

Report for Eastfield Town Council meeting 14/04/26. (Written 09/04/26)

Summary:

Quite a busy month. This may be the fact that the easter holidays have slowed down the Council so the other two weeks were more packed.

Town Hall:

We saw the decision to dispose of Scarborough Town Hall and relocate to Resolution House go ahead, despite my objection. The main concern speaking to Councillors around in 2012 when it was last mooted, is that Marks & Spencer will pull out of the Town Centre something which given current market trends could happen. I am also greatly concerned as to what happens to the site next. There is no plan for the site and despite the Councils reassurances that they will decide the fate of the site *after* buying Resolution House, this strikes me as a done deal.

After the announcement was sprung on everyone, we saw at the Executive meeting a massive rowing back. The Council have guaranteed to preserve the “civic heart of Scarborough” namely the listed part of the site. Despite this not being in the report or any of the press releases was apparently the plan from the start.

Moving forward I will be lobbying the Council to provide a training scheme for Eastfield residents. Given the large demand for decent work, if Eastfield can leverage the new Resolution House, that would be a fantastic long-term boost.

Antisocial Behaviour and vandalism:

As you will be aware there has been a significant uptick in crime relating to a group of youths. I spoke with Inspector Collins from the Neighbourhood policing team. They are fully aware of the kids behind it and are actively engaging with parents and other agencies such as housing associations. The housing associations have a responsibility for the behaviour of their tenants. The police are actively working with them to resolve the issue.

Braeburn School:

Since my election I have been lobbying the Council to address the school traffic situation around Overdale/St Georges and Braeburn Schools. I have now been told that Braeburn has been selected for a 'School Street' pilot scheme. This would see Braeburn restricted to traffic during school pick up and drop off times. The aim behind this is firstly to provide a safer route to/from the school. Secondly, the Council will promote the health benefits of walking or cycling to school. The school is on board with the plan and it is hoped to begin at the start of the next school year.

Musham Bank:

Regarding the road closures. I met with Olivers Mount Racing and Cllr Rich Maw (it falls within his division) last summer to try and come up with a solution to the current situation that sees massive disruption for residents, temporary road surfaces that cost the Council thousands each race and a huge degree of uncertainty for the race organisers.

The plan was to lay a second lane to the existing track. This would allow cars to queue on the mount as opposed to Musham Bank and speed up the flow of traffic to the races. Olivers Mount proposed that the Council would pay for the stone, they would source the plant and labour to build the road, then take responsibility for it. A better situation all round and I was relieved to hear the Council had agreed to the plan.

My relief was short lived when I discovered the Council still hasn't submitted planning permission to itself and there is no start date for the road as race season begins. I was then surprised to learn that in the opinion of the Highways Officer dealing with it, Musham Bank would still need to be closed even with the second lane.

Both management at Olivers Mount and I have expressed our frustration at this. I have contacted the Executive member for Highways Cllr Malcolm Taylor who has agreed to escalate the issue. I am still awaiting an update at the time of writing.