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### Sewerby Post Office

From Lynn Blackwood, Customer Care, Royal Mail

I am responding to your recent correspondence, concerning the status of Sewerby Post Office® branch. Firstly, may I say how sorry I am that you have had cause to contact us regarding this matter, it is always disappointing to learn when any customer has cause for concern.

I have been in contact with the Contracts Manager, Vicky Harrison and she has confirmed that the sub postmistress handed her resignation in to her on 03 August 2005, to avoid termination of her contract. Included with her resignation was one weeks notice instructing Post Office Ltd to vacate the premises and remove all Post Office® equipment. Following these events we had no option but to temporarily close this branch on 08 August 2005. However the provision of a Post Office® service to our customers, in the Sewerby community, is of paramount importance and a vacancy has been advertised. Nevertheless any successful applicants will be subject to our usual recruitment process. Please be assured that Post Office Ltd are making every effort to reinstall Post Office® facilities, within the Sewerby area.

I trust the enclosed information is helpful to you and hope you will accept my apologies for any inconvenience this closure has caused.

### Moorfield Car Park

The Town Council was not consulted regarding the proposals to charge. On the 14th September we resolved "Bridlington Town Council unreservedly condemns the decision to implement charging on the Moorfield Road car park and also condemns the fact that there was no democratic consultation. The Town Council wishes to know whether any other towns within the East Riding have free car parking. Charging for the use of the toilets could have raised revenue." We have posed a number of other questions to the ERYC as to what accepted procedures were used. We note that the current use of the car park is considerably reduced.

### South Cliff Garden Flags

It has been generally agreed that the flags should be flown throughout the year. Bridlington Regeneration Partnership has offered to provide 50% funding of the total cost of £1,248. £804 for two sets of flags, £440 to change out and wash quarterly. The choice of which national flags should be flown has yet to be made.

### Bus Shelters

On Bridlington's main bus routes you will have noticed bus shelters with an advertising hoarding at one end. These are called Adshels and are provided by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council through its contract with Clear Channel UK Marketing. Adshels are only installed where the location is suitable and also capable of generating a high number of 'hits' (passing pedestrians and motorists) for the advertisers.

Outside of these primary corridor routes the responsibility for the provision of bus shelters falls upon the Bridlington Town Council. At its October meeting the Council resolved to consider a request for a bus shelter on its merit. The main criterion on which the Council would base its decision is, how many passengers regularly use a particular request stop. With shelters and a concrete base currently costing in the region of £3,000 to £3,500 to install, the Council has to be convinced that the investment is warranted.

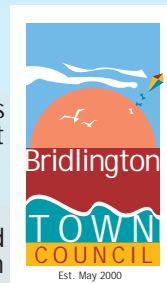
### Community Wardens

The town council has backed a pilot project to introduce Community Wardens to certain areas of Bridlington. The project is planned to be in place by April next year and its purpose is to bring about reductions in crime and the fear of crime, protect the physical environment and to strengthen social inclusion.

A team of six community wardens will be employed with a team leader and office support. It is envisaged that the service will operate out of the Bridlington Community Resource Centre based on Victoria Road. Wardens will be involved in community safety functions including patrolling, carrying out home security surveys, reporting environmental problems to relevant authorities, responding to minor incidents of anti-social behaviour, visiting vulnerable residents, supporting social events and encouraging positive citizenship among young people.

Bridlington's wardens will not have enforcement powers but they will have direct links to local authority officers and a positive working relationship with the police. They will wear distinctive clothing that will identify them as members of a team working in partnership with the community.

The first meeting of the management partnership, which includes the town council, took place at the end of November.



### Parking On Grass Verges

In spite of two year's of lobbying the principal authority the Town Council regrets to report that no progress has been made on enforcing the existing 'Parking on Grass Verges' by-law. The East Riding of Yorkshire Council agreed to carry out a mapping exercise of the hot spots within the town and where necessary to install the relevant signage. Without the signage being in situ neither the police nor local authority officers can pursue prosecutions through the courts.

### Police Force Structures

You may have read or heard that it is the Government's intention to reduce the number of Police Forces by merging one or more existing forces.

The town council has been consulted by the Humberside Police Authority and raised the following concerns:-

1. The merger of one or more police forces will lead to a loss of democratic representation on the new police authority;
2. Strong structures need to be in place to ensure that community policing is not weakened;
3. The Council is not convinced that in the medium-term the merger of one or more police forces will achieve cost savings due to economies of scale;
4. The Council has concerns regarding the basis of funding the new force. How will the burden be shared between the council tax payers within the new police force area;
5. The Council is concerned that safeguards are in place for adequate pension provision.

The Home Office has now indicated that two options are regarded as suitable for further development:-

- A. A single regional strategic police force for Yorkshire and Humberside
- B. Two strategic police forces: Humberside & South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire & North Yorkshire.

Humberside Police Authority held a special meeting on 28th November to consider the options and have until 23rd December 2005 to put forward detailed proposals on the preferred option.

#### Footnote:

Bridlington Town Council condemns the callous murder of a West Yorkshire Police Officer in the line of duty and sends its most sincere condolences to the officer's family, friends and colleagues.

### New Website

The Council recently re-vamped its website on the Internet. The old site proved difficult for the staff to keep updated and was not universally accessible by any computer. The new website's address has not been changed and can viewed at [www.bridlington.gov.uk](http://www.bridlington.gov.uk)

There are some new features including a grant application form that can be completed on-line and a forthcoming events page which organisers can send details of their event to. The Council's newsletters can be read or downloaded as well as viewing committee and council minutes. Photographs and contact details of the town councillors are also included.

### Parish Review

Bridlington Town Council was established in May 2000 with twelve elected members (councillors). The Council serves a population of 33,837 with an electorate (those registered to vote) of 27,625. The average ratio of councillor to electorate is 1:2,302. This is the highest ratio of any town or parish council within the East Riding and therefore it can be argued that Bridlington is democratically disadvantaged. For example, Cottingham has eleven councillors for an electorate of 14,496 (1:1,317) and Beverley has fourteen councillors for an electorate of 14,008 (1:1000). All other councils in the Riding have ratios way below these figures.

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council has voted down a request to conduct a Parish Review and the town council has now requested the Electoral Commission to instruct the Boundary Committee to carry out a review. The National Association of Local Councils recommends twenty-five councillors for an electorate in excess of 23,000. Bridlington Town Council has suggested to the Electoral Commission that its membership be increased to nineteen councillors. The additional seats could be allocated to the existing three Wards to drag the ratios down to less than 1:1,500 in each Ward. A Parish Review may take some time but it is hoped that it can be concluded in time for the May 2007 election.

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