

HAPARA & NYC Highways public meeting

Notes - 25.05.23

Attendees

HAPARA - David Parry, David Siddans, Rene Dziabas
NYC Melisa Burnham, Area Mgr, Heather Yendall, Improvement Mgr, Chris Blackburn,
Highways Customer Comms Officer

Themes / Concerns / Ideas raised by attendees at the meeting.

Buses / Public Transport

- Improved bus services in terms of frequency e.g. No 36 – which is every half hour to pick up within community off Otley Rd or if new routes need to be considered to encourage people to leave the car at home.
- Bus stop locations – Review and consider if more stops are required and accessibility around those stops. Are there dropped kerbs for example for people to reach the stops easily
- Increase the number of bus shelters – to encourage people to catch buses when raining
- Engage with TransDev to review bus routes / bus stop locations
- Joint education programme to encourage people to use public transport
- Consider ideas to promote safe travel whilst on public transport which will help to increase evening usage.

Roads

- Rat Runs – As roads get busier, road users become more inclined to use residential roads to bypass busy sections, but it was recognised by adding traffic calming in one area it diverts the issue to another residential area
- As Otley Road Phase II has been cancelled how will this shared corridor be linked to wider ped / cycle routes?
- Review current crossing locations on Otley Road – consider routes used by pupils of the Grammar School to encourage better usage
- Signalled Crossing timings – considered too long before the ‘green man’ is illuminated, pupils therefore do not wait and cross. Investigate speeding up activation of ‘green man’ to encourage pupils to wait for the green man before crossing.
- What is NYC’s Transport Strategy for Pedestrians / cyclists / cars / bus / rails
 - **Update** – Launch of Let’s Talk Transport survey is the vehicle to capture resident and business feedback to help steer and create this strategy for the next few years.
- Reduce Cars entering Harrogate – suggestion to use the Paris model to allow cars with Odd number registrations on one day and even numbers the next. Can we get creative, but also need viable transport solutions across the town and how people from out of town can effectively get into town.

- Otley Road Phase I & II both projected the cycle path rather than it being a shared space, now changes to the Highway code puts pedestrians as the highest priority road user more needs to be done to encourage walking and not just cycling.
- Some cyclists want to travel at speed, but cycle paths are not designed for this type of cyclist, so they prefer to stay on the carriageway. Therefore, to encourage families and young people does more need to be done to promote Otley Road for this type of cyclist? Who is the target audience in terms of who would use these shared cycle paths?
- Review country wide and historic schemes to identify concepts that may work in the Harrogate area e.g. The Ipswich Farmer who put a condition when selling his land to a developer in the 70s's to include public rights of way which are still used today.
- Identify possible solutions to stop / discourage cars parking on footways e.g. Green Lane at school time and Arthurs Avenue.
- Consider Yellow Box at junctions e.g., Pannal Ash Road at the junction of Otley Road to help flow of traffic
- Creation of appropriate crossing points on the Otley Road Corridor – an example being a crossing point for Park Avenue/Beech Grove across Otley Road for pedestrians and cyclists
- Increasing the provision of active travel infrastructure in new developments as standard to try and encourage alternative modes of travel from first occupation

School Zones

- Identify suitable locations for 20mph zones e.g., outside schools
 - Also need to consider how to educate drivers to adhere to a slower speed limit without relying on enforcement
- School drop off / pick up was quoted as being for 80% of the school population
 - Identify key motivators and solutions to overcome these challenges
- Merging of 6th Forms at Harrogate Grammar School will increase traffic at start and end of school days. Plus, increased demand for parking as more sixth formers have access to cars.
 - Engage with Grammar School to promote and reward car sharing e.g. parking on school property or other reward scheme
- Public Rights of Way – Harrogate has a significant number of PROWs – More needs to be done to promote the various route and where they lead to.
- PROW – Need for proactive management of these routes to ensure they are maintained to encourage their use

Funding

- £500k is a large amount of money but will only pay for so much in terms of improvements. Once a programme of ideas is produced will more funding be made available?
 - Need to design and prepare solutions that can be brought out when additional funding is identified in the future.
- Developer Contribution (\$106) – broader consultation with the residents on how this funding could be used to improve the local area?
- Request to see the wider strategic plan for Active Travel in Harrogate.

- New housing developments in and around Harrogate increases traffic on the road as more people live and commute in and out of town – Can more funding be provided from central government to help accommodate more people using the same network of roads?

Next steps

- Share notes with HAPARA and other groups
- Highways to consider these ideas to help inform the final proposed Otley Road sustainable delivery package.
- Further public meeting to be booked in during Autumn to present the plans and how the £500k will be utilised