

District Councillor Report July'22

Taxi fares rise is a first in 12 years

On the 13th May 2022 the Licensing Committee published a new table of fares which took effect from 25th May 2022. The new table of fares sees an increase of 33% on all charges on the current table of fares and the inclusion of a new tariff for vehicles carrying five or more passengers during the festive period. This is the first request by the trade to increase fares for approximately 12 years. Further information can be found online: <https://www.cravendc.gov.uk/licensing/taxi-and-hackney-carriages/hackney-carriage-table-of-fares/>

Craven welcomes dozens of refugees through Homes for Ukraine

The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched in March 2022 and so far over 200 households have expressed an interest in sponsoring a Ukrainian family within Craven. To date, 48 sponsors have matched with a Ukrainian family and made offers of accommodation across all areas of the district, with two main clusters in the north and south. 24 households (55 people in total) are confirmed as arriving and another 67 people have had visas issued for travel. The families will be supported by staff from Craven District Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

Another Afghan family due to be housed in Craven

Craven is due to welcome another Afghan family in Skipton next week. The couple have been in hotel accommodation in London since last August and are due their first baby in the next month, so we are very pleased that we have been able to find them a permanent home in time. The Afghan families are being supported by staff from Craven District Council, The Refugee Council and volunteers from the Craven Refugee Support Group. The Council has now completed its Afghan Resettlement Programme and housed 15 people in total.

88% of eligible households receive £150 energy rebate

With regards to the Energy Rebate Scheme, we are still paying out “main scheme” applications - around 17,100 so far, including people who want a credit on their Council Tax account. It's hard to be sure exactly how many households are eligible, but we estimate that's about 88% of eligible households dealt with. The discretionary scheme is working its way through the approval process (Policy Committee 21st June) and we hope to be live with it by the end of the month. We think this will help just over 10% of the lower income households in bands E-H (about 750 out of 7,000).

Household Support Fund to go Live

The Household Support Fund should be going live again later this month – extended from the previous round which was only available to households with children. Now, incorporating households with children plus all households in receipt of maximum council tax support (CTS), different awards of £75 or £150 will depend on the household make-up. Again, difficult to be precise about numbers, but this should provide additional support for around 1,800 households in Craven. Eligibility is based on entitlement to CTS as at 31st May. You can find out if you're eligible for the Household Support Fund payment using the eligibility checker by clicking onto <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

You'll need your national insurance number, date of birth and postcode to use the eligibility checker.

Bringing education and business together to schools in North Yorkshire

The North Yorkshire Business Enterprise Partnership (NYBEP) works to help build an entrepreneurial culture in our schoolchildren simply by improving young people's understanding of the world of work and to develop the skills employers are looking for. It is a medium- to long-term project that helps employers create a workforce that's ready for the next generation of business and work. NYBEP runs the Successful Futures programme that provides opportunities for students to engage with interesting activities throughout the year. NYBEP are looking for people from any sector, whether private or public, to become involved in the programme to help prepare schoolchildren and to help the future of their business. Bob Watmore of NYBEP (bob@nybep.org.uk) would welcome an informal chat with interested people working in any sector.

School workshops

Craven Museum delivered several successful education workshops to schools throughout May. It was fantastic to see young people engaging with our handling collection and developing their historical skills! The "Romans in Craven" workshop was particularly popular. If you or someone you know is interested in booking an education workshop for a school or group of young people, more information can be found on the Skipton Town Hall website. Enquiries should be sent to museum@cravenc.gov.uk