



DEFENDING THE  
SKIES Page 33



## More inside

A LOCAL authority responsible for a county featuring nearly 30 miles of coastline, major rivers and expansive flood plains has agreed to head a drive to force utility companies to contribute towards the cost of flood protection schemes. Members of North Yorkshire County Council will write to the Government to ensure utility firms are required to make "a proportionate and appropriate financial contribution".

Full story — Page 2

PLANS to develop a town centre park plagued by anti-social behaviour have been put on hold after appeals from householders to make it safe first. Improvements to play areas and paths are planned in Bullamoor Park, Northallerton, but residents say fencing, CCTV and lighting has to be looked at first.

Full story — Page 5

THE full list of candidates standing in next month's General Election have been announced.

Full story — Page 6

THE future of internet and mobile coverage across England's largest county is looking increasingly bright — but there remain significant challenges to overcome, it has been claimed. The leaders of North Yorkshire County Council will meet next week to consider approving a £1m bid for funds from the Government's 5G Rural Connected Communities programme.

Full story — Page 24

ISSN 2516-5348



47

# Joy as rural home goal draws near

A COMMUNITY of 300 residents which lost its school due to a lack of pupils appears close to achieving its long-standing ambition to revive the number of families living there.

A meeting of North Yorkshire County Council's Richmond constituency committee heard Ingleby Arncliffe and Ingleby Cross residents praise the authority and its leadership for helping address the absence of affordable housing in the area.

Members were told the villages should be used as an example of how to address pressing rural issues after holding a referendum and showing a collective determination.

Councillor Bryn Griffith said: "We have a number of small schools, some of which are closing, and the issue of what happens to those school sites, in relationship to the local communities is important. This is a lesson about how a local community can get together with the county to provide some provision."

He said while there was an identified housing need for families in the villages overlooked by the north-western fringe of the North York Moors, they had been struggling for years to find a suitable site for the properties.

After the school closed, the owner of the school site, the Diocese of York, submitted a plan to build four, four-bedroom houses.

The meeting heard Hambleton District Council deferred a decision

By Stuart Minting

Local Democracy Reporter

over a scheme for the site after villagers said they wanted to use the site to build 18 small and affordable homes.

Consequently, the diocese agreed to sell the school site for the parish's affordable housing scheme with Beyond Housing Redcar, only for it to hit a further hurdle as talks with the county council about buying part of the former school playing fields for the development ground to a halt.

Resident George Hunter said: "There seemed to be an impasse that nobody could get past and the diocese was running out of patience. It wanted to conclude the sale of the school site and suggested, threatened is probably the word, to reopen the negotiations for the school site if progress wasn't made."

In response, 70 per cent of the community signed a petition to speed up the sale of the playing fields.

Councillor Carl Les, the authority's leader, said it had been refreshing to find a community that wanted housing built on their doorstep and suggested other communities would do well to follow the example of developing a vision. He added: "I was very impressed with their enthusiasm and the fact that they had a neighbourhood plan — they knew what they wanted to do."

## Knitting



YARN bombers have tall Christmas tree. Diane A taken the group months which is wrapped around everything about Christmas presents everything we design." Pictured are Di Marwood with the tree

THINK  
RUGS  
THINK  
CALVERTS

