



What next for Otley Road Cycleway?

HAPARA newsletter

June 2022

Background

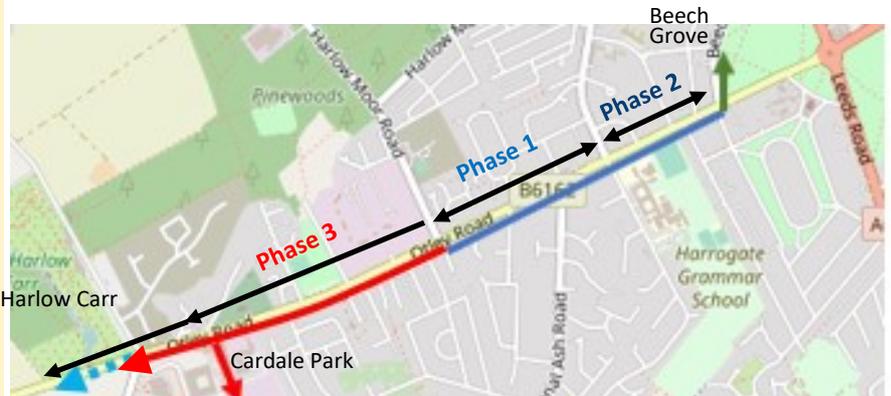
North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) was awarded government funding for this scheme in 2017. It was promoted as a significant mitigation measure to help tackle congestion, and mitigate the expected increases in traffic that will be generated by the proposed huge housing developments to the West of Harrogate.

However, HAPARA has seen no evidence to support the assertion by the County Council that this cycle path will make any noticeable difference to levels of traffic on a road that is already operating at or above capacity.

But can the cycleway be made effective?

For this scheme to be effective in reducing the numbers of car trips, then the County Council must believe that scores, possibly hundreds, more cyclists will use this cycleway, much of which is likely to be shared between cyclists and pedestrians. No evidence has been provided and we doubt that the standard of the cycleway as constructed and proposed would accommodate such large volumes of cyclists.

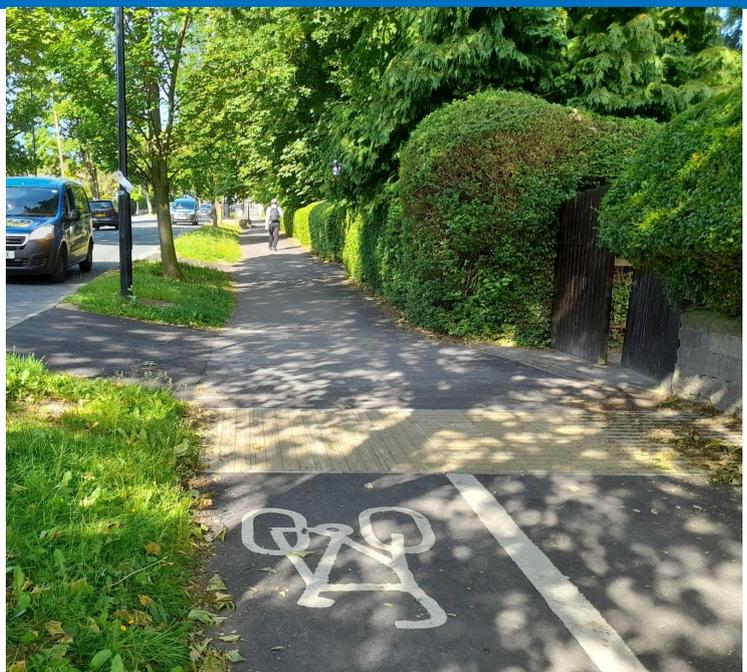
We have already seen that phase 1 (pictured right) has the effect of reducing pedestrian facilities, whilst at the same time Otley Road is as busy as ever with traffic. Far more people walk up and down Otley Road than cycle, and whatever happens this is likely to remain the case.



The three phases of the cycleway. Phase 3 will also be extended along the frontage of the Windmill Farm development (blue arrow), subject to approval.

We are asking local residents, particularly those living on or adjacent to Otley Road, to comment on the issues raised in this newsletter and make their views known.

Please see overleaf the questions that HAPARA are asking.



To be clear, we fully accept the need for effective and safe cycle routes, **but we are concerned at the potential impact on trees and the green landscape that currently exists.** We are also pressing for the local community, or their representatives, to be provided with meaningful engagement in the design process.



Local Transport Note LTN 1/20

The Department of Transport guidance note LTN 1/20 gives recommendations on path widths, segregation, safety, minimising the number of junctions and avoiding impediments such as walls, fencing, street lighting, etc. **Much of this guidance has not been followed for this scheme so far.**

Reference is also made in the guidance to the importance of **consultations with the local residents and businesses** likely to be affected. **So far this has been of a token nature** and the people most immediately affected have not been allowed their voice in the development of this scheme.



Looking west along the possible route of Phase 3

Phases 2 and 3 of the cycleway will have to be very sensitively designed if they are to avoid the criticisms levelled at Phase 1. So we ask your opinions on the three questions below:

Concerning the design of phases 2 and 3

1 Do you support a fully compliant LTN 1/20 solution with provision of separate paths for cyclists and pedestrians?

This will involve a significant loss of green landscape, because footpaths along the Otley Road are too narrow to accommodate both paths.

or

2 Do you support a compromise solution with shared cycle and pedestrian paths, similar to phase 1?

Some green landscape will be lost but not to the same extent as 1 above. However, this is less satisfactory for both cyclists and pedestrians.

In either case

3 Do you support HAPARA submitting a petition to NYCC, asking them to reconsider the whole approach to this cycle path, and undertaking a proper consultation with local residents and businesses?

Local consultation is a key tenet of LTN 1/20.

Please send us your views and support our ongoing dialogue with the County Council by emailing us on

info@hapara.org

If you wish, you can send your views direct to the County Council at the address below:

area6.boroughbridge@northyorks.gov.uk

In this case, we would be grateful if you would send a copy to HAPARA so that we can gauge overall opinion.

And thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet

Getting in touch:

For general matters

info@hapara.org

For membership queries

membership@hapara.org