

# RAILWAY PLANS ON TRACK



**THIS year 2004 will see passenger trains stopping at Bedale Station for the first time in half a century.**

The new service will mark the start of a £1 million scheme to bring the station back into use – generating economic benefits for the Market Town.

The District Council is to buy the station as part of a project to help the newly opened Wensleydale Railway improve transport links across the dales and to create bases for other

businesses.

As well as re-opening the station buildings to the public – to house offices, café, waiting room and information points – it is hoped the scheme will also create a conference/exhibition area and a series of workshops at the site.

Better pedestrian links between the town centre and the station are also being explored – a new footbridge may be constructed over Bedale Beck.

The project sees the

Council join forces with Yorkshire Forward – they have allocated £500,000 to the scheme. Hambleton has added £390,000 and is looking to other funders for help – North Yorkshire County Council is to discuss the issue this month.

"This is a very exciting scheme for the Council and especially for the people of Bedale," said Councillor Ralph Andrew, Cabinet Spokesperson on Economic Development.

"The project will bring

together a range of objectives in the Bedale and Villages Community Plan – tourism, transport and business links will all be improved by the scheme.

"Re-opening the station will be a major asset to the area and go some way towards linking people from main line trains to the Dales."

A Planning application for the scheme has been lodged, with building work expected to start this autumn.

## Transport for the future

**HAMBLETON'S first Transport Strategy was formally adopted by the Council in November.**

It was drawn up following widespread consultation with transport users, service providers and other transport agencies. North Yorkshire County Council, Town and Parish Councils, public transport operators, the Rural Transport Partnership, the Freight Transport Association, and special interest groups such as the Cyclists Touring Club were questioned.

And their views led to a number of improvements to the document including:-

- additional references to the need to provide for access for people with disabilities;
- the need to improve public transport services to enable greater access to employment opportunities in the Market Towns and on the District's Industrial Estates;
- updated information on Highways Agency studies relating to the A19/A168 and A1(M) and on Hambleton's concerns regarding these routes;
- greater information included on non-motorised road users and the need to improve facilities for them.

The Strategy brings together all the transport projects currently underway which will have an impact on Hambleton in the near future. It sets out what action the Council proposes to take over the next five years and what its view is on the policies and projects of other organisations.

## New parking sponsors

**NEW sponsors for the 60,000 parking discs distributed to motorists each year have been found.**

BBC Radio York is advertising on the discs for the first time this year.

It will be the third year the Council has sold space on the discs – which enable motorists to park free across Hambleton.

It helps offset the cost of the disc parking scheme and maintain a cost effective service.

The scheme operates in short stay car parks in Northallerton, Thirsk and Stokesley – while parking is free it is time limited in order to manage the flow of spaces.

Discs are available from District Council offices, Tourist Information Centres and local shops.

BBC York reporter Victoria Green.



## ... and sponsors wanted

SPONSORS for a 'Park and Ride' scheme operated during Northallerton's annual May Fair are being sought.

The District Council operates the free service for the Fair's Saturday date – running regular buses from the Civic Centre and County Hall.

The buses – every 15 minutes – can be used by both shoppers and Fair visitors.

The scheme is currently supported by the Showmen's Guild and Barkers, but more sponsors are needed. Each will be given credit on all advertising material produced.

The May Fair is due in Northallerton from April 29 to May 3.

For more information, call Clive Thornton on (01609) 767052.

# GET TO WORK . . .

## ... by bike

**A MOPED leasing scheme which helps young people living in rural areas get to work celebrates its third birthday this Easter.**

It has already helped 150 people in the Hambleton and Richmondshire areas.

The 'Wheels 2 Work' scheme allows them to take up employment, education and training opportunities which would otherwise be inaccessible due to the absence of public transport.

By the end of last year 418 young people had been referred to the scheme. Of them, 131 were allocated mopeds – including 78 from Hambleton.

Operated by the Hambleton and Richmondshire Rural Transport Partnership the scheme is now being replicated across the UK.

The Partnership now runs 40 mopeds ten of which have formed a pilot scheme in the Ripon area. It also has 12 pushbikes and one electric bike.

To be eligible for 'Wheels 2 Work' you must be aged 16+, live within Hambleton and Richmondshire or rural Ripon, and have difficulty getting to either work, further education or work related training due to lack of suitable transport.

Apply on line: [www.communigate.co.uk/ne/wheels2work](http://www.communigate.co.uk/ne/wheels2work) or contact Andrew Johnston on (01609) 761682.



## ... by bus

**A NEW bus service to link Hambleton Industrial Estates and Middlesbrough has been launched.**

Hambleton and Richmondshire Rural Transport Partnership has joined forces with John Smith Coaches to provide the services.

The 'Service 160' enables people from Middlesbrough, Osmotherley, Northallerton and Thirsk to access job opportunities at Northallerton, Thirsk, Dalton Airfield and Melmerby Industrial Estates.

Until now the Dalton and Melmerby Estates had not been served by public transport – a problem which had led to complaints from many employers, agencies and people seeking work. It had caused recruitment problems for employers and stopped people without their own private transport from gaining

employment at these sites.

It is hoped the new bus service will help overcome this problem as it provides one early morning and one return evening service. It will operate from Monday to Friday throughout the year, leaving Middlesbrough at 6.50 am and returning at 18.10 pm.

The new service is being part financed by Countryside Agency money for its first year. Other partners which have helped make the route possible include the Rural Transport Partnership, Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Tees Valley Rural Transport Partnership and Northallerton Job Centre.

For more information contact John Smith and Sons on (01845) 577250 or ring Traveline on 0870 6082 608.