

HAMBLETON NEWS

February 2004

HAMBLETON

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Making Life Better



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MULTI-MILLION BOOST FOR DISTRICT



£2.35m comes to Stokesley

WORK on an innovative new industrial development for Stokesley is underway.

The final piece of the funding jigsaw was put into place at Christmas heralding a start on the £2.35 million scheme of 'incubator' style units.

Yorkshire Forward announced it will contribute £1.17 million to the scheme. It joins cash from European funds (£670,043 from the European Regional Development Fund); from BT (£50,000) and from the District Council (£453,404).

The District Council development is based on a 0.7 acre plot in the centre of Stokesley Industrial Park. The units - which are being built using the latest in sustainable and energy efficient features - will be serviced by a common reception area, management office and training/conference facility.

And they are being built to a blueprint drawn up by London based architects, McDowell and Benedetti. They won a competition held last year to find the scheme's

design. The competition attracted entries from across the UK and the world - Japan, Spain and Australia.

"Receiving the cash from Yorkshire Forward was the trigger for this project," said Councillor Ralph Andrew, Cabinet Spokesperson on Economic Development.

"The costs of creating a 'sustainable' building are slightly higher than for a conventional building, but the lifetime costs and environmental benefits make it worthwhile.

"This development will be a great asset to Hambleton and particularly Stokesley Industrial Park. It will give us a number of starter units for new businesses."

The first units are expected to be ready in late September. Anyone interested in renting one can register an interest with the Economic Development Unit on (01609) 767204 (geoff.herbert@hambleton.gov.uk)

Chairman of Hambleton District Council, Councillor David Smith, is pictured on site with Sally Atkins of Yorkshire Forward.

A MASSIVE £5 million has been levered into Hambleton over the last 12 months.

The cash awards include more than £3 million for Economic Development projects.

And £1.8million of that has gone towards the innovative new workspace scheme for Stokesley.

"The schemes for which we have received support cut across a wide range of service areas," said Council Leader, Councillor Arthur Barker.

"The money makes the difference between the success or failure of many projects.

"Although the Council does not benefit from any significant European funding streams, we are celebrating a very successful 12 months when it comes to inward investment."

Funds also supported leisure provision in Bedale and Northallerton (see page 11) and the implementation of the twin-bin scheme to help

meet the Government's recycling and waste reduction targets (see pages 6 and 7).

The Council uses both its Economic Development Fund - and its Capital Programme - to contribute towards match funding of these projects.

"This use of the Council's reserves to support job creation and community benefit is money well spent and represents real value for the Council Tax payer," added Councillor Barker.

Through this investment, new industrial schemes at Stokesley and Darlington Road, Northallerton have been completed in the last year. New businesses are expected to begin moving on to the site within months.

Money was secured from Yorkshire Forward - £3,238,490, the New Opportunities Fund - £475,000, Sport England - £198,000 and DEFRA - £486,700 with other money coming from English Heritage and the Government.

Autumn vote on region's future

A DECISION on the creation of an elected Regional Assembly for Yorkshire and the Humber will be taken in the autumn.

The Government has announced that there will be a Referendum to ask local people if they want Regional Government.

If the answer is 'YES' to a Regional Assembly, one layer of existing Local Government will be taken away.

In North Yorkshire, that will mean abolishing the existing County Council and District Councils - including Hambleton - and setting up one or more new Unitary Authorities to combine their roles.

If the answer is 'NO' to a Regional Assembly, Councils in North Yorkshire will remain as they are now.

The Boundary Committee is currently consulting on four pos-

sible options for the County. It will make recommendations to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May - based on those options and any others it may suggest. At least two options will end up on the ballot paper for the Referendum.

"The question for voters is simple - if there is a 'yes' vote which of the options would you prefer," said Leader of the District Council, Councillor Arthur Barker.

"We cannot maintain the status quo - all the existing Councils will be abolished. We will start from a clean sheet no matter which option is chosen."

He said there are at least two sides to the debate. Some people in North Yorkshire think one Authority covering the whole of the County will be the most cost effective. Others think three Local Authorities are needed to

meet local needs - joining Craven with Harrogate, Richmondshire with Hambleton and Scarborough with Ryedale. And the Boundary Committee are also asking for views on two two-way splits.

The six District Councils - Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Ryedale, Richmondshire and Scarborough - believe that three Authorities is the way forward. And under the banner 'Let's Keep it Local - Better by Miles' they are informing the public of its options.

"We believe three Authorities - not one - is the future for North Yorkshire, to ensure that services remain truly local and respect the very different community identities across our vast County. That makes this option 'better by miles'," added Councillor Barker.

For more information turn to the centre pages.