tiered approach adopted by the Act
- The actions that are needed to comply with Martyn's Law

[Book your place on a session.](#)

If you have a team who would like to take part in the training, the Adult Learning team can also come to your premises to deliver the training or create a bespoke training course tailored to your needs. [Contact the Adult Learning team](#) to find out more.

Further online training can be found on the [ProtectUK website](#).

Get Involved

Ready for Anything: Join North Yorkshire's Emergency Volunteer Team

When severe weather or unexpected events hit our communities, a little help can make a huge difference. North Yorkshire's Ready for Anything volunteers step in when needed — offering practical support, sharing vital information, and helping keep people safe.

It's flexible, simple, and incredibly rewarding. There are no regular hours; you'll just be contacted during an incident and can help if you're free. Volunteers receive free training, work in pairs, and are fully supported by the council.

From assisting at rest centres to checking on vulnerable residents, every role helps strengthen our community's resilience. And yes — there's usually a warm drink and biscuit involved.

If you want to make a real difference when it matters most, consider becoming a Ready for Anything volunteer.

[Ready for anything volunteering | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Business Continuity

North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (NYLRF) is committed to helping communities prepare for emergencies through practical resources and expert guidance. One of the most effective tools they offer is a business continuity plan template, designed to help you identify critical operations, assess risks, and outline strategies to maintain operations during disruptions.

A continuity plan is more than just a document—it's a lifeline for your organisation. It ensures that your Parish can:

- Respond effectively to emergencies, minimising downtime.
- Protect critical operations and maintain essential services.
- Communicate clearly with staff, customers, and suppliers during a crisis.
- Recover quickly, reducing financial and reputational damage.

NYLRF provides a user-friendly template to guide you through the process of creating a tailored continuity plan. The template includes:

- A checklist of essential supplies, equipment, and data backups.
- Guidance on identifying critical business functions and assessing risks.
- Tips for training staff and testing your plan to ensure its effectiveness.

You can access the template and additional resources here. [Get ready for an emergency | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Subscribing to North Yorkshire Council updates

If you would like to receive notifications when specific NYC committee agendas are published, parish clerks and councillors can subscribe to NYC updates. Subscribing will ensure you receive timely alerts when committee agendas, minutes, consultations and decisions are published.

Please see the attached guidance for instructions on how to subscribe to NYC updates.

Sign up for the Climate Change – News from North Yorkshire newsletter

Sign up to the Climate newsletter for the latest updates from our Climate Change Team by clicking this link - [Sign-up to our Climate newsletter](#)

Community Awards 2026

Watch out for the 2026 Community Awards when it launches in mid-April.

These awards are a fantastic chance to shine a spotlight on the amazing people and groups who make our communities stronger, kinder, and more connected. Now's the perfect time to start thinking about who you might nominate. If someone comes to mind, why not have a quick chat with them to check they're happy to be put forward?

This year's categories are:

1. **Commitment to the Community:** Recognising individuals who have demonstrated unwavering dedication and exceptional service to our community.
2. **Wellbeing & Community Connection:** Recognising groups who support people in their communities to feel healthier, more connected and included.
3. **Inclusive Communities:** Recognising groups who bring people together and help them flourish

More details will be available once the awards officially launched and further information will be in next months edition of the Parish Update.

Parish Liaison, Devolution and Community Rights Team Update

Assets of Community Value

If you want to contact our team about Assets of Community Value (ACV), you can get in touch via email at AssetsofCommunityValue.NYC@northyorks.gov.uk or through the contact form on the website. The complete list of 'Assets of Community Value' can be found on the [Register of Assets of Community Value](#) page on our website.

Decisions

- [Rathmell Old School | North Yorkshire Council](#) and [The Golden Lion Helperby | North Yorkshire Council](#) were both successful (date of decision 18 March 2026) they have now been included on the Register of Assets of Community Value.

Live Nominations

There are two current Asset of Community Value nominations pending a decision, the dates for decisions are included below. Decision information will be published after these dates:

- [Borough Bowling Club | North Yorkshire Council](#) - a decision is due to be taken on 30th March 2026
- [Starbeck Swimming Pool | North Yorkshire Council](#) - a decision is due to be taken on 10th April 2026

Assets of Community Value Subject to Potential Disposal / Live Moratorium Periods

Moratoriums are periods of time during which the owner of land listed as an Asset of Community Value cannot make a non-exempt relevant disposal, other than to an eligible voluntary or community body. There are two types of moratorium periods, both running from the same start date (when the owner notifies the local authority of an intention to sell):

- The interim moratorium - six weeks
- The full moratorium - six months

There is one Asset of Community Value currently in a moratorium period:

- Horton School Playing Field, Horton in Ribblesdale. Full moratorium period ending at midnight on 13th July 2026, more information can be found [here](#)

Virtual Drop-in

Just to remind you that the Parish Liaison Team hold 'virtual surgeries' which give Town/Parish Clerks the opportunity to book an appointment, meet the Parish Liaison team and discuss any queries specific to their parish. They are hosted via Microsoft Teams on the 2nd Tuesday of every month between 10am and 12pm and on the 3rd Wednesday of every month between 2pm and 4pm.

If you would like to book an appointment to attend an on-line surgery please contact the Parish Liaison Team at parishliaison@northyorks.gov.uk and a member of the team will be back in touch to confirm your booking. When booking an appointment please indicate a date and time that would be convenient and provide a brief description as to the nature of your enquiry.

The next round of surgeries will be held on:

- Tuesday April 14th
- Wednesday April 15th

Around the County – Spotlight on the Coast

Coast to Coast Path Gains National Trail Status

The Coast to Coast Path's new National Trail status is expected to bring more walkers and cyclists through rural villages, boosting trade for pubs, cafés, shops, B&Bs and farm stays. The increased footfall should strengthen local economies, create new opportunities for small businesses and community initiatives, and help sustain rural amenities that rely on seasonal visitors.

To read more, click here - [Business boost as Coast to Coast Path becomes National Trail | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Temporary toilets to be installed in time for busy Easter period

Temporary toilets are due to be installed in two popular North Yorkshire coastal towns this month as swift action is taken to ensure essential facilities are in place for the busy Easter period.

A total of 20 toilets including accessible provision are to be opened at Royal Parade in Filey and West Pier in Scarborough after serious structural issues led to the closure of two toilet blocks last month (February).

For more information, visit - [Temporary toilets to be installed in time for busy Easter period | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Whitby Cliff Lift

Councillors have voted to reexamine the cost of restoring Whitby's historic cliff lift, instead of decommissioning it. To read the full story, click here - [New hope for Whitby Cliff Lift as council backs cost study - BBC News](#)

Thank you for reading this month's Parish Update, we hope you found it useful. Our next edition will be published on the **April 29th**.

Kind regards

Parish Liaison Team

Email: parishliaison@northyorks.gov.uk

Web: www.northyorks.gov.uk

