

## HAPARA UPDATE – 4th March 2024

### **“How Harrogate’s “new town” is fuelling worries about roads”**

Both HAPARA and Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council were approached for comment in relation to the above article that appeared in the Stray Ferret on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

You can view the article which includes contributions from Rene Dziabas (HAPARA Chair) and Cathy Burrell (Chair of P&BBPC) by clicking this link: -

<https://thestrayferret.co.uk/how-harrogates-new-town-is-fuelling-worries-about-roads/>

HAPARA’s long standing concerns have been reinforced by David Siddans in the following letter sent to the editor of The Stray Ferret: -

“Thank you for the excellent article in the SF on the ‘new town’ around Harrogate’s Western Arc.

I have been involved with HAPARA for over 10 years during which time we have been campaigning on the scale of development and the weak or non-existent infrastructure to support this level of development. Our message has fallen on the deaf ears of the planning authority, the highways authority and the planning inspectorate throughout that period, despite claims that the authorities have ‘engaged’ with us as stakeholders.

North Yorkshire Council, no doubt through limited resources, appear to rely in large part on the private developers to identify the problems with the road and transport network and to come up with the solutions which unsurprisingly amount to very little. Fundamentally, the studies quantifying the impacts of development have still not yet been produced, either by the developers or the Council, yet a list of ‘mitigations’ is about to be signed off by the Council. This is what Rene refers to as ‘wrong way round. Needless to say, we and the public at large, have not been informed about the cumulative transport assessment which is key to identifying and resolving the problems.

The sheer length of time this has taken, the constant delays, missed targets and scant information have all contributed to a sense of frustration and despair within the community.

We all know that roads in this area are in a very poor condition with widespread potholes and temporary patches. Years of construction activity followed by the impact of thousands of extra vehicles on the country lanes and residential streets in this part of Harrogate present an alarming prospect for residents”

As mentioned in our recent Newsletter, HAPARA awaits sight of the long-awaited Infrastructure Delivery Schedule and Cumulative Transport Strategy.

info@hapara.org