

Meeting of Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Co

Members: Councillors Pat Marsh (Chair), Monika Slater (Vice-Chair), Chris Aldred, Philip Broadbank, Sam Gibbs, Hannah Gostlow, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Peter Lacey, John Mann, Mike Schofield, Matt Walker and Robert Windass.

Date: Thursday, 23rd November, 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Harrogate Civic Centre, St Luke's Avenue, Harrogate HG1 2AE. This meeting will be live-streamed.

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer whose details are at the foot of the first page of the Agenda if you would like to find out more.

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting that is being broadcasted and recorded and will be available to view via www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings

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AGENDA

- 1. Welcome by the Chair, introductions and apologies for absence:**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2023:** (Pages 3 - 26)
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.
- 4. Public Questions and/or Statements:**
Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Mark Codman at mark.codman@northyorks.gov.uk

Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

meeting if they have given notice (including the text of the question/statement) to Mark Codman of Democratic Services at mark.codman@northyorks.gov.uk by midday on Monday 20 October 2023. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak;

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

5. Petition referred to the Committee for Consideration - (Pages 27 - 30)
'Recognition for Rachel Daly in her hometown':
Report of the Director of Community Development.

6. Youth Council Update:
Verbal Update on issues of importance from representatives to the Youth Council.

7. Northern Powergrid:
A presentation from Northern Powergrid's Local System Planning Engineer.

8. Environment Agency:
A presentation from the Environment Agency regarding the river Nidd water quality.

Break

A 30 min Break will be had at 11:30 or at the close of the nearest prior item.

9. Response to the petition received - Electrical Vehicle Charging (Pages 31 - 44)
Points in Knaresborough:
Report of the Corporate Director for Environment.

10. Playing Pitch Strategy:
Presentation from North Yorkshire Council's Planning Services Officers.

11. Committee Work Programme (Pages 45 - 54)
Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager.

Purpose of the report: To ask Members to consider, amend and add to the Committee's work programme.

12. Any Other Items
Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.

13. Date of Next Meeting
Friday 12 January 2024.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

Wednesday, 15 November 2023

North Yorkshire Council

Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Harrogate Civic Centre on Thursday 14 September 2023 commencing at 10.05am.

Councillors Present: Councillors Philip Broadbank, Hannah Gostlow, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Peter Lacey, Pat Marsh, Mike Schofield, Monika Slater, Matt Walker and Robert Windass

Councillor Matt Walker left at 1.00pm, Councillor Mike Schofield left at 1.08 pm, Councillor Paul Haslam left at 1.40pm

Officers present: Mark Codman (Democratic Services Officer), Charles Casey (Democratic Services Officer), Keisha Moore (Senior Transport Planning Officer), Melisa Burnham (Area Manager - Highways and Transportation) Richard Binks (Head of Major Projects and Infrastructure, Louise Neale (Team Leader Transport Planning) and Matt Robinson (Head of Resilience and Emergencies), Simon Wright (Senior Emergency and Resilience Officer) Louise Neal (Team Leader Transport Planning - Highways and Transportation)

In Attendance: Councillor Arnold Warneken and Knaresborough Town Councillor David Goode

Apologies: Councillor Chris Aldred, Sam Gibbs and John Mann

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

13 Welcome by the Chairman, introductions and apologies for absence:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

14 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15 Declarations of interest

Councillor Peter Lacey declared an interest regarding minute numbers 17 and 18 on the basis that he was a director of Knaresborough District Chamber of Trade and also of Knaresborough Connectors and had driven an electric vehicle for the previous eight years.

Councillor Hannah Gostlow declared an interest regarding minute numbers 17 and 18 on the basis that she was a Member of Knaresborough Town Council.

Councillor Matt Walker declared an interest regarding minute numbers 17 and 18 on the basis that he was a Member of Knaresborough Town Council.

All of the above were not considered pecuniary interests and therefore the Members remained in the room and voted on the items.

Public Questions and Statements

There were a number of statements that had been submitted to the Committee that related to items on the agenda, these would be read out when the agenda items were considered.

The following statement concerned an item not on the agenda and was read out by Malcolm Margolis on behalf of Harrogate District Cycle Action:

Councillors, we are asking you for the good of our town to save Harrogate Station Gateway. Along with many others we think the plan is very beneficial. Some of you think the same, some don't, or rather you agree with some of it, but not with key elements, notably making Station Parade one lane and pedestrianising part of James Street.

Whichever view you take, and whatever reasons some of you have for opposing it, we are asking you to consider what happens if the £11m is returned unused, apart from the £2m apparently already spent on consultants. It would, we suggest, be pretty certain that North Yorkshire Council's already low level 1 rating with Active Travel England would drop further to level zero, making future funding for active travel projects unlikely for years to come. Nor do we believe the Council would or should keep either the money or its rating if it scraps those key elements which reallocate road space in favour of active travel.

Andrew Jones MP, who himself has mixed views about Gateway, wrote to me in June 'I am pleased it has not stalled nor fallen foul of the often inaccurate and vociferous criticism it has received. It is important local authorities can show they can deliver projects, and this is a big test for North Yorkshire Council. Station Gateway will boost NYC's rating to two or perhaps even three. This in turn helps their chances of accessing more Government funding. I hope construction will begin at the earliest opportunity. As the councillors noted we have done enough talking. It is time for some doing.' End of quote.

This £11m was awarded to improve the public realm and sustainable travel to the town and its rail and bus stations. There are many other changes on which most of us would agree. Making West Park and Parliament Street two way might be one, creating a first class cycling and walking network, better buses and bus lanes, enabling us all to use our cars less where possible. To have a realistic chance of getting funding for such things you must show you can deliver. The Council has already failed to deliver funded schemes on Oatlands Drive, Victoria Avenue, the A59 at Knaresborough, Otley Road and has abandoned the Beech Grove filter. This record was certainly a factor in the Government's rejection of its recent active travel bids. It would be a massive disservice to Harrogate to now dump the £11m Gateway scheme as well. As Andrew Jones appreciates, this is a massive test and crucial moment for your council.

The judicial review claims there should have been a public inquiry. If so, it seems an extraordinary error by the council. We suggest you ask for deadlines to be extended if necessary to enable an inquiry to be held and other substantive issues, if any, to be resolved without delay.

Mark Codman (Democratic Services) read out the following statement on behalf of the Committee: The committee notes the statement from Harrogate District Cycle Action, the project is being considered by the Executive on the 19 September and ACC members will be able to consider the next steps as appropriate following the Executive meeting.

Petition referred to the committee for consideration – EV Charging Points Installation in Knaresborough:

Mark Codman (Democratic Services) introduced the item and outlined the Committee's possible courses of actions following consideration of the petition. The report provided a summary of the petition and some background information to enable the Committee to debate the issue and make a recommendation.

The following was read out by Mark Codman (Democratic Services) on behalf of the petitioner (Kelly Teggin) to introduce the petition:

Knaresborough has been part of a pilot scheme to introduce the necessary EV charging point infrastructure to achieve targets expected to be required by 2038. Like any market town there is a recognition of the need for this transition and that the provision of such charging points can be an attraction to visitors and residents alike if introduced at the right time and in the right place. However, in this case the implementation of charging points in the Chapel Street car park and at Conyngham Hall have both, in the view of those signing the petition, been badly handled in terms of consultation and the choices made. They are causing significant negative impact on traders in the town centre, on our attractiveness to visitors and potentially to the environment through increased congestion associated with the choice of Chapel Street as a location for 10 charging points.

We recognise that contracts have been signed between the Council and the third-party provider which, if not renegotiated will continue to cause harm to local trading conditions for months if not years to come. However, this contract has not been in line with initial consultation on the appropriate location of charging points and, as outlined in our detailed submission, is causing significant harm to the Town. We also understand that lessons learnt from the poor implementation of this scheme will be applied to other locations, but Knaresborough is left with the impact. We therefore call on the Council to:

- 1) Seek to renegotiate the contract for the Chapel Street chargers and consider a phased approach to the 10 active EV Chapel Street town centre spaces, e.g., monitor usage and have some as mixed use during the day (8am-6pm) until the demand for EV charging points increases. Current figures show the EV only spaces are underused by 80%. The spaces could still be used for resident charging overnight between 6pm and 8am. A 14-hour available charging period is much more realistic than the 4hr daytime limit, which only allows for an added range of 28 miles.
- 2) Actively engage with the third party with whom NYC has the EV contract for Knaresborough to see if a compromise can be reached, as outlined above, especially given that the town was a pilot location.
- 3) Provide clarity on whether electric vehicles are permitted to park in EV only spaces, even if they are not charging.
- 4) Improve the signage around EV parking and the Car Club scheme in Knaresborough and raise awareness about the latter.
- 5) Monitor the air quality in and around Chapel Street as a consequence of the additional congestion and pollution.
- 6) Urgently to introduce a park and ride scheme that links the York Place long stay car park (suffering from poor pedestrian access to the Town

Centre) to compensate for the loss of Town Centre parking and consider extending this to Conyngham Hall.

- 7) Remove the parking restrictions in the Conyngham Hall tourist car park and make the 14 inactive EV only spaces available to all until a hook up date is fixed.
- 8) Monitor usage of the 14 EV Conyngham Hall spaces once these are activated and ensure that supply and demand are proportional for current needs.
- 9) Improve all signage for car parking on each entry point to the town including real time information about availability of places.

The following supporting information was read out:

a) **Knareborough has a growing population of over 15,000.** The town is geographically divided into two distinct areas by steep cliffs and hills, the main tourist area being down by the river and the town centre at the top of the cliffs.

b) **A large amount of new housing has been approved and built on the outskirts of Knareborough in the past three years.** These include two developments of over 1000 car dependent houses off the A59 York Road to the eastern edge of Knareborough, multiple new developments off Boroughbridge Road at the opposite side of town and further developments on the edge of Starbeck. This has significantly increased the size of town's population and catchment, without corresponding infrastructural improvements and at a time when the town's public transport services are deteriorating rather than improving.

c) **The businesses and residents of Knareborough are not against EV vehicles and recognise the need for the town to be welcoming to EV vehicle owners going forward.** However, we have serious concerns about the implementation and timing of the project, the significant connection delays and the associated impact on less mobile residents/visitors, town centre traffic flow, congestion, pollution, parking and the local economy.

Town Centre parking and Chapel Street EV charging points

d) **The main town centre and castle are separated from the Waterside area by steep cliffs, steps and hills.** The town centre has a high concentration of independent retailers, service, hospitality and appointment-based businesses and is served by 174 Short Stay car parking spaces according to the NYC web pages. However, the town centre also has a high proportion of residential housing without off street parking, meaning that many of these car park spaces are used by resident permit holders. There are a further 240 spaces located further out at York Place Long Stay car park, which serves tourists entering the town from the A1 and busy A59 York Road, a car park with poor pedestrian access to the Town Centre.

e) **There are 10 active EV only charging points in the main town centre 4hr short stay accessible shoppers car park next to the shops and businesses. They are all 7kW chargers that are best suited to overnight or longer periods of charging than permitted in the Chapel Street 4hr Short Stay car park during the day.** For a typical EV 4hrs of charging would only give an added range of c.28 miles. This would be like visiting the petrol station and only putting a gallon of fuel in and having spoken to EV users, is something they are unlikely to do unless absolutely necessary. Regular monitoring of these spaces by businesses show that, on average, only 2 are used at any one time. This is in addition to an EV space occupied by an electric Car Club car, which people can hire

on a daily or weekly basis, but for which there has been minimal or no publicity and therefore minimal if any use. The other EV spaces are empty the majority of the time. Official data provided by the council also indicated that these EV spaces are currently under-utilised by 80%. Having 8 places unused out of 174 official town centre car parking places is a 5% reduction. If we assume that an average stay in a town centre parking place is 2hrs then on a busy day 8 lost spaces between the hours of 10am and 4pm would equate to 24 lost opportunities for shoppers, and therefore local businesses, to trade.

f) **There is no clear signage about the Car Club scheme and there has been no local publicity about it**, so there is an expensive electric vehicle occupying a space and rarely, if ever, being used. A local business owner saw the Council painting 'Car Club Only Space' on the tarmac before the car occupied the space and looked the details up online. This is the only knowledge of the scheme. This text is now not visible as the car is covering it and there is no other signage.

g) **There is also no clear signage relating to the 10 active Chapel Street EV only spaces** and nothing to indicate whether electric vehicles are permitted to use them even if they're not charging.

h) **The Chapel Street Short Stay car park, where the EV points are located, has only one entry/exit point.** Because of the positioning of the spaces at the visible edge of the car park, people in petrol and diesel cars are driving in thinking they are available and then are causing hold ups trying to turn around and come out of the exit as others are queuing to come in. This is particularly problematic on Wednesday Market Day when the 14 Market Place parking spaces are unavailable and all other town centre short stay spaces are full and also on a Saturday. Cars are repeatedly driving round the Market Place/High Street loop to try and park and there are traffic flow issues by Chapel Street car park, where the town centre EV points are located. It is causing congestion and pollution in the town centre which all concerned would rather avoid

i) **The Chapel Street Short Stay car park is situated opposite COGS (Centre on Gracious Street)**, an important community asset which includes a pre-school and community support services and activities.

j) **It is our understanding that in the original Council documents, some or all of the 10 Chapel Street town centre EV charging points were supposed to be located in the York Place Long Stay car park.** However, a covenant by Sam Smith's Brewery made this problematic. The location for all 10 town centre EV spaces was therefore switched to the Chapel Street Short Stay car park without further consultation. The car park only has 56 spaces in total and is amongst the busiest in town all year round.

k) **Knaresborough was part of a pilot scheme, and it has been admitted that mistakes were made and lessons learned.** It is understood that the countywide EV roll out will be approached differently. However, despite this, the feedback to date has been that there is no option for a mixed use phased approach in the Chapel Street car park, as it would be breach of contract (the contract states the spaces must be EV only and also available without parking charges overnight to encourage electric vehicle ownership amongst residents who have no off street parking at their homes). The number of spaces installed in Knaresborough actually represents the total allocation up to 2038, but these were all installed in one go. It is our understanding that this will not be the case in other towns in North Yorkshire

l) **Many independent shops and appointment-based businesses in the town have reported customers feeding back that they will no longer be using**

businesses in Knaresborough, as it is too difficult to park. This is particularly true of older and less mobile customers who are often finding it problematic to park within a distance that they are physically able to walk, especially on Market Day and Saturdays. Customers have also reported that they have attempted to come to Knaresborough for lunch, meetings or to use the shops, but have left again, as they have been unable to park. Very frequent train strikes and significant disruptions to the Harrogate - Knaresborough bus routes over the past year are also adding to the issues

m) At a time when small independent businesses are facing numerous external challenges, it is vital that footfall is maintained, especially for the town's seasonal businesses who rely almost entirely on summer trade. A thriving local circular economy not only benefits the town, its residents and businesses, but also the Council in terms of its own revenue. Additionally, a strong local economy and a diverse range of businesses means that those who do live within walking distance of the town centre, or on regular public transport routes, are more likely to have the majority of their needs met by Knaresborough's local shops and services. This decreases car journeys to other destinations out of town and helps reduce pollution and congestion.

n) As mentioned previously, Knaresborough is geographically challenged. Of the 800 spaces frequently mentioned by the council in response to our concerns, 425 are located at the bottom of the steep cliffs and hills in the Waterside tourist car parks and too far away for them to be of practical use to most people carrying shopping or with mobility problems. They are also needed to serve the town's many day visitors during the busy tourist season. Excluding York Place Long Stay car park, which is further out, there are only 174 short stay car park spaces adjacent to the Market Place shops and businesses and many of the spaces in the Castle Yard car park are used by resident permit holders.

Tourist and recreational parking and Conyngnam Hall EV charging points

o) The Waterside area and its picturesque viaduct is popular with both locals and day visitors, with recent research showing Knaresborough to be the third most instagrammed location in Yorkshire, after the North York Moors and York Minster. This area is home to a number of cafes, ice cream kiosks, boating businesses and England's Oldest tourist attraction, Mother Shipton's Cave. Trade is strongly seasonal, with a number of these businesses closing completely between November and March. The area is largely served by the 4hr short stay car park on Waterside and the Long Stay car park at Conyngnam Hall, which account for 425, or over half of Knaresborough's 839 parking spaces as detailed on the NYC web pages. The area is also home to the community outdoor games at Conyngnam Hall. These car parks are unsuitable for shopping purposes for local residents due to steep hills and distance from the main shops.

p) The 14 EV points in the main tourist car park at Conyngnam Hall were installed at the start of the year, but when Cllr Matt Walker approached the electric company recently to enquire when they would be activated, no specific date had yet been booked in. There has been a parking suspension notice in place throughout this time and the spaces are clearly marked with EV parking only. To have 14 unused spaces in the main tourist car park during Knaresborough's high season, when the car park is busy and they can't yet be used as charging points, makes no sense at all. It represents lost revenue for the council, puts tourists off returning to the town and is damaging to Knaresborough's many businesses who rely on seasonal trade.

q) In addition, the adjacent **Henshaw's Arts and Crafts Centre (which allows people living with a range of disabilities explore their talents), has reported that its Art Makers are struggling to park** in the Centre's own private car park due to the spaces being used inappropriately by visitors when the Conyngham Hall car park is full.

The Chairman thanked Mark Codman and invited the Committee to debate the petition.

In response to a question from Councillor Matt Walker Keisha Moore (Senior Transport Planning Officer) advised that she would circulate utilization figures to Members after the meeting. KM also explained that there was no specific TRO governing parking in the EV bays and therefore any vehicle could currently park without being fined. A review of the County's TROs was currently underway and certain conditions were subject to Government decision and not related to the contract with the Supplier of the EV units. Once a decision on the TRO's had been made the Council would then be able to enforce the bays as EV only.

Councillor Lacey expressed disappointment that the report stated there were 800 parking spaces in Knaresborough and it was incorrect to describe Conyngham Hall as a 'town centre' car park – it was in fact a half mile walk up a reasonably steep hill. There were only 174 short stay car park spaces in Knaresborough Town Centre

Members discussed the issue that there was a certain amount of negative media about EV cars and a portion of the populace were significantly opposed to them sometimes leading to actions such as intentional blocking of EV bays.

Councillor Matt Walker proposed the following motion, the motion was seconded by Councillor Peter Lacey:

The ACC supports EV charging to reduce pollution in the town but acknowledges EV charging point installation has been poorly implemented in Knaresborough due to inadequate engagement and communication with local residents, business and local councillors. The ACC support the 9 requests from the presenter of the petition (see below*). In addition to this the ACC request a full review of all parking in Knaresborough within the next 6 months to ensure spaces, pricing and locations are in line with the needs of the town for both residents and visitors. We also call on NYC to develop a strategy for EV charging, including on street charging, rather than rely on piecemeal funding and projects that run the risk of poor implementation, undertaking appropriate engagement to ensure local resident buy-in.

*We therefore call on the Council to:

- 1) Seek to renegotiate the contract for the Chapel Street chargers and consider a phased approach to the 10 active EV Chapel Street town centre spaces, e.g. monitor usage and have some as mixed use during the day (8am-6pm) until the demand for EV charging points increases. Current figures show the EV only spaces are underused by 80%. The spaces could still be used for resident charging overnight between 6pm and 8am. A 14-hour available charging period is much more realistic than the 4hr day time limit, which only allows for an added range of 28 miles.
- 2) Actively engage with the third party with whom NYC has the EV contract for Knaresborough to see if a compromise can be reached, as outlined above, especially given that the town was a pilot location.

- 3) Provide clarity on whether electric vehicles are permitted to park in EV only spaces, even if they are not charging.
- 4) Improve the signage around EV parking and the Car Club scheme in Knaresborough and raise awareness about the latter.
- 5) Monitor the air quality in and around Chapel Street as a consequence of the additional congestion and pollution.
- 6) Urgently to introduce a park and ride scheme that links the York Place long stay car park (suffering from poor pedestrian access to the Town Centre) to compensate for the loss of Town Centre parking and consider extending this to Conyngham Hall.
- 7) Remove the parking restrictions in the Conyngham Hall tourist car park and make the 14 inactive EV only spaces available to all until a hook up date is fixed.
- 8) Monitor usage of the 14 EV Conyngham Hall spaces once these are activated and ensure that supply and demand are proportional for current needs.
- 9) Improve all signage for car parking on each entry point to the town including real time information about availability of places.

Members discussed whether there were options for a more flexible approach to EV charging such as on street or charging from lampposts. Councillor Walker was keen to see the Council develop a strategy for EV charging that included on street charging and avoided piecemeal projects and funding.

In response to the proposal Councillor Harrison explained that he was concerned that it was not feasible to urgently set up a park and ride scheme and several of the points in the proposal had significant budgetary implications that would need further exploration

Councillor Haslam was not supportive of the proposals in part due to the language used – suggesting the scheme was ‘poorly implemented’ was not supportive of the effort officers had made into the implementation of the scheme and he supported taking a more joined up approach in working with officers to achieve something that worked for all.

A vote was taken on the proposed motion and six members voted for the motion, four voted against.

Resolved –

The ACC supports the motion proposed by Councillor Matt Walker

18

Presentation from Knaresborough Town Council: Thriving Knaresborough – 2030:

Knaresborough Town Councillor David Goode introduced this item and thanked the Committee for the invite to the meeting. He explained the history of Knaresborough and its Community highlighting the many challenges facing the town. These included maintaining a competitive local economy in a very competitive market, maintaining standards and growing services to cope with the influx of new residents due to 2000

plus new homes being built. The town suffered from congestion, anti-social behaviour, high house prices, low paid jobs, with a significant number of residents commuting to work on a daily basis. As a tourist destination the town suffered from lack of transport connectivity, a lack of hotel and other accommodation, poor tourism promotion and a slow growth in new business in the town.

Knaresborough Town Council was a well-established Council with a budget that delivered a number of services to and on behalf of residents in the town. It had a Mayor, whose duties ranged from supporting local business and causes and representing the Town in the wider region. The Town Council worked with North Yorkshire Council in a variety of areas including emergency response and was also part of North Yorkshire Council's implementation of the new community development strategy with community networks/anchor organisations. The Town Council was looking at the potential opportunities that double devolution offered the Town and had submitted proposals as part of the process with North Yorkshire Council. The town council recognised that devolution opportunities related to the transfer of assets, and/or the delivery of services.

Cllr Goode went on to brief the Committee on the workshops that the Town Council had held to look at issues facing the town and also how the Community could work together to tackle environmental and climate change issues. He explained how the town had successfully run events all of which contributed to a 'thriving town. He gave an overview of the competing priorities facing the town and how the town would have to rely and build on relationships to deliver solutions and any double devolution success. He concluded with an overview of the issues the town was facing and what the town Council was asking from the Area Committee and North Yorkshire Council.

The Chair thanked Cllr Goode for his presentation.

In response to questions further information was requested about anchor organisations and Cllr Goode provided information about the Parish Precept.

Members discussed the benefits of sorting lease arrangements for the Castle Grounds and Councillor Walker offered his services as a Champion of economic development in Knaresborough and to be a conduit between the Town Council and the Duchy.

Councillor Walker proposed the following motion, the motion was seconded by Councillor Gostlow:

The Council should learn from the past and strengthen communication and engagement between the Town Council and North Yorkshire Council:

- Councillor Walker to be the link on behalf of the Committee between Knaresborough Town Council and North Yorkshire Council for supporting Economic Development and working with a named officer once identified
- Councillor Walker to work with the officer responsible for negotiating an extension to the lease for the castle grounds

A vote was taken on the substantive motion and nine members voted for the motion and there was one abstention.

Resolved –

That the ACC supports the motion proposed by Councillor Matt Walker

Councillor Monika Slater in the Chair

19 Review of Petition 'For a maximum speed of 20mph on roads in south and west Harrogate to improve road safety':

Councillor Pat Marsh declared an interest in the agenda item on the basis that she had been involved with the issue for some time. Cllr Monika Slater therefore chaired the meeting for this item.

This was not a pecuniary interest and therefore Cllr Marsh remained in the room and voted on the item.

The following statement was read out by Hazel Peacock from the Oatlands & Pannal Ash Road Safety & Active Travel Campaign:

I am Hazel Peacock and this is Jenny Marks we are from the Oatlands & Pannal Ash Road Safety & Active Travel Campaign. We are delighted that last week two great milestones were achieved in the journey towards safer and healthier streets for our community. The School Street pilot at Beechwood Grove by Oatlands Junior School was launched and Cllr Duncan announced the plans to deliver our proposals for 20mph across South and West Harrogate, as supported by this Committee.

Both are brilliant responses to the calls for action by the community, schools, and cross party councillors who have supported the campaigns, especially Councillors Marsh, Mann, Schofield and Warneken. We thank them and also Cllr Duncan, Melisa Burnham and Allan Mcveigh on their work.

Since the School Street began the experience of the school run has been transformed; pupils and families are now able to access the school safely and independently on foot and bike. It was described by one resident "as sheer bliss".

Just as the benefits of the School Street pilot are transformative, the ambitious plan for a 20mph, could radically improve the safety and daily experiences of thousands of children and wider community.

To achieve this we are asking; Hookstone Road/Hookstone Drive, Leadhall Lane, part of Leeds Rd (A61) and Otley Rd (B6162), Wetherby Road (A661), York Place – A6040 and Beech Grove (a residential road) are included in the consultation as 20mph.

While NYC guidance identifies Category 2 roads as not appropriate for 20mph most other criteria is amply satisfied, so network hierarchy alone is not an overwhelming barrier to their inclusion. This approach has been followed in a multitude of locations in the UK including; Thirsk, Otley, the city centres of Leeds, Nottingham, Manchester, Glasgow, London and in rural villages in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire to name a few.

The inclusion of these roads is vital because:

Hookstone Road: has a mean speed of 38mph and evidence of higher exceedances. The proposed markings and signing is insufficient to ensure the safety of children using it to attend Oatlands Infant School, Junior School, Harrogate College, St John Fishers and St Aidan's.

Oatlands Infant School sits directly on Hookstone Road - one of its entrances is directly onto the road next to the crossing, which bottlenecks, making it very unsafe.

The Junior School sits off Hookstone Rd, families with children at both Infants and Juniors walk and cycle between the two schools along Hookstone Road.

St John Fishers School is on Hookstone Drive – its pupils walk between Leeds Road, via Hookstone Road to the school as well as nearby St Aidan’s, navigating the bridge across Crimple Beck, with an inadequate pavement only one side.

Otley Rd – has an entrance into Harrogate Grammar, used by hundreds of pupils, with very large groups gathering and walking, particularly between Pannal Ash Crescent and West Park Ave.

Leeds Road (section from M&S) – is a high footfall area, with shops, car parking, cafes and a GP practice. It’s a key route for school children, pedestrians and cyclists and has two crossings (one of which is very precarious for pedestrians and drivers).

Leadhall Lane/Rossett Green lane is used by pupils to schools and 20mph would improve safety and continuity of 20mph from Yew Tree/and Green Lane.

Wetherby Road – has a hospital, football stadium, primary school, GP practice on it.

Beech Grove – is used as a rat run and has the potential as a key active travel route.

When we consider the TfL data that people hit by a vehicle at 20mph are around five times *less* likely to be killed than at 30mph, the case for including these roads as 20mph is clear and is critical for safety, enabling more walking and cycling and improving the environment and the sense of place, for our children and community.

The following statement was read out by Dr Jenny Marks from the Oatlands & Pannal Ash Road Safety & Active Travel Campaign:

20 mph and NPIF proposals

Firstly, I would like to re-iterate our thanks regarding the very positive steps which have been made towards safer streets and healthier communities, with the Beechwood Grove School Street Pilot and the 20mph zone plans, which will be presented by North Yorkshire Council in today’s meeting.

Having studied the details of the reports to be presented today, we support the majority of the proposals, but there are some important changes which we would strongly advocate.

1/ The crossings proposed on Cold Bath Road and Green Lane should be controlled crossings, giving priority to the pedestrian, rather than to cars. A simple build-out, as proposed, may be cheaper but is much less effective in keeping children and others safe. Furthermore, a build-out already exists on Green Lane at or near the proposed new build-out location.

2/ A controlled crossing should be included for Yew Tree Lane. This could be located to link with the Public Right of Way. Currently there are no controlled crossings outside Ashville and Rosset High on Green Lane or Yew Tree Lane.

3/ A controlled crossing should be included on Hookstone Road leading to the Bridlepath, given that a signalised crossing is not possible here.

4/ The £200 000 allocated for improving the junction at Otley road to improve traffic flow, includes measures to accommodate active travel, in keeping with the intended purpose of the NPIF. We would like to suggest that perhaps it should be considered whether some of this money would be better spent improving the sustainable travel infrastructure elsewhere, given the large proportion of the available NPIF funding that this constitutes.

5/ We wish to note that the Nursery Lane path already provides a safe off-road route for active travel, so the £100K allocated to that element of work, would be better spent providing controlled crossings or other infrastructure where needed, particularly given the doubt as to its viability due to the possible need for 3rd party agreement.

Significantly, we would like to see a commitment to enforcement of the 20mph zone from North Yorkshire Police. Without this the scheme is much less likely to be successful. We would like to see an enforcement plan developed and shared by NYC, NY Police and other relevant parties.

Lastly, we ask for NYC to provide a comprehensive programme of delivery for the plan for the 20mph zone and infrastructure improvements, including consultation timings and design development, to ensure the delivery of these ambitious measures at the earliest possible date.

We hope you will support these requests and we look forward to continuing to work with Cllr Keane Duncan, NYC staff, Councillors and the community on the specifics of the plan, to ensure the very best possible outcomes.

The following statement was read out by Hazel Peacock on behalf of Christopher Harrison - Headteacher at Oatlands Infant School:

My name is Christopher Harrison, and I am the newly appointed Headteacher at Oatlands Infant School. For those present who are not aware of our school's location, we can be found on the corner of Hookstone Road and Cromwell Road. Oatlands Infant School educates approximately 260 pupils between the ages of 4 and 7, making it one of the larger primary-age schools in Harrogate.

As Headteacher of Oatlands Infant School, I find Hookstone Road to be a great source of anxiety. Our children, parents and carers wait at our school gates at the start and end of the school day, and the proximity of traffic makes this a potentially dangerous time. Many of our families walk or cycle to school, and there have been near misses in the past. The crossing on Hookstone Road is also very close to our school gates, which creates a 'pinch point' as people cross the road and wait at the gates. When we open the gates, there are often many families waiting outside school, and I believe that reducing the speed limit on Hookstone Road to 20mph would have a significant impact on health and safety of these people at these times.

We do our best to educate the children in our care with regard to road safety, and we are proud of how mature they can be; however, the local traffic is beyond their control. According to several sources, including research by the Welsh Government, in the distance a 20mph car can stop, a 30mph car will still be doing 24mph. From the international evidence base, it can be concluded, on average, that a person is around five times more likely to be killed when hit by a vehicle travelling at around 30mph than they are from a vehicle travelling around 20mph. Reductions from 30mph to 20mph in areas in London have shown a 25% reduction in road traffic collisions, alongside a similar reduction in fatal road accidents. We also need to

bear in mind that many motorists do not adhere to the 30mph speed limit already in place on Hookstone Road, making the statistics above a very conservative estimate.

To reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph on Hookstone Road, and to enforce it suitably, will have an immediate and positive impact on the health and safety of the young pupils in our care, as well as those in the many schools and nurseries in the local area as well as the broader community around Hookstone Road.

The following statement was read out by Hazel Peacock on behalf of Estelle Scarth - Headteacher at Oatlands Junior School:

Many of the families and children attending Oatlands Junior School use Hookstone Road as part of their journey to school. Oatlands Junior School is situated at the end of Beechwood Grove. Children and families also use the bridleway that starts on Hookstone Road between Beechwood Grove and Halstead Road. Oatlands Junior School educates approximately 360 pupils between the ages of 7 and 11. A significant number of children attending Oatlands Junior School have siblings at Oatlands Infants School, situated on Hookstone Road. Therefore, families with children attending both schools use Hookstone Road and the pedestrian crossing at Hookstone Avenue.

As Headteacher of Oatlands Junior School, I am aware of the safety concerns regarding traffic on Hookstone Road. With the School Street initiative on Beechwood Grove, families are encouraged to walk or cycle to school. However, Hookstone Road is not a safe route for children to cycle along. Reducing the speed limit on Hookstone Road to 20mph would create a safer environment to encourage more families to cycle or scoot to school. There is no cycle lane on Hookstone Road at the junction with Beechwood Grove.

We have a wide range of learning opportunities built into our curriculum to ensure children can be as safe as possible as they travel around our local area. This includes Bikeability training. Many children are enthusiastic about cycling to school once their training is complete. Parents, however, aware of the potential hazards of traffic on Hookstone Road, are often reluctant to allow children to use their bikes to travel to school.

As you may be aware, in the distance a 20mph car can stop, a 30mph car will still be doing 24mph. From the international evidence base, it can be concluded, on average, that a person is around five times more likely to be killed when hit by a vehicle travelling at around 30mph than they are from a vehicle travelling around 20mph. Reductions from 30mph to 20mph in areas in London have shown a 25% reduction in road traffic collisions, alongside a similar reduction in fatal road accidents.

Suitably enforcing a reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph on Hookstone Road will have an immediate and positive impact on the health and safety of the children in our care, as well as those in the many schools and nurseries in the local area as well as the broader community around Hookstone Road.

The following statement was read out by Hazel Peacock on behalf of Steve Mort - Headteacher at St John Fisher Catholic High School:

My name is Steve Mort, and I am the Headteacher at St John Fisher Catholic High School. The school is located on Hookstone Drive close to the junction with Oatlands Drive. We have approximately 1500 students on roll.

The St John Fisher and St Aidan's Associated Sixth form is the largest school sixth form in the country with approximately 1000 students on roll. Sixth form staff and students from both schools move between the two school sites throughout the school day which requires them using the crossing at Hookstone Road. At these times the crossing can be very congested, drivers unfortunately do not always adhere to the traffic light signals due to them travelling along Hookstone Drive at excessive speed and/or where they see an opportunity to 'jump them.'

The crossing on Hookstone Drive is in front of the school gates and is adjacent to a very busy bus bay. The school is serviced by 12 double decker buses, some of which use the bus bay in a morning and afternoon. In addition, we have buses that enter and leave the school drive at these times. This results in the area around the crossing, particularly the footpath, becoming very congested. Consequently, the start and end of the school day is a potentially dangerous time.

Many of our staff and students walk or cycle to school. The crossing on Hookstone Drive creates a 'pinch point' as people cross the road and wait at the gates. There have been accidents involving both staff and students being knocked off their bikes on Hookstone Drive when drivers have failed to adhere to the traffic light signals or exceeded the current 30 MPH limit. There have also been several 'near misses' where students have not used the crossing due to the congestion.

I believe that reducing the speed limit on Hookstone Drive to 20mph would have a significant impact on health and safety of these people at these times.

According to several sources, including research by the Welsh Government, in the distance a 20mph car can stop, a 30mph car will still be doing 24mph. From the international evidence base, it can be concluded, on average, that a person is around five times more likely to be killed when hit by a vehicle travelling at around 30mph than they are from a vehicle travelling around 20mph.

Reductions from 30mph to 20mph in areas in London have shown a 25% reduction in road traffic collisions, alongside a similar reduction in fatal road accidents. We also need to bear in mind that many motorists do not adhere to the 30mph speed limit already in place on Hookstone Drive, making the statistics above a very conservative estimate.

To reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph on Hookstone Drive, and to enforce it suitably, will have an immediate and positive impact on the health and safety of the young students in our care and at St Aidan's Church of England High School.

The following statement was read out by Dr Jenny Marks on behalf of Neil Renton - Head Teacher at Harrogate Grammar School:

I would like to put forward my support, as the Headteacher of Harrogate Grammar School, for 20mph limits near our school to also include Otley Road. I absolutely support the landmark scheme put forward and hope that this pioneering initiative will also include Otley Road.

Harrogate Grammar School is a very large secondary school with over 2100 students. The large number of students leaving the site at the start and end of the school, in my view, would make it entirely sensible to reduce the speed limit also on Otley Road – a road directly next to the school where students enter, leave and cross.

Our duty staff see the need for this daily when supervising children. As a school, we fully support the reduction in the speed limit for the safety of the children in our local community and hope you will also include Otley Road.

The following statement was read out by Dr Jenny Marks on behalf of Tim Broad - Headteacher at Western Primary School:

Dear councillors,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have my thoughts considered at your meeting today.

My understanding of the council's plans is that they propose creating a build out, uncontrolled crossing point, adjacent to my school. Having done a little research on this, I gather that an uncontrolled crossing amounts to an informal crossing point which may include dropped kerbs, tactile paving and such like but with no compulsion for vehicles to stop to allow pedestrians to cross.

A build-out is a section of kerb or footway extended out into the carriageway on one side only to narrow the road. They can reduce crossing distances and improve visibility for pedestrians.

I would be interested to know the precise location of this development and the timescale for completion.

Obviously I support any measure which results in improved safety for our children and road users in general. I would like it to be noted however, that I would prefer a controlled crossing, as this will be much safer. With an uncontrolled crossing, children will still be dependent upon drivers being aware and considerate as there will be no compulsion for them to stop to allow people to cross at this point. This is also something we would have to make very clear to our pupils to ensure they don't have the expectation that vehicles will stop. There is a clear risk here if some of our pupils mistakenly believe that vehicles will stop when they are crossing at this point. A zebra crossing, for example, would be a much safer solution and would provide a safe crossing point for those pupils who would usually walk down Cold Bath Road to the north to get to their homes.

With regard to the build out aspect of the proposal, I have significant concerns about the impact of the potential narrowing of an already narrow and busy road. Due to the parking bays opposite school, there is insufficient room as things currently stand, for two large vehicles to pass each other safely at this point. The same is true just below school where there is parking on both sides of the road. This invariably leads to one vehicle stopping to allow the other through. To deliberately, further narrow the road at any point, will result in significant congestion with more vehicles stationary outside the school, emitting pollution and further damaging the air quality. This congestion will also lead to frustration for drivers which is not a healthy emotion for anyone in charge of a vehicle.

I do accept that the installation of a controlled crossing at this point will also create congestion and it is perhaps time to consider longer term plans for reducing the amount of traffic on Cold Bath Road at key times during the day.

I feel as though this proposal is based more on economic concerns rather than the safety of children and would urge the council to rethink their plans.

Mark Codman (Democratic Services) delivered the following statement to the Committee: Officers would like to thank all those who have submitted statements in

relation to the report for the review of the petition for a maximum speed of 20 mph on roads in South and West Harrogate to improve Road Safety. All feedback will be taken into consideration where it is feasible and a response to items raised will be addressed as part of the report presentation, anything regarding further detail can be provided in writing following the meeting.

Considered – The report of the Corporate Director of Environment which presented Members of the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee (ACC) with officer findings and proposed actions following the review of the petition, received on 08 June 2023 'For a maximum speed of 20mph on roads in South and West Harrogate to improve road safety'. Members' feedback was also sought.

Melisa Burnham (Area Manager - Highways and Transportation) explained the areas that were being considered under the 20mph review. The review had been undertaken in accordance with the Council's 20mph Speed Limit & Zone policy (2022) and the national guidance set out in the Department for Transport's (DfT) Circular 01/2013 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. The following information was highlighted:

- Both desk top reviews and site visits were carried out using the guidance in paragraph 5.13 of the policy, the details of which were set out at paragraph 4.1 of the report
- Section 5 of the report gave an overview of the data collected by the Council during the review and paragraph 5.1 outlined the mean speeds measured on the roads that were being considered.
- Paragraph 5.3 set out the incidents that North Yorkshire Police had recorded over the last five years whereby there were resulting personal injuries and which had speed related causation.
- The report considered how the review linked to schools in the area and to active travel projects within Harrogate. The proposed recommendations were outlined in section 10 of the report and the next steps were set out in section 11.

The Committee considered the report and made the following comments:

- Councillor Arnold Warneken was keen to see reports emphasize the positive effects of a scheme such as this on the environment.
- Councillor Schofield requested that the Highways officers look at upgrading crossing and installing more zebra crossings, particularly near school entrances. He also asked for reassurance that members of the public would comply with the new speed limits that were brought in and he asked for a guarantee that no recognition cameras were to be installed as part of this scheme and was it possible that the side roads of Arthurs Avenue could be made residents only. It was confirmed that the reason that the areas in question had been selected was that it should facilitate a good level of compliance and would use a mix of signage and traffic calming methods. There were no plans to install recognition cameras and the team would be happy to look at the question regarding Arthurs Avenue.
- In response to questions from Councillors Slater and Broadbank, MB confirmed that any scheme would be designed in accordance with DfT guidance and planned carefully so as to avoid causing 'rat-runs' in adjacent areas.
- Councillor Mann asked whether the area of Hookstone Road, between M&S and Hornbeam Park, could be added to the scheme as there is a school in this area.
- The issue of police enforcement of any new 20mph zones, particularly on Leadhall Lane, was raised.

Members debated the width of the proposed scheme welcoming the roads selected but asking if Leadhall Lane could also be included as part of the scheme? – MB confirmed that the team would be happy to look at Leadhall Lane, but any decisions would have to be in line with the Council's Policy.

Paul Haslam requested quarterly reports to the Committee on changes to roads generally.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as set out in the report, Members voted unanimously for the recommendations.

Resolved –

That Members consider the proposals and provide officers with relevant feedback.

Councillor Pat Marsh in the Chair

20 Otley Road Sustainable Transport Measures – West of Harrogate:

The following statement was read out by Rene Dziabas of Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association (HAPARA):

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 is able to see residents' comments actually 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 of 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.

The following statement was read out by Mark Codman (Democratic Services) on behalf of David Mitchell, Harrogate Cycle Action:

1) Otley Road Cycleway

In 2017, NYCC successfully bid for funding for the Otley Road Cycleway, from Prince of Wales roundabout to Cardale Park.

Only a very small, isolated part (Phase 1) of the cycleway has been built, to poor standards. NYC abandoned Phase 2 in 2023, following a consultation which showed majority (56%) support for going ahead with it.

We are disappointed that the council has shown so little commitment to its own cycle scheme.

With thousands of houses planned on Otley Road beyond Harlow Carr, it remains essential to build a joined-up cycle route from the new developments to the town centre. There must not be broken links.

Diverting the funding away from the cycleway is therefore the wrong decision.

2) 20mph zone

We strongly support the proposed 20mph zone.

The funding should not come from raiding the cycling budget.

3) Increasing capacity for motor vehicles on Otley Road

The largest single item of spending in the revised programme is £200,000 for new traffic lights at the Otley Road/Cold Bath Road junction, specifically to increase capacity for motor vehicles.

This is for unsustainable transport not sustainable transport and should not be funded from the West Harrogate Sustainable Transport package.

4) Uncontrolled Crossings

As Councillors will know, 'uncontrolled crossings' are not really crossings at all – just a bit of tactile paving and a dropped kerb as a suggested place to cross, but with priority to motor vehicles.

Uncontrolled crossings are proposed by NYC at:

- Western Primary (Cold Bath Road) and
- Ashville College (Green Lane)

These should be zebra (Western Primary) and parallel (Ashville College) crossings.

5) Cycle Signage Review

There was a comprehensive cycle signing programme in 2014. The work does not need doing again.

We need safe cycle routes, not more signposts.

£25,000 for a signage review – presumably to be paid to consultants WSP - would be a shocking waste of public money.

6) Nursery Lane

Nursery Lane has a good, sealed surface, and modal filters so there is no through traffic. If it is currently a footpath it could be made a bridleway, but no infrastructure is needed.

NYC need to invest in a coherent, well-thought-out cycle network, including difficult but much-needed provision on main routes like Otley Road. Instead they are cherry-picking isolated streets or paths which they think will be easy to do and not generate any opposition, but which don't join up to other routes.

Spending £100,000 on Nursery Lane is not sensible because it would not make a meaningful difference to the cycle network.

[Summary Principle 8 of LTN 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design for information]

“8) Cycle infrastructure must join together, or join other facilities together by taking a holistic, connected network approach which recognises the importance of nodes, links, and areas that are good for cycling.

Routes should be planned holistically as part of a network. Isolated stretches of provision, even if it is good are of little value. Developing a connected network is more than lines on a map. It is about taking local people on a journey with you in order to understand who currently cycles, where they go and why they go there and, more importantly, who does not currently cycle and why.”

The following statement was read out by Mark Codman (Democratic Services) on behalf of John Holder.

In the hope of improving matters, I do think Highways Dept seem to prefer to alter roads but do not to listen to the obvious--there are too many traffic lights in Harrogate which appear at every junction, particularly on Otley Road.

Suggestions to take some out of action on a pilot basis are not even considered

Motorists can well negotiate junctions onto another road we are not at all inexperienced and I would simply say it is really a waste of money on truly expensive schemes.

There are many instances also, of wrongly placed mid-road road stands next bus stops and large grates which slow traffic also mini roundabouts which are unnecessarily slowing traffic, but this seems not to be on the list.

Considered – The Report of the Corporate Director of Environment to update Members and seek their views on the proposed package of measures to take forward as part of the Otley Road Sustainable Transport Measures for West of Harrogate.

Melisa Burnham (Area Manager - Highways and Transportation) detailed the background to the report. On 10 February 2023 a decision was made at the former NYCC BES Executive Members meeting to allocate the remaining funds from the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) to develop a package of 'Sustainable Transport Measures' for the West of Harrogate in line with the original NPIF bid

objectives. These objectives recognised the need to provide a series of safety improvements and congestion relief along the Otley Road corridor and the delivery of sustainable transport enhancements.

NPIF funding had become available in 2018, to date the funding had been used for improvements to the Harlow Moor Road junction and to construct the Otley Road Cycle path, these projects formed Phase 1 of the Sustainable Transport Measures package.

The report outlined what was planned for Phase 2, which had originally been to complete the Otley Road cycle route between Cold Bath Road and Beech Grove. Following public consultation and stakeholder engagement it was agreed not to proceed and look at improving road safety for cyclists elsewhere. Following feedback it was decided that roads such as Queens Road and Victoria Road were to be considered for improvement. The overall area for review was outlined in Appendix A to the report. The report gave details of the community engagement in section 6 and full feedback collated from community engagement events was contained in Appendix B. The report detailed the consideration of Additional Active Travel and Road Safety Projects in Harrogate and concluded with the proposed package of measures and the next steps to be undertaken.

- Councillor Warneken expressed concern that these measures designed to improve congestion could increase the problem elsewhere and he requested that the Council look at improving crossing outside schools, this could include installation of 'tiger' type crossings
- Councillor Schofield suggested a correction to the report in that the cycle way did not connect to Cardale Park and instead terminated outside of West Lea Avenue causing dangerous conditions for cyclists between Plantation Road and Cardale Park. He asked if some extra signage could be erected to make clear where there was and was not a cycle path as to allay the fears of elderly residents

A vote was taken on the recommendations as set out in the report, Members voted unanimously for the recommendations.

Resolved –

That Members consider this update and note its content.

22 Harrogate Transport Projects - Oatlands feasibility results:

Considered – The report of the Corporate Director of Environment to update Members on the progress on three projects within their area: the Oatlands feasibility study, the Harrogate Transport Improvements Programme and the Killinghall bypass.

Louise Neale (Team Leader Transport Planning) detailed the background and explained that a variety of projects had been under development in the Harrogate area for some time. As these schemes were strategic and likely to require significant investment, they were developed in line with the Department for Transport (DfT) framework for large local major transport schemes. These schemes are developed by the Council's transport planning team, who lead on development of scheme business cases, government bidding opportunities and transport policy.

The main areas of focus in the report were:

- **Harrogate Transport Improvements Programme** - Since 2019, when the Harrogate Congestion Study public engagement showed very low support for any of the Harrogate relief road alignments (78% against), the Council has developed a number of options to reduce congestion. This study, known as HTIP, in its first phase considered options for several corridors into the centre of Harrogate, but due to the funding required to develop a compliant business case, its current second phase has been focussed on one corridor, the A61 Leeds Road. Measures considered included provision of sections of bus priority facilities, improved signals and crossing facilities for pedestrians, cycle infrastructure and also consideration of how junctions can be improved to enhance movement of all modes along the corridor. HTIP was also looking at park and ride facilities but this would extend beyond simply the A61 corridor and would include provision more widely in Harrogate and Knaresborough.
- **Oatlands feasibility study** - The Oatlands Feasibility Study developed from the public engagement that was undertaken on the options suggested as part of the Harrogate Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 (ATF2) proposal – following consultation it was found that the biggest areas of concern in the area were indiscriminate parking, traffic speeds, ability to safely cross the road and the reduction in bus services and bus penetration in the Oatland Area. In terms of solutions for the issues raised engagement largely favoured less parking and reduced traffic volumes, with cycle lanes, slower traffic, and easier ways to cross the road also achieving a high level of support. This review was being considered in conjunction with the 20mph review and road safety improvements were already planned for areas such as the Oatlands Drive crossing at Slingsby Walk.
- **Killinghall bypass** - Work on a possible bypass for the village of Killinghall, has been in consideration for some time, and featured in the Council’s list of major schemes for many years. Work on the bypass looked at a number of possible highway alignments, and as set out above, in line with DfT requirements also looked at alternative approaches to reducing the impact of traffic in the village of Killinghall. No public engagement had been undertaken on the Killinghall Bypass since the Harrogate Congestion Study public engagement in 2019. It was recommended that before the scheme progresses any further, engagement on the principle of pursuing the scheme further, and possible recommended alignments is undertaken.
- Councillor Haslam suggested that, in terms of HTIP, rather than a specific corridor review the Council need to review travel across the whole Harrogate and Knaresborough
- Councillor Gostlow asked about whether the park and ride was to include Knaresborough - LN answered that three main corridor routes into Harrogate were being looked at for the park and ride scheme, these were the A61 (north and south), the A661 and another eastern route but not specifically going into Knaresborough
- Councillor Gostlow had a follow up question about how any new measures to combat congestion would be balanced against loss of biodiversity – LN explained that at this time this was a high level options appraisal and details like this would be looked at a later stage
- Councillor Gostlow subsequently asked about bus services in Knaresborough and if the buses could be diverted slightly to main car parks at the two ends of Knaresborough this would act almost the same as a park and ride scheme – LN agree to consult the Integrated Passenger Transport Team on the bus services

- Councillor Marsh asked about the lack of a bus service in parts of Knaresborough and whether the Council could take this up with the servicing companies – LN explained this was outside the scope of this review but it would be part of discussion on the wider Local Transport Plan.

Paul Haslam proposed the recommendations in the report but with the addition of a Quarterly report detailing progress on delivery and any delays. This was seconded by Councillor Windass.

A vote was taken on the proposed amended motion, Members voted unanimously for the amended motion.

Resolved –

That Members note the content of the updates on the three studies: HTIP, the Oatlands feasibility study and the Killinghall Bypass and that Members receive a Quarterly report detailing progress on delivery and any delays.

23

The role of the ACC in Community Resilience:

Considered – The Head of Resilience and Emergencies gave a presentation detailing North Yorkshire Council's role in responding to and recovering from emergencies. The presentation highlighted the responsibilities of multi-agency partners, North Yorkshire Council, Elected Members role in emergencies and Community Resilience within the Area Constituency Committee Area. The Resilience and Emergencies team (R&E) operated under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and had in the recent past dealt with emergencies such as the major 2015-16 flooding to the 2018 cold weather storm known nationally as the 'Beast from the East'.

The team were responsible for making sure the Council could maintain critical services and support effected communities during such emergencies. The presentation outlined the senior officers and teams responsible for actions during or after each emergency. It was detailed that each of the individual ACCs were to be allocated a Resilience and Emergencies officer who would report to their respective ACC, carry out Member training and provide ongoing support to develop Integrated Emergency Management within their electoral divisions. The Resilience and Emergencies officer for the Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC was Simon Wright.

Detail of risks and planning efforts in specific areas within the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area were identified.

The Head of Resilience and Emergencies explained that the Member's handbook would be available shortly and once distributed Simon Wright would consult individual Members on any issues they would like to raise.

The Head of Resilience and Emergencies would return to the Committee on an annual basis to discuss good practice and identify any gaps in the service.

Resolved –

That the Committee notes the presentation.

24

Update from Working Groups:

- The Chair of the Bathing Water Working Group asked about the attendance of Yorkshire Water, DEFRA and the NFU at the Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC – Mark Codman (MC) explained that Yorkshire Water had received multiple requests to attend different ACCs and visits would be coordinated across all committees
- Invites had been followed up to Environment Agency/Defra/NFU and Members would be informed when this was arranged
- Update from the Voluntary Sector Working Group: MC advised that he was in the process of arranging the first meeting of the group and Members would be invited as soon as a date/time was agreed.
- Update on Harrogate Station Gateway Working Group: MC informed Members that it had been agreed that this group would meet after the Executive had made a decision on how the Harrogate Station Gateway project was to proceed.

25 Committee Work Programme:

Considered – The report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager that invited Members to consider, amend and add to the Committee’s work programme.

Mark Codman (Democratic Services) advised that the Member visit to Bilton Water Treatment Works was awaiting confirmation from Yorkshire Water.

Councillor Mike Schofield proposed that a formal meeting be held to brief Members on the Playing Pitch Strategy for North Yorkshire, this was seconded by Councillor Pat Marsh and Members voted unanimously for the proposal.

Mark Codman went on to advise of the following informal briefings, for which dates were yet to be agreed:

- The £50k seed funding for each ACC
- Report back on interim results of the Let’s Talk Transport survey
- Q&A session on next steps on the Climate Strategy

It had also been confirmed that the MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough had agreed to attend the Committee on the 12 January 2024, MC requested that Members consider if they had anything they would like to refer up to the MP before or at that meeting. MC finally informed that items so far agreed for the November meeting of the Committee included a visit from the Youth Council and the Schools Educational Achievement and Finance Annual report.

- Councillor Schofield asked if it could be considered to have an item on the implications of the parliamentary boundary review
- Councillor Lacey informed Members that he had recently attended a health briefing that covered the issue of the integrated care board implementing a new Urgent Care strategy across the Humber and North Yorkshire; there were implications for Harrogate and the Harrogate District Hospital and this was worth considering
- The programming of bin collections was raised and the alignment across North Yorkshire

Resolved –

Members noted the current work programme with amendments.

26 Any other items:

Such other business which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.

There was no urgent business.

27 Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 23 November 2023 10:00 am

The meeting concluded at 1.59 pm.

North Yorkshire Council

Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

23 November 2023

Receipt of Petition 'Recognition for Rachel Daly in her hometown'

Report of the Director of Community Development

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise of a petition containing more than 500 signatures.
- 1.2 To ask the Area Constituency Committee to consider a response.

2.0 The Petition

- 2.1 A petition has been received by North Yorkshire Council. This is a paper-based petition with over 500 signatures, all of which are of people who live, work or study in the county.
- 2.2 The petition provided the following context:

"England footballer Rachel Daly has achieved an astonishing amount in her career: winning the Euros with the Lionesses, getting the Golden Boot as top scorer in the WSL with Aston Villa, and now reaching a World Cup Final with England. It is the first time the country has reached a global final since 1966, a date which has gone down in English football history. It is time Rachel Daly was recognised officially in her hometown, such as by naming the Harrogate Leisure and Wellness Centre (the Hydro) in her honour. We call on North Yorkshire Council to deliver a fitting honour for Rachel Daly, Harrogate's World Cup hero.

Why is this important?

The growth in women's football in recent years has been astonishing. Rachel Daly and her fellow Lionesses have done a huge amount to drive this forward, setting an example of what dedication and teamwork can achieve. There is no more prestigious match in football than a World Cup final. Now that Rachel has reached it, she should be recognised for all she has done".

3.0 The Council's Arrangements for Receiving and Responding to Petitions

- 3.1 The key features of the Council's arrangements for receiving and debating petitions, as published on the Council's website, are as follows:
 - Receipt of the petition is published on the Council's website (which has been done in the case of this petition).
 - If a petition contains 500 or more signatures (but less than 30,130 signatories), it will be scheduled for debate at the next meeting of the appropriate Area Constituency Committee.
 - The petition organiser is offered the opportunity to speak for five minutes at the Area Constituency Committee meeting to present his/her petition. Subsequently, at the meeting, the petition will be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes and a decision will be made on how to respond to the petition.
 - Possible responses by the Council to petitions are:

- (a) to take the action requested by the petition.
 - (b) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate.
 - (c) to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee; or
 - (d) where the issue is one on which the council executive are required to make the final decision, the council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.
- The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on the website.

3.2 In accordance with the arrangements described above, the petition organisers have been invited to join today's meeting to present their petition.

4.0 Officers Comments Regarding the Petition

4.1 Rachel Daly's sporting achievements are significant and worthy of recognition.

4.2 There is a football pitch in Harrogate District named in Rachel Daly's honour. Earlier this year the Rachel Daly pitch was unveiled at Killinghall Moor Community Park (just outside Harrogate), the pitch where her football career began and home of the Killinghall Nomads Junior Football Club. This was part of a wider initiative by the Football Foundation, who have funded investment into the pitch, to name 23 Football Foundation pitches after each of the Lionesses that were part of the Euro 22 winning team. In March the Café at the Killinghall Club was also named after Rachel. <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/news/rachel-daly-visits-her-grassroots-club-to-unveil-pitch-named-in-her-honour>

4.3 The Harrogate Leisure and Wellness Centre (former Hydro) has been recently refurbished. It contains two swimming pools and a range of high quality facilities, however, it does not include football pitches at this location. Given there is no provision for football at this facility Members may wish to consider the suitability of this particular facility in this context.

4.4 There is no formal Council policy in relation to the naming of assets. A new NYC policy is being drafted which covers the naming rights for Council assets. This is likely to be completed in the New Year. There is, however, a precedent for naming facilities in recognition of local sporting achievement. The Council owned Jack Laugher Leisure and Wellness Centre in Ripon, which includes a swimming pool, is named after the local diver in recognition of his achievements.

4.5 Members may wish to consider undertaking further local consultation in relation to any proposal to gauge the wider views of the public.

4.6 Members may wish to consider recognising Rachel Daly's achievements in another way. Previously the former Districts have honoured local citizens with a civic ceremony and granting "freedom of the Borough/District". It is understood that the new Council does not have a similar process currently but Members may wish to consider recommending that a way of honouring exceptional achievement is considered.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In the event that the Harrogate Leisure and Wellness Centre was renamed this would require the signage to be replaced. Indicative costs for this are estimated to be approximately £29k to replace the signage and an additional £9k for roadside signage.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No specific implications. The Harrogate Leisure and Wellness Centre is owned by the Council and operated by Brimham Active, a company wholly owned by the Council.
- 6.2 There is a new NYC Policy being developed which covers the naming rights for Council assets and the ACC may wish to defer a decision pending the outcome of the new policy so any decision can be considered under the new policy once it is approved in the New Year.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The petition aims to recognise the sporting achievement of a high profile female sportsperson. An EIA screening has been completed and there are no adverse impacts.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 No specific implications. A climate change impact assessment screening has been completed and determined that a full impact assessment is not required.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Committee notes the petition and considers a response. This could include:
- i) Take no further action
 - ii) Defer consideration of renaming the asset pending the development of new Council Policy relating to the naming of assets.
 - iii) Recommend to the Executive that the Harrogate Leisure and Wellness Centre be renamed.
 - iv) Recommend to the Executive that they consider the feasibility of developing a civic honours type scheme for the new Council and that Rachel Daly's achievements are recognised through the new scheme.
 - v) Recommend some other course of action.

Nic Harne
Director of Community Development
County Hall
Northallerton

Report Author – Jo Ireland, Assistant Director, Culture, Leisure, Archives and Libraries
Presenter of Report – Matt Hewison, Head of Sport and Active Well Being (Development)

Background Document: North Yorkshire Council's petitions information and advice, a copy of which is on the Council's website [Petitions | North Yorkshire Council](#)

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North Yorkshire Council

Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

23 November 2023

Response to the Petition 'EV Charge Point installation in Knaresborough'

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide a response to the requests from the petition raised by the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee Members to Executive
- 1.2 To ask the Area Constituency Committee to note the response.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A petition, with over 500 signatures by people who live, work or study in the Harrogate/Knaresborough area, was received by North Yorkshire Council and presented at the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee (ACC) on 14 September 2023. The Committee considered the petition about EV charging point (EVCP) installation in Knaresborough which stated they were causing significant negative impact on traders in the town centre, to the attractiveness to visitors and potentially to the environment through increased congestion associated with the choice of Chapel Street as a location for 10 charging points. In response, the Committee gave its support to EV charging to reduce pollution in the town but acknowledged EV charging point installation has been poorly implemented in Knaresborough due to inadequate engagement and communication with local residents, business and local councillors. The petition provided the following context:

"We, the undersigned, being the businesses, residents and visitors to Knaresborough, regret the timing, location and lack of engagement undertaken in the installation of ten EV charging points in our Town Centre short stay car park. We therefore call upon North Yorkshire Council to enter into urgent dialogue to discuss a phased transition to full electric vehicle provision and safeguard our town centre businesses by maximising the availability of parking for all vehicle users until a greater need arises"

- 2.2 The ACC agreed with the nine requests from the presenter of the petition (as listed in recommendation (i) below), and agreed to make the following recommendations:
 - i. We call on the Executive to:
 - 1) Seek to renegotiate the contract for the Chapel Street chargers and consider a phased approach to the 10 active EV Chapel Street town centre spaces, e.g., monitor usage and have some as mixed use during the day (8am-6pm) until the demand for EV charging points increases. Current figures show the EV only spaces are underused by 80%. The spaces could still be used for resident charging overnight between 6pm and 8am. A 14-hour available charging period is much more realistic than the 4hr daytime limit, which only allows for an added range of 28 miles.
 - 2) Actively engage with the third party with whom NYC has the EV contract for Knaresborough to see if a compromise can be reached, as outlined above, especially given that the town was a pilot location.
 - 3) Provide clarity on whether electric vehicles are permitted to park in EV only spaces, even if they are not charging.
 - 4) Improve the signage around EV parking and the Car Club scheme in Knaresborough and raise awareness about the latter.
 - 5) Monitor the air quality in and around Chapel Street as a consequence of the additional congestion and pollution.

- 6) Urgently to introduce a park and ride scheme that links the York Place long stay car park (suffering from poor pedestrian access to the Town Centre) to compensate for the loss of Town Centre parking and consider extending this to Conyngham Hall.
- 7) Remove the parking restrictions in the Conyngham Hall tourist car park and make the 14 inactive EV only spaces available to all until a hook up date is fixed.
- 8) Monitor usage of the 14 EV Conyngham Hall spaces once these are activated and ensure that supply and demand are proportional for current needs.
- 9) Improve all signage for car parking on each entry point to the town including real time information about availability of places.

2.3 Subsequently the recommendation was considered at a meeting of the Executive on 17 October 2023 with the following additional recommendations for consideration:

- ii. A full review of all parking in Knaresborough be undertaken within the next six months to ensure spaces, pricing and locations are in line with the needs of the town for both residents and visitors.
- iii. NYC develop a strategy for EV charging, including on street charging, rather than relying on piecemeal funding and projects that run the risk of poor implementation, undertaking appropriate engagement to ensure local resident buy-in

2.4 It was resolved that the specific recommendations made by the Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC at their meeting on 14 September 2023, as listed in this report, be delegated to the Executive Member for Highways & Transportation for his consideration.

3.0 Response to this request

3.1 Improving electric vehicle (EV) charging provision across North Yorkshire is part of our wider climate plan to reduce emissions and improve air quality. NYC's strategy for rollout of EV Infrastructure will play a key role in achieving local, regional and national ambitions associated with decarbonisation (for North Yorkshire to be Carbon Zero by 2034 and Carbon Negative by 2040). We have many residents and visitors contacting us to tell us they want to make the switch to EV or visit North Yorkshire but there is a reluctance due to the lack of infrastructure currently in place, especially where on-street parking is required. We need to provide this infrastructure to give people the confidence they can get around without running out of charge and be a part of this positive change.

3.2 Regarding points 1 and 2, as outlined at section 2.2, the contract with the third party, known as the Charging Point Operator, is not able to be renegotiated. The grant funding conditions, which require the EVCP's to be installed on a permanent basis, are set by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV). OZEV are not able to be as flexible on this scheme as we would like, though we continue our discussions with them, this is because the scheme was delivered with On Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) funding which has very strict rules about how the funding should be spent and the permanency of the scheme.

3.3 Further, implementing the proposal to allow all vehicles to park in the spaces at Chapel Street until demand increases undermines the North Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Rollout Strategy¹, which sets out a series of actions the council should take to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) and ultimately to contribute to the local, regional, and national decarbonisation targets. NYC would also be in breach of its grant conditions and there may be clawback on the £240,000 used to install chargers across the Harrogate area and it could also impact future funding bids, including the current £4.88m bid for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (LEVI).

¹ [NYC EV Infrastructure Rollout Strategy](#)

- 3.4 With regard to utilisation, though the EVCPs are not currently fully utilised EV uptake in the Harrogate area is already showing exponential growth and, as a result, experience tells us that EVCP utilisation will follow. Since the information, that currently any vehicle can park in the EV bays (because a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has not been made), has been made public by local media we have seen the utilisation of the charge points is dropping, the bays are now being taken up by vehicles with an internal combustion engine (ICE).
- 3.5 For clarification Chapel Street has never been a pilot location and 4hrs of charging would see a range increase of roughly 128 miles, not 28 miles, depending on the battery capability.
- 3.6 On point 3 an EV can park in the EV Only bays without charging and will not receive a penalty charging notice (PCN), however, once a TRO is implemented, subject to review, motorists will need to pay to park and pay to charge. At present:
1. Any vehicle can park in the EV bays at Chapel Street and will not receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) as long as the user has paid the fee to park in the car park; in Chapel Street you must pay to park between 8am and 6pm
 2. An EV parked in the bays does not have to be charging and will not receive a PCN as long as the user has paid the fee to park in the car park; in Chapel Street you must pay to park between 8am and 6pm
 3. Any vehicle using the EV bays at Chapel Street during the hours of 6pm and 8am can park for free but must pay to charge
- 3.7 Once a TRO is implemented:
1. A petrol or diesel vehicle parked in the EV only bays will be issued a PCN
 2. Any EV parked in an EV Only bay is required to be charging
 3. Subject to review, it is anticipated that will need to pay the fee to park in the space and the fee to charge their vehicle.
- 3.8 Point 4 asked to improve the signage around EV parking and the Car Club scheme in Knaresborough and raise awareness about the latter. Currently there is an internal review relating to Off Street Car Parking Orders across North Yorkshire to enable us to align definitions for EV charging. Parking signage is being considered alongside of the Off Street Car Parking Orders review. NYC is considering the following to improve signage and wayfinding in the area;
1. We will install some temporary signs at Chapel Street advising that the bays are free to park in during the hours of 6pm and 8am.
 2. We will improve the website to better signpost the Strategy concepts and where users can charge.
 3. We are reviewing charging prices across the region with a view to standardising rates; which is underway.
 4. We seek to improve digital access and information – The council is currently seeking to join the National Parking Platform (NPP) which will mean that customers can find all NYC car parks on an app.
 5. The council has applied for grant funding to expand the number of ‘bay sensors’ into Knaresborough and Scarborough so that real time parking availability can be seen by customers reducing circulation times looking for parking spaces, this will include EV bays both On and Off-Street
 6. We are looking to review, repair and replace existing signage within the town
 7. We will engage with the community on EVCP’s, their use and officially launch the EV car club
- 3.9 It is acknowledged and agreed that the car club should have been more widely publicised when it was launched. A communications and engagement plan is currently being developed for the new network of EVCP’s which considers existing infrastructure, messaging and engagement.
- 3.10 On point 5, we already monitor air quality as a consequence of the Air Quality

Management Areas (AQMAS) at the junction of the High Street and Bond End and we continue to do so.

- 3.11 Arguably there is no additional congestion/pollution as a result of the charging points being installed at Chapel Street. It is claimed that the cars that were already unable to park (because Chapel Street car park was full before the EVCPs were installed) and now additional cars (those that now are unable to park at Chapel Street because of the 10 EV bays being installed) are driving around town looking for spaces, however, we have observed the EV bays being used by ICE vehicles and, since the ACC report was publicised, utilisation of the EVCP units has dropped. Further, the income generated for car parks in central Knaresborough for June and July 2023 is greater than that of the same period in 2022, and there has been no increase in Tariff, which suggests that the inclusion of the EVCPs has not had a negative impact on footfall through the car parks.
- 3.12 On point 6, the Integrated Passenger Transport team has considered this request and has advised that whilst North Yorkshire Council provides financial support for the bus network, using both council funds and accessing grants from central government, this budget is fully committed helping to maintain much of the current bus network. As the funding available is limited, it is necessary to prioritise how the resources that are available to us are used. Our support is focussed on maintaining core daytime bus routes across North Yorkshire to give communities access to essential services but does not include funding services only running short distances within town centres. Knaresborough bus station is only 400m from York Place car park with a footway and a fairly flat gradient. The cost of the proposed bus service would also be significant, estimated at around £130,000 per year for a regular service and with no fares income to offset any of the cost. Driver availability is a national problem with all bus operators finding recruitment a challenge and it would be difficult to staff an additional route such as this. Also, capacity is limited within Knaresborough Bus Station and the current site wouldn't be able to accommodate a new regular service without an impact on existing routes.
- 3.13 In regard to Conyngham Hall, points 7 and 8, NYC are experiencing issues with Northern Powergrid establishing a connection to the EVCP's; so even though the EVCPs are installed they have no power, and they are bagged to indicate this. We have removed the parking cones to enable these bays to be used by all vehicles. The issue with Northern Powergrid has been escalated and we are currently expecting to have this resolved in January 2024. We monitor usage of all EVCPs across North Yorkshire and will continue to do so as the network expands. This will be facilitated by the newly established Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Team which sits within the Major Projects portfolio in the Environment directorate.
- 3.14 On point 9, currently there is an internal review relating to Off Street Car Parking Orders across North Yorkshire to enable us to align definitions for EV charging. Parking signage is being considered alongside of the review. Listed in section 3.8 of this report are the considerations NYC is giving to improve signage and wayfinding in the area.
- 3.15 At point ii (see section 2.3 above), the petitioner requests the service considers a full review of all parking in Knaresborough be undertaken within the next six months, however, as we are undertaking a review of the Local Transport Plan (LTP), which sets the policy and investment approach for highways and transport within the county that will then inform any subsequent Car Parking Reviews, and this process will take much longer than six months it is not feasible to provide a response to the review within the requested timeframe.
- 3.16 Finally, the North Yorkshire Council Electric Vehicle Public Charging Infrastructure Rollout Strategy² is a public document, adopted by NYC Executive Members on 2 May 2023. The Strategy is the county-wide rollout plan for EVCP infrastructure, the report identifies the forecast number of EVCP's required to be delivered by 2030 to meet demand and how to

² [NYC EV Public Charging Infrastructure Rollout Strategy](#)

deliver them through a series of actions which include consideration of on-street charging solutions, rural charging solutions and working with businesses to support them with their own decarbonisation plans.

- 3.17 Prior to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the responsibility for strategy and delivery of EVCPs in off-street car parks and on their land was with the former district/borough local authorities. The Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) strategy (2019) is a ten-point plan which sat within the Harrogate Borough Council carbon reduction strategy and alongside the Air Quality Management Plan. This strategy was consulted on in 2018 and the response supported the creation of a public charging network as the top priority. The Strategy has economic growth at its core. With the introduction of the Unitary Authority, it should be noted that the principles and actions within the ULEV Strategy still apply but have been consolidated and included in the wider North Yorkshire Strategy which is being used as a guide for network planning across the county, expected to lead to the mass rollout of EVCPs.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Moving forward officers will continue to engage with OZEV regarding phased delivery opportunities and will be a consideration when planning the delivery of the new network of EVCP's.
- 4.2 We are going implement the TRO's as soon as possible to enable us to make the charging bays at Chapel Street available to EV's only, requiring the vehicle to be charging and, subject to review, that the user must pay to park as well as to charge. We are also reviewing the signage and wayfinding improvements as set out at section 3.8 of this report.
- 4.3 We will develop a communications and engagement plan. NYC is keen to carry out more community engagement once we have appointed a charging point operator (CPO) and progress with rollout of approximately 1500 new EVCP's. We understand that 62% of future emissions reductions depend on behaviour change so it is essential we do this. It will be appreciated that engaging with every community in North Yorkshire, whilst trying to focus on delivery at pace and scale with a relatively small team, will be difficult, however, as we develop our communications and engagement plan, early in the new year, Councillors and Members will be at the fore to help us engage, consult and collaborate with their local communities.
- 4.4 Finally, we will continue to monitor air quality and EVCP usage in the area and work with partners to activate the EVCP's at Conyngham Hall.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Costs associated with developing and rolling out a communications and engagement plan will be met from the Capability Fund grant as part of the wider EV Rollout Strategy. The potential financial implications associated with the requests of the petition are discussed within this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A legal review of the contract with the Officer for Zero Emission Vehicles and, separately, the contract with the charging point supplier has taken place and the response is based on information that was derived from this.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A screening assessment was undertaken, and an EIA was considered not proportionate. Please see Appendix A.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no climate implications as a result of this response. Please see Appendix B.

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 That the Committee notes the response to the petition.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix B – Climate Change Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Karl Battersby
Corporate Director Environment
County Hall
Northallerton

Report Author – Keisha Moore, Senior Transport Planning Officer
Presenter of Report – Keisha Moore, Senior Transport Planning Officer

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

Initial equality impact assessment screening form			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Environment		
Service area	Highways and Transport		
Proposal being screened	Response to the Petition 'EV Charge Point installation in Knaresborough'		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Keisha Moore		
What are you proposing to do?	Respond to Area Constituency Committee members about a series of requests made regarding car parking in Knaresborough		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	That members note the response and officers take away relevant actions		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No		
Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? 			
If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		X	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (for example, disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	N/A		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people	No, this is a response to members only.		

with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.				
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full EIA:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for decision	This is an update to members not a proposal or recommendation to do anything at this stage			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Barrie Mason			
Date	03/11/2023			

Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:

Planning Permission
Environmental Impact Assessment
Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	Response to the Petition 'EV Charge Point installation in Knaresborough'
Brief description of proposal	Respond to Area Constituency Committee members about a series of requests made regarding car parking in Knaresborough
Directorate	BES
Service area	Highways and Transportation
Lead officer	Keisha Moore
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	
Date impact assessment started	01/11/2023

Options appraisal

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

Alternative options have been considered and consulted on (internally across the directorate) throughout the preparation of this report and the final recommendation is a result of the feedback received from those key stakeholders and the experience of officers.

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

The proposal will not affect the council's budget at this time except for a small amount of officer time to organise the promotion of the Car Club vehicles in Harrogate.

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	Emissions from travel	*			The EV car club will be promoted in favour of private ICE vehicles and the overall impact of EV take up should see GHG emissions reductions		Widely promote the car club and EVCP's. Share information and seek buy in from all stakeholders
	Emissions from construction		*				
	Emissions from running of buildings		*				
	Other		*				
Minimise waste : Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic			*				
Reduce water consumption			*				

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>		<p>*</p>		<p>The EV car club will be promoted in favour of private ICE vehicles and the overall impact of EV take up should see GHG emissions reductions. Hopefully less vehicles will travel into the centre of town.</p>		<p>62% of future emissions reductions depend on behaviour change so we will engage communities to seek buy in and drive this change.</p>
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		<p>*</p>				
<p>Enhance conservation and wildlife</p>		<p>*</p>				

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's Landscape</p>		*				
<p>Other (please state below)</p>		*				

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

N/A

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

Submitting the response will have no climate change impact at this stage.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Keisha Moore
Job title	Transport Planning Officer
Service area	Highways and Transportation
Directorate	Environment
Signature	Keisha Moore
Completion date	01/11/2023

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Barrie Mason

Date: 03/11/2023



**North Yorkshire Council
Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee
23 November 2023
Committee Work Programme**

Purpose of Report

To ask Members to consider, amend and add to the Committee's work programme.

1. Remit of the Committee

The remit of the Area Constituency Committees is detailed in Appendix 1.

2. Work Programme Items

The intention is for the Committee to develop a work programme that:

- is owned by the Committee
- has items on it that are important locally but relevant at a strategic, county level
- evolves over time and is not static.

The Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Democratic Services Officer will keep the work programme up to date and determine which items need to be considered at a public committee meeting and which could be picked up elsewhere.

Alternative ways of dealing with issues that come to the Committee could include:

- Referral to an officer at the Council for a response.
- Referral to the Democratic Services Officer to conduct further research to ascertain whether it was appropriate for the committee to review.
- Referral to Council Overview and Scrutiny.
- Referral to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to consider, outside of a formal committee meeting.
- Referral to the appropriate Executive Member to consider.

a. Updates since previous meeting:

- Member visit to Bilton Treatment Works – This has been followed up since the last meeting and awaiting confirmation from Yorkshire Water
- Yorkshire Water be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee once a year – To be coordinated across Area Constituency Committees, a written update has been circulated

4. Update from Working Groups:

Any updates from the Chairs of the following working groups:

- Update from the Climate Working Group:
 - The role of Climate change champion
- Update from the Bathing Water Working Group:
- Update from the Voluntary Sector Working Group:
- Update on Harrogate Station Gateway Working Group (Not yet met)

5. Informal Briefings

There are no informal briefings proposed at present.

6. Work Programme/Future Items of Work

The Committee's work programme is at Appendix 2.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider, amend and add to the Committee's work programme.

Democratic Services
North Yorkshire Council

Background documents: None

AREA CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEES

Membership

The Council will appoint the Area Constituency Committees in accordance with Article 10.

Quorum

The quorum will be not less than 3 Members.

Substitute Members

Substitute Members are not permitted on the Area Constituency Committees.

Terms of Reference

1. In relation to Area Constituency Committees, see also Article 10 of the Constitution.
2. Area Constituency Committees should not make decisions which significantly affect parts of North Yorkshire outside the Committee's area.
3. Area Constituency Committees shall provide for visible local democracy and accountability for Division and Executive Members through public meetings held in each of the Constituency Committee areas.
4. The Area Constituency Committees shall act as a forum for local issues to be raised by the public and/or Community Networks through questions and statements.
5. The Area Constituency Committees shall empower and enable delivery of Community Area Action Plans and other local priorities brought to its attention by Division Members, Town and Parish Councils, Community Networks and members of the public.
6. The Area Constituency Committees shall engage in cross boundary discussions whenever appropriate

Delegated Powers

1. To act as consultees in major decisions affecting their area and to influence policy development and the strategic agenda of the Council.
2. To provide meaningful scrutiny of local issues within their area, complementing the strategic work undertaken by the Council's six Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
3. To receive corporate performance information and to hold the Executive to account by constructively challenging performance data or service delivery in respect of issues with local significance.
4. To engage upon, receive reports and be consulted on, major educational health care and leisure issues affecting their locality.
5. To engage throughout the year with the 6 North Yorkshire MPs to develop a shared understanding of key local issues and opportunities affecting the area.

6. To engage with relevant partnerships and partner organisations in identifying potential areas for support and issues to challenge and to join up relevant partners in areas of shared interest.
7. To advise the Council on boundary consultations.
8. To monitor and act as a consultee in relation to major projects within the Area Constituency Committee boundary.
9. To make appointments to outside bodies in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 5 to Part 3 of the Constitution.
10. To exercise, within the approved budget and policy framework, the following powers and duties:
 - *(a) aspects of the Private Street Works procedure for which objections have been received;
 - *(b) the making and enforcement of new street Byelaws and Orders;
 - *(c) the stopping up or diversion of highways (other than public rights of way) where an objection is received from any person or body entitled under the relevant statute;
 - *(d) the stopping-up and provision of access to premises from highways;
 - (e) the promotion of road safety information, advice or training;
11. To act as a consultee on Traffic Regulation Orders where it is considered by the Corporate Director of Environment in consultation with the relevant Executive Member(s) that a proposed Traffic Regulation Order meets the criteria for having a wide area impact.
12. To respond to any consultation under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Section 3.
13. To consider other matters referred to it by the Council, the Executive or overview and scrutiny committees.
14. To make recommendations to the Corporate Director of Community Development in respect of 'seed funding' or match funding for projects to be allocated from any delegated Area Constituency Committee Budget the Director may have.
15. To lead, consider and make recommendations concerning the promotion of economic development within the Area Constituency Committee area.
16. To promote and encourage enterprise and investment in the Area Constituency Committee area and to maintain and sustain the economic well-being and regeneration of the area.
17. To develop a climate where businesses and individuals can innovate, compete and contribute to the economic development and regeneration of the area, and excellence in local business.

18. To encourage the growth of existing businesses in the area and access to the skills and training necessary to support them.
19. To consider and make recommendations relating to the promotion, maintenance and enhancement of the vitality and viability of shopping centres / market towns within the area.
20. To make recommendations to the Corporate Director of Community Development on the expenditure of Community Infrastructure Levy and appropriate section 106 expenditure.
21. To consult with the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, residents and other interested third parties.
22. To promote and encourage tourism and heritage, arts, leisure and culture, and to scrutinise progress of plans and proposals related to this and also decarbonisation, agriculture, transport and the care sector.
23. To consider making recommendations in relation to parking (off street provision in Council owned / leased off street parking places).
24. To consider and review crime and disorder and community safety.
25. To check upon the working of double devolution deals within the ACC boundary.
26. With the agreement of the Chair of the Area Constituency Committee, to make recommendations to the appropriate officer and/or body regarding the following matters as they affect the Area Constituency Committee's area:
 - a) Housing
 - b) Transport
 - c) Estate needs for North Yorkshire Council
 - d) Climate change and environmental issues

NB: Items marked * are delegated to Area Constituency Committees by the Council; other items are delegated to Area Constituency Committees by the Executive.

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Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee Work Programme

1. Meetings and identified Items

Special Meeting Friday 5 May 2023, 10.00am at Harrogate Civic Centre	
Traffic Regulation Orders - Harrogate Transforming Cities Fund	Written Report from Corporate Director - Environment. Attendance of County Councillor Keane Duncan (Executive Member).
Thursday 8 June 2023 at 10am at Harrogate Civic Centre	
ACC Guide to Ways of Working	Written report from Democratic Services
Any appointments required by this ACC to new outside bodies	Written report from Democratic Services.
Petition for a maximum speed of 20 mph on roads in south west Harrogate	Petition from members of the public
Petition in opposition to Harrogate Station Gateway	Petition from Harrogate Civic Society/ Harrogate Independents/ Granville Road Residents/ Harrogate Residents Association/ Stray Defence Society/ Chamber of Commerce.
Thursday 14 September 2023 at 10am at Harrogate Civic Centre	
Otley Road Sustainable Transport Package.	Written report from Highways Officers.
Oatlands and Pannal Ash 20pmh petition review	Written report from Highways Officers.
Oatlands feasibility results	Written report from Highways Officers.
Petition Electrical Vehicle Charging Points Knaresborough	Petition from members of the public
Presentation from Knaresborough Town Council: Thriving Knaresborough – 2030	Presentation from Knaresborough Town Councillor David Goode
The role of the ACC in Community Resilience	Presentation by the Head of Resilience and Emergencies
Thursday 23 November 2023 at 10am at Harrogate Civic Centre	
Petition recognition for Rachel Daly	Petition from members of the public
Youth Council Update	Oral update by representatives of the Youth Council on issues of importance to the Youth Council.
Northern Powergrid	Presentation from Lizzie Boyes Local System Planning Engineer
Environment Agency	Presentation from Jamie Duncan about water quality on the river Nidd
	Break
Petition Electrical Vehicle Charging Points Knaresborough	Response to Committee recommendations
Playing Pitch Strategy	Presentation on from Planning Services Officers

Friday 12 January 2024 at 10am at Harrogate Civic Centre	
	Informal Session
Annual Council Budget Review	To review the annual Council budget
	Meeting
Update from the Member of Parliament for the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency (subject to the MP being invited and accepting the invite to this meeting)	To receive an update from the Member of Parliament regarding issues of key concern in the constituency.
Schools, Educational Achievement and Finance	Annual report about schools, educational achievement, and finance.
On Street (Scene) waste bins	Request from Councillor Haslam -Report from appropriate officers to outline policy, roll out, action and feedback
Thursday 14 March 2024 at 10am at Harrogate Civic Centre	
<i>No specific business is allocated to this meeting yet</i>	

2. Items identified - Dates to be agreed

Other work items that the Area Constituency Committee wishes to discuss, although the precise meetings have not yet been identified:-

- Harrogate Bid to be invited to an ACC meeting to express its views incorporating how best to support small businesses
- Antisocial Behaviour – To consider crime and disorder issues across the constituency.
- Update on Beyond Carbon – A briefing on how this impacts the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area.
- Feedback from the Scrutiny of Health Committee on the results of its scrutiny work concerning wait-times for ambulances, NHS dentistry, and GP services – Information sent to Committee members
- *North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)* - Proposal to update on progress with work in the new year

Former Harrogate Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Commission areas of interest and relevant NY Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Local bus provision - Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee
- Use of agency workers - Corporate and Partnerships (If service specific – i.e. looking at Children’s Social workers could be an item for a specific Committee, e.g. Children and Families)
- Contract tendering/procurement - Corporate and Partnerships
- Double taxation/parish precept - Scrutiny Board or Corporate and Partnerships

3. Informal Briefings

The following informal briefings have taken place to support major work items:

- 20 April 2023 Harrogate Station Gateway
- 17 July Local Transport Plan
- 3 October Draft Guidance £50k funding
- 6 October Let's Talk climate change results
- 14 October Local Transport Plan

4. Informal Sessions of Committee

Harrogate Station Gateway

- 31 October
- 9 November walk round
- 17 November

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