



# NEWSLETTER

February 2022



Housebuilding at Castle Hill. Developments on the West of Harrogate will see a total of 4000 new dwellings built by 2035.

## Our view of the draft West Harrogate Parameters Plan

### ***What is the Plan? A quote from the document:***

'The West Harrogate Parameters Plan Document [WHPP] supports the sustainable and co-ordinated development of the West Harrogate sites.

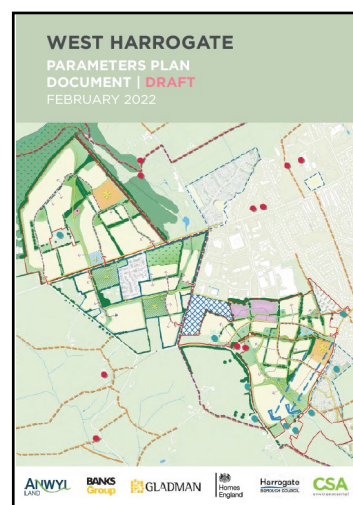
'The Parameters Plan has resulted from joint discussions held between all developers, site promoters and the local planning, highway and education authorities. The Parameters Plan will be a material consideration, taken into account when assessing the planning merits of a development scheme.'

### ***Our verdict: The plan is fundamentally flawed***

... because it fails to recognise the challenges that will be faced concerning traffic congestion both now and going forward, alongside increased carbon emissions and inadequate infrastructure.

Quite simply the WHPP as it stands will not alleviate the problems created by the sheer scale of the proposed urban extension to the west of Harrogate, while those living in the area will suffer the effects created, including inadequate carbon reduction measures.

**Although large-scale development in the west of Harrogate will have an enormous impact on local residents, the Councils are not offering any public consultation on the Parameters Plan document. HAPARA is one of a limited number of 'stakeholders' who have been contacted, but there is no assurance that our views (see page 2) are being reflected in the document. After two years, the rush to finalise the Plan gives little confidence that local views are being considered.**



above: The document cover

## KEY DATES in 2022

7 Jan	First sight of draft WHPP
20 Jan	Stakeholders virtual meeting
28 Jan	Deadline for comments
22 Feb	Sign-off by HBC Cabinet
2 Mar	Approval by full Council ?
?? May	Infrastructure document released

## What the West Harrogate Parameters Plan doesn't do

Traffic/congestion was one of the key drivers for the WHPP being proposed in the first place, the draft WHPP virtually ignores the levels of traffic congestion anticipated to be generated as a result of huge urban extension to the west of Harrogate.

The 'sign-off' of the final version of the WHPP has been planned by HBC to be on 22<sup>nd</sup> February however a separate piece of work namely the Infrastructure Development Schedule (IDS) won't be completed until May 2022. By taking this two tiered approach there is a danger that the whole exercise will be undermined as decisions may be taken without full information being available.

As it stands the draft WHPP is seriously deficient in terms of critical green/low carbon issues.

HBC says that the draft WHPP is a high level masterplan covering, for the most part, only three sites (H45, H49, and H51). However what is actually required is a complete and integrated plan covering all the sites in the Western Arc.

The draft WHPP has been produced on behalf of developers but what about the residents? Alarmingly HBC appear to be saying there is no statutory requirement to consult.

*From the draft document ....*

### West Harrogate Infrastructure Delivery Strategy (WHIDS)

The Harrogate District Local Plan was supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which established the additional infrastructure and service needs, which were required to support the development proposed within the Harrogate Local Plan. The West Harrogate Delivery Strategy builds upon the information within the Harrogate IDP, to provide more detail about the infrastructure requirements for West Harrogate and the cost of that infrastructure. The document will define the infrastructure requirements by providing an Infrastructure Schedule (contained at Appendix A of this document) which is supported by phasing plans and schedules relating to the anticipated rate of delivery in West Harrogate.

*.... but where is Appendix A? Coming in May?*

## Changes requested by the Western Arc Coordination Group

The WHPP should be clear in that the whole of the western side of the town is being considered not just 3 sites (H45/H49/H51) and must take into account the views of residents rather than being far too developer biased.

The figure of 2,000 (H45/H49/H51) new houses quoted by HBC should be changed to read 3,000 since this is what all the sites mentioned in the draft equate to. Taking all of the developments associated with the West of Harrogate into account the figure should read 4,000. Quoting 2,000 distorts the fundamental context of the Draft Plan.

The presentation of the proposed WHPP to the HBC Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> February must be delayed so that it can be amalgamated with the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) to enable a holistic view to be taken. This once in a generation opportunity needs to look at the West of Harrogate as a whole – the principle of 'it will take as long as it takes to get it right' must be applied, if not the opportunity will be lost.

Particular issues the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule will be addressing need to be identified in the WHPP as follows:

- Wider traffic and congestion
- Public transport
- Active travel
- Hard infrastructure
- Secondary school requirements
- High capacity broadband

There should be greater clarity in relation to the challenges that currently exist, the deliverables that will help to overcome them and a clear pathway that ensures existing problems aren't simply exacerbated.

Clear linkage to the Harrogate Carbon Reduction Strategy requires inclusion, in particular regarding:

- Traffic
- Building standards
- Energy
- Overall carbon footprint

In general the WHPP needs to be 'beefed up' to specify:

- Issues being addressed
- What is going to be done to overcome them
- Deliverables
- Timelines

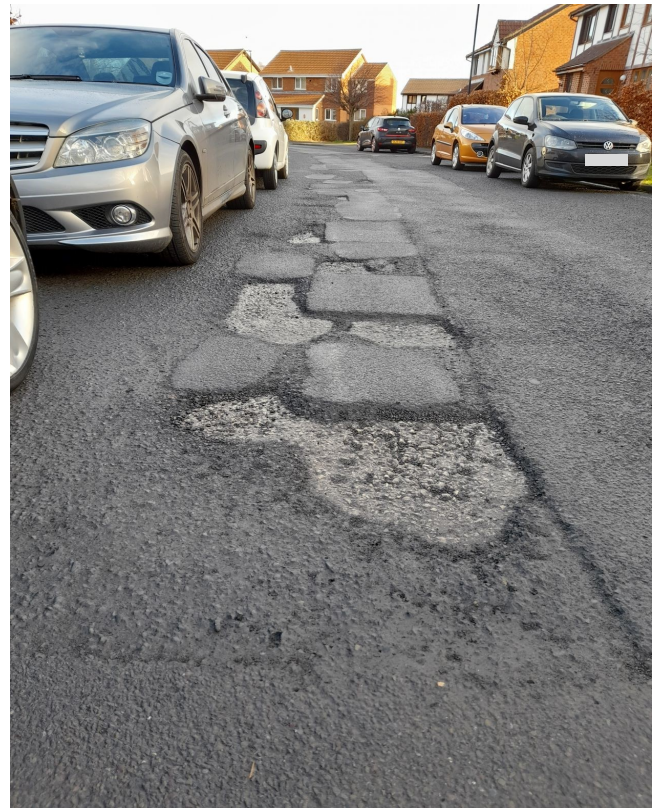


## Road resurfacing

NYCC Highways have confirmed that resurfacing of **Arthurs Avenue** will be undertaken during the February half term holidays to minimise traffic disruption as much as possible as well as reduce the impact on school staff and pupils. Letters are to be distributed to residents before 21 February.

There is still no commitment to resurfacing **Pannal Ash Road** or **Green Lane** which are two of the most damaged roads in our area.

*Arthurs Avenue*



## Otley Road cycleway



Phase 1 (Harlow Moor Road to Arthurs Avenue) has been completed and we now await views from motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and residents after experiencing it.

We know that there have been concerns raised over several aspects of the scheme, as implemented, including adverse comments from cycling groups.

We believe the benefits of cycleways depend on high standards of segregation and the existence of a wider network, neither of which currently apply to this short section.

According to NYCC, work on Phase 2 (Arthurs Avenue to Beech Grove) will commence in April. However, at this stage we have no clear idea of what is being proposed.

HAPARA is planning to produce a news sheet concerning the Otley Road scheme very shortly dealing, in particular, with issues associated with Phase 3 (Harlow Moor Road to Cardale Park). Specific information relating to this section is sketchy to say the least, and there have been no assurances concerning early dialogue with local residents.

As well as distribution to HAPARA members, we intend to deliver copies of this news sheet to residents and businesses along and close to phase 3 of Otley Road.

## Whinney Lane

Our November Newsletter made reference to a tour of inspection along Whinney Lane conducted the previous month by HAPARA members with Cllrs Mann and Clarke to highlight issues associated with building development activity. This was followed by a second visit towards the end of November with representatives from NYCC Highways department.

Although some of the matters raised have been concluded a number still require attention. Cllr Mann has contacted the builders concerned seeking information concerning resolution of 'end of build' issues.



*Whinney Lane: 15 October 2021*

## Spring Meeting

As previously mentioned the intention is to undertake a face-to-face Spring Meeting in the Green Hut on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 7pm. Further details will be communicated closer to the time.

April 2022						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Subscriptions

We continue to collect HAPARA subscriptions for the year to 30th September 2022.

The subscription amount remains at £4 per household and can be paid by **BACS** as follows:

Sort Code            53 50 21  
Account No        02586436  
Payee                HAPARA  
Reference          your surname and post code

### OR

By **cash or cheque** payable to HAPARA delivered/posted to David Parry, 2 Yew Tree Walk, HG2 9JT or to Sarah Cross, Membership Secretary, 28 Pannal Ash Grove, HG2 0HZ.

If you are unsure about your subscription status please do not hesitate to contact us via [info@hapara.org](mailto:info@hapara.org) or [membership@hapara.org](mailto:membership@hapara.org)

## Getting in touch:

For general matters:            [info@hapara.org](mailto:info@hapara.org)  
For membership queries        [membership@hapara.org](mailto:membership@hapara.org)