

OurYork

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Our Place

Caring for our communities, together

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A city of opportunity – a council that delivers

Welcome to the first edition of a new update highlighting what's happening in and around York, from City of York Council.

York is an iconic city, known worldwide for its remarkable history. While that heritage matters, what's most important to many of you who live here is what happens every day, in the places where you live, work, learn and spend time. Each edition will include features about key services affecting your local area.

Topics included reflect the issues we know you care about. One of the biggest at the moment is the condition of our roads and cycleways. We spend a significant amount of money in maintaining these for everyone. On the middle pages we've outlined some of the work taking place across the city.

City of York Council now has a new Chief Executive, Richard Webb. Richard brings a wealth of experience across lots of key services we deliver, including social care and housing.

We'll publish these updates every few months, so keep an eye out for future editions. Together, this is our city.



Cllr Claire Douglas
Leader,
City of York Council



Richard Webb
Chief Executive,
City of York Council

Ward Focus: Micklegate



Walls in Bloom

York Walls in Bloom showed Station Rise and Foss Islands Road in a new light last year, with months of colourful wildflowers delighting residents, tourists, bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

Following the daffodils that announce spring, our historic walls will be a beacon of colour this year as the project expands to new locations.

Thanks to the St Nicks Green Corridors Project, climate lottery funding and the invaluable support of volunteers and partners.

Swap2Stop **YORK Health Trainers**

“I quit with York Health Trainers, you can too!”
Ray from Haxby

- **FREE 4 week vape starter kit posted to you**
- **Or, free 1-1 support, vape starter kit and additional e-liquid for 10-weeks**

York smokers aged 18 and over can self-refer

Get in touch today!
Call: 01904 553377
Text: 07789 946384

York children tuck into free school breakfasts

Thanks to the expansion of York Hungry Minds pilots

Partners across the city have teamed up to provide over 170,000 free breakfasts to primary school children over the next three years, thanks to a major expansion of the city's York Hungry Minds initiative.

Funded by the York Hungry Minds campaign, with donations from businesses and individuals, free school breakfast pilots have been rolled out to invited children at Haxby Road, Hob Moor, Tang Hall, New Earswick, St Lawrence's, Poppleton Road, Woodthorpe, Osbaldwick, Stockton on Forest and Lakeside Primary schools this term.

They join Westfield Community Primary School that has already delivered over 50,000 free lunches and Fishergate and Burton Green Primary Schools who have delivered over 19,000 free breakfasts. All three schools are already seeing the positive impact of free school meals.

Matt Brown, Headteacher at Osbaldwick Primary Academy (pictured), said: "Providing a nutritious meal at no cost will ensure every child is ready to learn and thrive, whilst offering vital support to our families during these challenging times."

Research into the impact of the first two York pilots found that pupils taking part had improved school attendance and arrived on time for school more often.



Matt Brown with pupils from Osbaldwick Primary Academy.

Schools also saw an improvement in behaviour, with staff seeing improvements in the pupils' focus and energy levels after receiving a free breakfast.

Support the York Hungry Minds appeal

The York Hungry Minds appeal has been set up to give people an opportunity to donate whatever they can afford to enable all primary school children in the city to access a free school meal.

You can donate via the Two Ridings Community Foundation website:

<https://tworidingscf.org.uk/york-hungry-minds/> or by calling **01904 929500**.

Or you can donate by sending a cheque, made payable to:

Two Ridings Community Foundation (write on the back 'York Hungry Minds Appeal')

Two Ridings Community Foundation,
The Homestead,
40 Water End,
York, YO30 6WP







Scan the QR to find out more



Record investment in York's highways

York's annual maintenance plan for our roads and streets has been published, and this year we are investing 50% more, helping to keep the city moving whichever way you travel.


Works include:


-  Resurfacing works across the city from Osbaldwick to Copmanthorpe and more.
-  Patching work all over York, in areas including Wheldrake and Acomb.
-  Long term preventative repairs in areas including Poppleton, Wheldrake and more.
-  Footpath repairs in the city centre, Acomb and Holgate, plus route repairs for all users around the Knavesmire.
-  Lighting repairs, including in Rawcliffe and Clifton.
-  Drainage works across the city including in Bishopthorpe and Acomb.

The plan also covers gritting over the winter, installing temporary flood defences as needed, maintenance of our historic walls, and reactive pothole repairs right across the city. Our highways need an estimated £100M to bring them up to perfect condition. We can't achieve this in one year and that's why we prioritise preventative maintenance, which helps extend the life of existing road surfaces by ten years or more, preventing major deterioration and reducing the formation of potholes.


This year we are spending £16.5M on our highways, with funding focused on road safety and long term improvement.

At City of York Council we are responsible for:

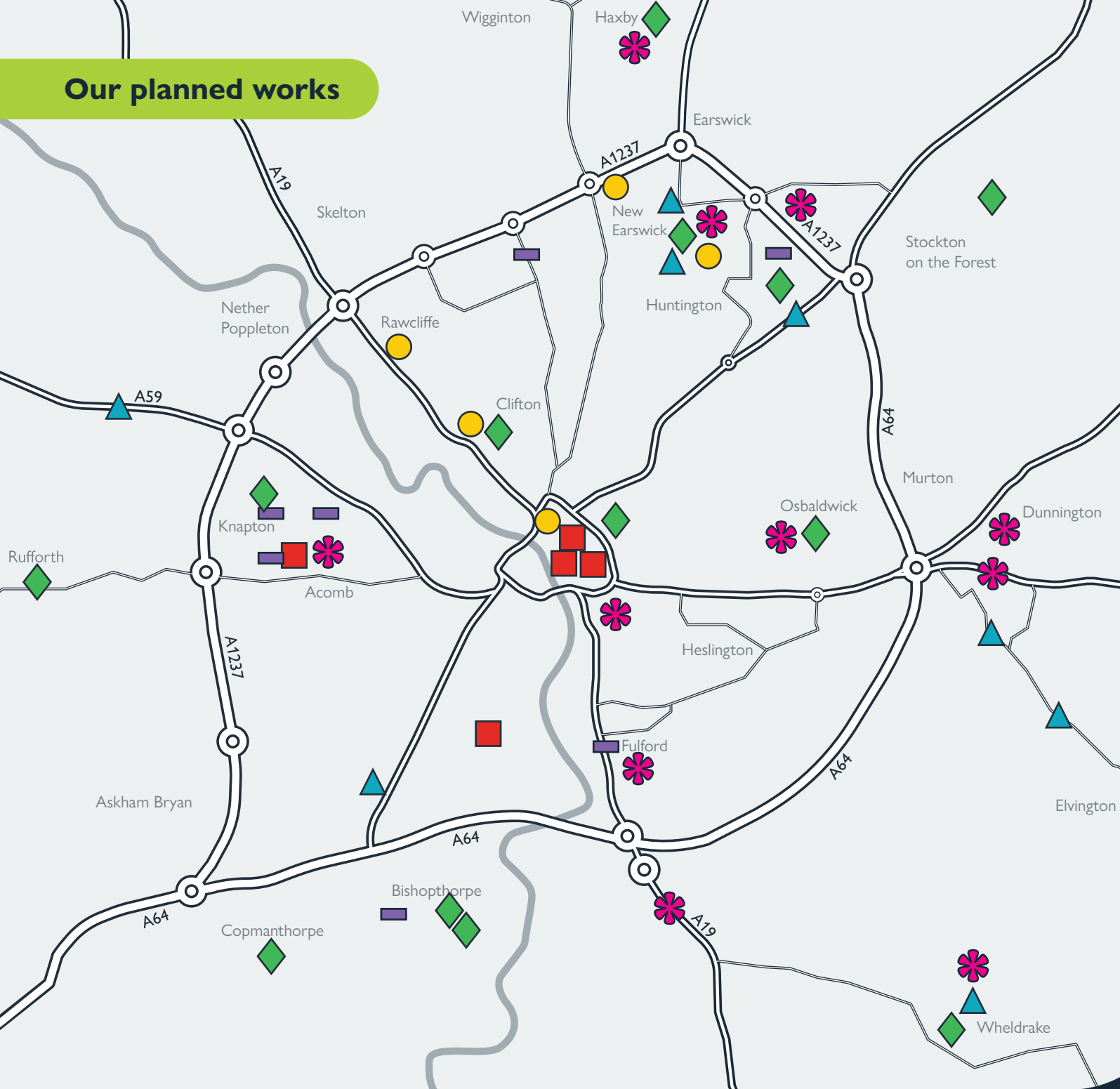
 **137** sets of traffic lights and **484** bridges and other structures

 Over **500 miles** of road, roughly the same distance as driving from York to Paris

 **160 miles** of public rights of way

 **240 miles** of active travel routes – which is the distance from York to Southampton

Our planned works



Find out more at www.york.gov.uk/PlannedHighwaysWorks



Over **2 miles** of York's historic city walls



Gritting around **360 miles** of roads, footpaths and cycle paths



23,000 street lights



660 miles of footpaths and pavements, enough to go around the York walls loop more than **300 times**

“We feel as if we’ve won the lottery”

A York couple are encouraging others to apply for free home-improvement work that can make homes warmer and cut heating bills.

Retired couple Ernest and Lindee Jacques live in what was a chilly bungalow. They qualified for several free upgrades. These included loft insulation, solar panels, an air-source heat pump, new radiators, and two extractor fans.

“Staff were helpful and kept us informed. The workers were good and considerate. We couldn’t fault it: it was seamless,” said Ernest, who lives in Heworth. “Our home is nice and warm now.”

People who own their homes or rent from a private landlord can get these improvements for free if they live in parts of Acomb, Clifton, Hull Road, New Earswick or Westfield.



Ernest and Lindee Jacques, Heworth.

Other households can also apply if:

- Their household earns less than £36,000 a year
- They get certain means-tested benefits
- Their home has an EPC rating of D or lower.

The home can be lived in by the owner or rented from a private landlord. If you rent privately, your landlord must agree to the work.

In the last year, 211 lower-income owned homes have been made warmer, more energy-efficient, and cheaper to heat.

To find out more, visit: www.york.gov.uk/WarmHomesLocalGrant or call **01904 555520**.

Refurbished flats ready for residents

Forty newly-improved flats in five buildings in Bell Farm are now ready for people to move in. The homes have been updated to make them warmer, safer, and cheaper to run.

Some former tenants are choosing to return, and new residents from the local area are also moving in.

Each flat now has a modern kitchen and bathroom, new wiring and plumbing, and has been redecorated. The old extensions have been rebuilt. What used to be small bedsits are now larger one-bedroom flats.



Catherine Eliot and Chasey her pug enjoying life at their Bell Farm flat.

The flats now have better heating systems that use less energy. New insulation helps keep homes warm, and better ventilation helps stop damp.

These improvements mean the Bell Farm flats are now comfortable, modern homes that people can enjoy for many years.

Caring for our communities, together

York's Neighbourhood Caretakers help to keep our streets, parks and shared spaces clean, safe and welcoming. Whether they're clearing litter, tackling fly tipping, supporting local events, or keeping footpaths tidy, they're a familiar and valued part of neighbourhood life.

But looking after our communities is a shared effort, and there are lots of ways you can get involved too. The new caretakers play a vital role, but the small actions taken by you often make the biggest difference.

Your local knowledge, those things you spot on the school run, your dog walk, or your way to work, help our Neighbourhood Caretakers focus their time where it matters most. And many people choose to help by volunteering in their area. There are opportunities

Supporting you with rising costs

If you're struggling with rising energy prices and the cost of living you can apply for support through the new Crisis and Resilience Fund. The scheme offers quick, confidential help with essential expenses such as heating, electricity and other basic needs. Applications can be made online or by contacting customer services. The fund provides personalised support, helping you manage unexpected financial pressures. Learn more or apply at www.york.gov.uk/crf or call **01904 551556**.



Before and after: work to clear paths in the Leeman Road area.



The Neighbourhood Caretakers team on location in Huntington earlier this year.

across York to suit all interests and time commitments, whether you prefer hands on activities outdoors or supporting a local group.

If you'd like to explore local volunteering opportunities, call **01904 553676**. Every small contribution helps support the great work already happening in our communities.

How we treat weeds



Our in-house team delivers treatments across York throughout the year, always with care for the environment. That's why we never spray in parks or play areas.

The team uses a mix of ride on sprayers, handheld equipment and mechanical sweeping to treat weeds and remove dead growth.

We use a range of approved products, including biological alternatives, and minimise glyphosate use wherever possible. Some areas have opted out of spraying and manage weeds themselves.

Supporting our young people: focus on fostering



Foster carers Martyn and Sue Hill receiving their long service award from the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of York.

York is full of amazing people making a difference, like our incredible foster carers.

Martyn and Sue Hill have recently received a long service award after fostering for 40 years.

Sue said: "Fostering has brought us so much pleasure over the years, as well as some challenging moments. It has certainly enriched our lives and hopefully those of the children we have cared for. We can't think of anything else that we would rather have done in life."

Around 70 fostering households provide safe, loving homes for local children and young people, but more foster carers are always needed.

Foster carers need to have a spare room and be able to provide a stable, loving home, but our carers are as different as the young people they foster. Don't discount fostering simply because you're single, have a pet, work, rent your home or are in a same-sex relationship. It's what you can offer local children that counts.

Find out more about how you could change a child's life through fostering by searching online for 'foster with your council york' or by calling **01904 555678**.

Scan the QR to find out more



Who is your councillor?

There are 47 City of York councillors. These represent different areas of our city, called wards. You can speak to your ward councillor about any issue in your local area. Full details of who represents your ward and also information about a range of council services can be found at www.york.gov.uk If you're not able to get online you can contact us on **01904 551550** or email ycc@york.gov.uk

Scan to visit our website



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Email us at: cycaccessteam@york.gov.uk
Call us: **01904 551550** and customer services will pass your request onto the Access Team.

Use our BSL Video Relay Service:
www.york.gov.uk/BSLInterpretingService
Select '**Switchboard**' from the menu.

We can also translate into the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)