

**Short Statement Made on Behalf of Harlow & Pannal Ash Residents Association**  
**(HAPARA)**  
**Harrogate & Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee -14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**Concerning The Otley Road Sustainability Package**

We would like to take this opportunity to express our broad support for this proposal. It is probably one of the few times that one can see resident's comments incorporated into such a policy and we look forward to this package being developed and implemented in a manner that will start to address a number of the problems arising from the huge level of housing development to the west of Harrogate. If we do have concerns with this package, they relate to two wider aspects:

1. The package comes over as being defined by a set amount of money. In this case £565K with £798K being shown as available. We would have liked other elements to have been costed thereby helping to develop more of a vision towards greater sustainability. We understand that finances are very constrained at present, but we feel that this package represents an opportunity to put additional markers down for the future. Ultimately it should take us towards getting traffic off the roads and making immediate communities more sustainable.

2. We would have liked stronger statements in relation to public transport, a point that was made at the workshop in May of this year. We fully understand that public transport is not in the gift of the council since it is run on a commercial basis but we feel that a greater emphasis is required since it is accepted that one of the keys to reducing car usage is a good public transport proposition. So far much of the discussion around public transport comes over as aspirational and we have yet to see any ambitious plans to really expand such services.

In no way do we wish our reservations to be taken in a negative manner. We fully recognise that Area 6 have taken the trouble to actively engage with the local community which has been appreciated and we look forward to future engagements addressing our concerns. But at the end of the day if you don't ask then you don't get and we feel that this is an opportunity to put down some community-based markers for the future.